

Fulton County Board of Education

Minutes

December 7, 2004

The Fulton County School Board met on December 7, 2004, at 4:42 p.m. at Hamilton Holmes Elementary School for the Tuesday board meeting. President Katie Reeves presided. Board Members in attendance were Zenda Bowie, Julia Bernath, Linda Bryant, Gail Dean, Liz Hausmann, and Ron Jackson.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Linda Bryant

Second: Julia Bernath

Motion to amend the agenda to include discussion of the results policy, information from staff and a process to improve communication.

Motion: Gail Dean

Second: Liz Hausmann

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to amend the agenda to move Item X C to Thursday:

Motion: Linda Bryant

Second: Julia Bernath

Vote: Unanimous

Amended Agenda:

Motion: Liz Hausmann

Second: Julia Bernath

Vote: Unanimous

Motion requesting all information as before in the same format five days prior to Board meeting:

Motion: Julia Bernath

Second: Katie Reeves

(Additional discussion on Thursday)

Recognitions

Title I Distinguished Schools were recognized.

Spotlight on Achievement

College Park Elementary School Principal Gretchen Thornton presented information regarding the year-round calendar the school uses. College Park was Georgia's first year-round school.

The premise is based on children performing better with shorter breaks. Reading disadvantaged have a difficult time with long summers. Since College Park Elementary became a year-round school there have been CRCT gains. In 2001, the school began using the 8-Step Process and experienced a leap in growth.

Audience to Visitors

Reggie Tatum addressed the Board regarding south Fulton schools; Catherine Maddox expressed her thanks to the Board and spoke about educational issues; Selim Ozdemir requested Board support of the TEACH Charter School application; and Bruce Moody spoke regarding SPLOST.

VI. Superintendent's Notes

The Superintendent stated that more publicity regarding policy updates is planned. Other items mentioned were as follows: 164 National Board Certified Teachers; the SACS presentation on December 13 (Martha Greenway, Catherine White and the Superintendent will present); thanks to Dr. Vickie Scott and staff regarding an outstanding Parent University; Conley Hills and Bethune Elementary Schools each collected over 1000 non-perishables to be distributed to needy families; S.L. Lewis collects non-perishables at an annual breakfast on Friday; and Hamilton Holmes provided gifts for a number of children and families with their Angel Tree project. Architectural presentations were presented for Westlake High School, Woodland Middle and Jones Hall Elementary Site.

X. Ownership Linkage

XA. Results Update

Board President Reeves presented a timeline which would be put on the website. The Results Policies would be voted on in August. Discussion followed regarding the January 27 Board Roundtable. Suggestions included received Balanced Scorecard information from Martha Greenway which would be discussed in February.

XB. Public Engagement: How to Gather Input from the Community

Executive Director of Communications Mitzi Edge, Superintendent's Advisory Council President Karen Lewis, and Superintendent's Advisory Council Vice President Irene Schweiger were present to discuss gathering input from the community. Following is a synopsis of the discussion:

*Board President Katie Reeves asked for input and suggestions "outside the box."
Following is a list of suggestions from Karen Lewis and Irene Schweiger.*

- E-mail lists
- E-mail lists consolidated and available for use by different clusters

- E-mail lists updated from information gathered from school registrations or other school events
- Community Bulletin on the website
- Navigation tutorial for parents on how to use the website
- Online course for parents
- Links to cluster information/cluster sites
- Online Parent University
- The website is not consumer friendly
- An example of a good website is Secretary of State Cathy Cox's site
- Solicit input right on the website and then turn it around
- Focus groups
- Use the cable channel – student programs with “their flavor,” and other programs
- Adams 12 School System – Use of student debates to gather community input
- Communication Challenge between clusters with a prize other than an ice cream social
- SAC – North and South Cluster Chairs will do an “exchange” and visit each others' meetings
- Online suggestion box on website
- Updates – sign up on website for updates such as new policies, etc.
- Board Members visit/host other community meetings
- Online surveys such as those used by Board Member Ron Jackson
- Community computer lab time at schools (similar to library computer labs)
- Adult literacy (grant money for programs)
- Computers at libraries/Partner with libraries – maybe a colorful poster

