

**Superintendent's Advisory Council
May 14, 2003 - 7 p.m.
Administrative Center**

Members present

Cliff Hepburn, Westlake	Linda Steindorf, Roswell
Irene Schweiger, North Springs	Robin Stevens, Centennial
Beverly Miller, Chattahoochee/Northview	Susan Campbell, Milton
Robin Hickey, Riverwood	Karen Lewis, Creekside
Catherine Maddox, Tri-Cities	Annie, SFPTA Council
Mike Payne, Interim Superintendent	John Haro, Superintendent
Elizabeth Ackerman, Liaison	Linda Almond, Secretary

Minutes

Agenda Item

Decisions/Actions

Approval of minutes

Minutes from the March 27 meeting were approved.

**School Councils Transition
2003-04**

According to representatives of the Georgia School Council Institute, the Legislature wanted to implement the school council law as written before making any modifications. Therefore, proposals taken to the Legislature were removed from the education bill.

Ackerman will provide five training sessions for those schools moving to the 7-member council in the 2003-04 school year, and for any new members joining already established councils. SAC members who have not attended training are invited to do so. Ackerman is creating a training video for future use.

The training schedule has been emailed to SAC members.

To help SAC members know the answer to frequently asked questions, Ackerman stated that the biggest issue for implementation has been elections. Principals may decide how to hold their elections. They have chosen a range from a simple show of hands to ballots. A two-week notice of election is required.

The council year begins July 1 and all schools transitioning to the new structure must organize their councils by

October 1, 2003. The three major points to organizing are to:

1. Hold elections as planned
2. Elect officers to two year terms
3. Pass bylaws using the template provided by the principal and at gsci.org

Election of Officers

Officers for the 2003-04 SAC were elected.

Susan Campbell – Chair
Karen Lewis – Vice Chair
Linda Almond – will continue as secretary

Set SAC Calendar

The council will meet September 25, 7 p.m. at the Administrative Center. The remainder of the calendar will be set at that time.

Update from Dr. Payne

Dr. Payne discussed several important items.

Class Sizes for 2003-04 are as follows:

Kindergarten: 18 (can go to 20 with a paraprofessional)
Grades 1-3: 21
Grades 4-5: 26
Grades 6-8: 27
Grades 9-12:26

He reported that the Board is still in deliberations concerning the **Budget**, and explained some of the issues with revenue. The Board does not want to raise taxes and is looking for ways to present a revenue neutral budget.

There will be additional public hearings concerning the millage, and these will be advertised to the public.

Cell Phones. The Legislature has passed a bill allowing each local board of education to establish policy concerning use of electronic communication devices by students in school.

Dr. Payne asked the council their opinions on this subject to guide policy development. It was the consensus of the council that elementary and middle school students should not be allowed to possess any devices at school, and that

while high school students may possess, they should only be used after school.

The council presented Dr. Payne with a gift certificate and thanked him for his untiring efforts for students during this transition period.

Conversation with Dr. Haro

Dr. Haro gave council members a perspective of his leadership style and beliefs. Money should be in the schools, and he will be looking for ways to see that more money reaches them.

- Look at central office positions, and decide if those positions, when vacant due to resignations or retirements, need to be filled.
- The Leadership Conference held annually will cut back on expenses and in future years be held in a high school.
- Allow principals to select their own assistant principals. Training will be provided for principals within the next three to four weeks.
- Will continue to take input from Local School Advisory Council members concerning principal vacancies, but he will make the final choice when filling principal positions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m. The next meeting will be September 25, 7 p.m. at the Administrative Center with a 6:30 p.m. networking time for council members.