

Superintendent's Parent Council

March 26, 11:15 a.m.

Administrative Center

Members present: Cindy Loe, Superintendent; Joe Conway, Alpharetta; Angela Moreland, Banneker; Ann Duncan, Centennial; Kathy Theisen, Chattahoochee; Sharon Albright, Chattahoochee; Deborah Myrick, Creekside; Sally Hildebrant, Milton; Sue Derene, Milton; DeeAnn Weprinsky, North Springs; Susan Auerbach, Northview; Bruce Piefke, Riverwood Ron Vahey, Roswell; Jamila Owens, Tri-Cities; Retina Burton, Westlake; Barbara Thomas, NFPTA Council

Members absent: Robin Suter, Alpharetta; James Venison, Jr., SFPTA Council

Staff: Terry Watlington, Liaison; Linda Almond, Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Sally Hildebrant called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

Budget Issues

Dr. Loe told the group she had some good news for a change. The system is expecting to receive some money from the President's stimulus package, which should help in three main areas.

1. The Governor was going to have to cut education budgets again for FY09 but he is now going to use stimulus money to offset additional cuts the system was to receive.
2. The system expects to receive additional Title I funding and should be given the flexibility to use in schools that are not Title I but that need help. The temporary, two-year funding would be used to help high schools that are considered high poverty, and also high schools that are not but that have a large number of high poverty students who attend them.
3. The system also expects to see an increase in Special Education funding which might increase the need for teachers, some of whom might have been scheduled to be surplussed.

Dr. Loe also gave the council members a copy of her FY2010 Budget Assumptions. She once again reiterated that the administration has tried to impact classrooms as little as possible, while using available monies wisely. She stated that the cuts that have already been made will carry over for next school year and explained how a proposed temporary shifting of a portion of the tax levy from Debt Service to M&O (Maintenance & Operations) would provide the system additional revenue for the General Fund.

The Superintendent handed out copies of the district's Strategic Initiatives. The document listed several current initiatives that will continue and gave brief descriptions of several new initiatives planned for implementation in the 2009-10 school year.

Open Enrollment

Dr. Loe gave an update on the status of the new Open Enrollment program for high school students. This program will allow high school students, who can provide their own transportation, the opportunity to apply to attend any Fulton County high school that has capacity. Currently, the schools that have space are Johns Creek, Creekside, Tri-Cities and Langston Hughes. As of the application deadline, which was March 13, 255 applications were received.

SPLOST Projections

The Superintendent provided a copy of her recommendations for projects to be completed using SPLOST III dollars and the funds that would result from the redirection of a portion of the tax levy from Debt Service to M&O. Her recommendations will be voted on by the Board in May.

Bylaws

Sally briefly discussed the changes she has made to the Cluster Bylaws and asked if anyone had questions or wanted to add/change anything else. There were no comments. She then stated that the revisions will have to go the Board for review and approval and hoped they could be added to the April agenda.

Questions/Concerns

Are the requirements for free & reduced lunch changing?
To cut 20 days off the Assistant Principals' work year will place an unfair burden on the schools; especially those schools that only have one or two APs.
The issue of cell towers is still being discussed. Schools feel betrayed because the money they were promised is now being split among all schools.
Can the system eliminate one teacher workday in order to save more money?
Can the system cut the number of personal and sick days for teachers in order to save money?
Substitutes are not happy about taking a 10% cut in pay.
Why don't we allow students from other counties to pay tuition to attend our schools?
Banneker wants a new high school but now parents are afraid they won't have until 2013 or 14. Community is losing faith.
Several schools need immediate relief; no more room for portables.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

These minutes are approved as of April 17.

Looking ahead: The last meeting of this school year will be May 6, 6 p.m., at Dunwoody Springs Charter Elementary School.