XC. Board Member Rehearsal
Postponed until Thursday.

XD. Board Updates

1. Sales Tax Legislation Update
 - Develop position papers for the school system.
 - Contact fellow superintendents and board members.
 - Post position papers on the web.
2. QBE Task Force Recommendations
 - Appreciation was expressed to Board Member Julia Bernath for attending the QBE session in Rome, Georgia. Staff members who attended and were also thanked were Harold Grindle, Monique Mistach and James Welsh.
3. FRN Travel for Zenda Bowie and Julia Bernath will be included on the January travel report.

XI. Board Self-Evaluation

- Linda Bryant suggested that the agendas be flipped – Tuesday items on Thursday and vice versa.
- Linda Bryant also suggested that Board business be conducted on Tuesday with ownership linkage on Thursday. The Superintendent should have flexibility to suggest.
- Liz Hausmann suggested that the seating arrangement be a U shape on the stage and not on the floor. She also said the tables are too narrow.
- Julia Bernath will prepare an agenda template.
- Katie Reeves requested the next quarter of topics to for Thursday. Discuss the January agenda on Thursday.

Katie Reeves, Board President

Michael J. Vanairsdale, Board Secretary

Attendees (December 7)

Dan Sullivan, staff
Mike Collins, citizen
Mark Elsey, staff
Sue Derison, staff
Kirk Marchisen, citizen
Hannah Dowdell, parent
Jada Banks, parent
Clifford Hepburn, parent
Dwayne Belcher, staff
Ron Owenby, staff
Brenda Blanton, staff
Daniel Gillette, staff
Annie Duvall, staff
Linda W. Abdul-Azeez, staff
Connie Abrams, staff
Steven Robinson, staff
L. T. Smith, staff
Al Ozer, citizen
Selim Ozdemir, citizen
Cheree H. Turner, staff
Paula Clarke, staff
Denise Jennings, staff
Mitzi Edge, staff
Annette W. Miles, staff
John LaForge, staff
Catherine E. Maddox, citizen

Pamela Walker, parent
Leon & Sonya Hicks, parent
Peggy Jackson, staff
Eleanor D. Cornelius, staff
Kim Byner, staff
Elizabeth Moore, staff
Marsha Anderson, staff
Satirah Y. Grant, staff
Joseph Dell, staff
Woody Lott, staff
Pamela Boutts, staff
Charles Sipos, staff
Tracy Trussell, staff
Richardean Few, staff
Libra Royster, staff
Bob Flowers, staff
Chris Matthews, staff
Judy Dennison, staff
Dan Sims, staff
Annie M. Thomas, parent
Erica N. Thomas, student
Cherie Batey, staff
Diane McClain, staff
Nakia Coleman, staff

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Jim van den Heuvel, staff

Deloris Bryant-Booker, staff

Wilma Gibbs-Matthews, staff

Cheryl Flowers, staff

Dan Young, citizen

Mari Early, parent

Brenda Turner, parent

B. S. Johnson, parent

Kim Alston, staff

Estella Bonilla-Cook, staff

Philippi T-Lawrey, staff

Chad Hugh, staff

V.J. Johnson, citizen

Patricia Stewart, staff

Nicolette Wheeler, staff

Irene Schwieger, parent

Karen Lewis, parent

Jen Goolsby, staff

Christel Jackson, parent

Cheven Jackson, parent

Gale Romans, parent

Nikki Romans, student

Tory Romans, student

Clarence Romans, parent

Debra Myhand, staff

Marilyn Lee, citizen

Jacqueline Howard, parent

Luther Burton, staff

Alan Putinsky, staff

Dorothy Arnold, staff

Bernestine Todd, staff

Anna Thomas, parent

Michael Pittman, parent

Katherine Muhammad, parent

Wanda Ponder, parent

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