

**Superintendent's Advisory Council**  
**January 29, 2008 11:30 a.m.**  
**Administrative Building**

**Members present:** James Wilson, Superintendent; Carolyn Carson, Alpharetta; Charlie Landers, Banneker; Barbara Thomas-Milano, Centennial; Kathy Theisen, Chattahoochee; Lavon Morris-Grant, Creekside; Sally Hildebrant, Milton; Sue Derene, Milton; DeeAnn Weprinsky, North Springs; Shari Simpson, Tri-Cities; Adrienne Berry, Westlake; Carolyn Briner, NFPTA Council

**Staff:** Linda Almond, Secretary; Mitzi Woody, Liaison

**Guests:** Don Bolia and Jim Welsh, Legislative Liaisons; Lindsay Doss

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**Call to Order**

Chair Sally Hildebrant called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

**Legislative Update**

Don Bolia has recently contracted with the school system to assist Jim Welsh during the 2008 Legislative Session. He introduced himself and his assistant Lindsay Doss. He and Dr. Welsh discussed some of the important legislation they will be tracking during the session. Two pieces that would greatly impact the school system are HB 881, which seeks to create a Georgia Charter Schools Commission that could approve charter schools without local school board approval, and HR 900, which would eliminate Georgia's property and ad valorem taxes, two major sources of school system revenue. Mr. Bolia will send frequent status reports to SAC members. He and Dr. Welsh urged the members to find out who their legislators are and to communicate with them on these and other pieces of legislation important to the school system.

Dr. Welsh also gave the members the web site addresses for the Georgia School Boards Association, Georgia School Superintendent's Association and the Georgia PTA. Each group publishes a daily report of what is happening in the legislature regarding issues which impact education.

**Math Update**

Mr. Wilson advised that he had recently spoken to the person who is heading the curriculum audit. He said that she had spoken with all Board Members and many principals and, of course, SAC members. He thanked them for their input and told them that the audit team was in the process of visiting at least 400 classrooms. Mr. Wilson expects to have a report from Strategic Teaching before the February Board Meeting.

After a brief discussion regarding their interview with Strategic Teaching, the SAC members agreed that they wanted the Board to know where they stood on the math issue. It was decided that the chair and vice chair would speak on behalf of the group before the Board at their February meetings.

**Superintendent's Update**

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the implementation of the A+ Project and praised all those who had worked tirelessly to bring this new system on line on time and under budget.

He talked about the Learn & Earn initiative, a 15-week pilot program involving a total of 40 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students from Bear Creek MS and Creekside HS. Students were chosen to participate by their principals, teachers and counselors based on attendance records, grades and test scores in math and science and their free- and/or reduced-lunch status. They will receive four hours of free afterschool tutorial assistance in math and science each week – and get paid \$8 an hour. Students will also receive additional cash rewards, up to \$125 for 11<sup>th</sup> graders and \$75 for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, if math and science grades are brought up to a B level and targeted state test scores are achieved. Mr. Wilson said that similar programs have been tried nationally, but this is believed to be the first in Georgia.

February 5 is Super Tuesday. The superintendent noted that students will be in school this day and because many of our schools are polling sites, the system will have off duty officers at those schools to assist with the traffic and to see that visitors are guided to the proper location.

**Sharing of Concerns**

Roundtable discussion included slow computer access in schools and budgets for replacing worn out computer equipment.

The council members acknowledged Mr. Wilson's recent retirement announcement. They each thanked him for his service and dedication to the students of Fulton County.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

**Looking ahead**

Our next meeting will be March 25, 6 p.m. at the Administrative Center.

*These minutes are approved as of February 26, 2008.*