

**Superintendent's Advisory Council**  
**August 26, 2004 – 6:30 p.m.**  
**Administrative Center**

**Members present:** Mike Vanairsdale, Superintendent; Karen Lewis, Chair, Creekside; Susan Campbell, Milton; Bev Miller, Northview; Cliff Hepburn, Westlake; Irene Schweiger, North Springs; Ann Duncan, Centennial; Ann Bersson, Roswell; Valerie Ross, Banneker; Julia Allen, Tri-Cities; Laura Stewart, NFPTA Council; Annie Gist, SFPTA Council

**Guests:** Vickie Perdue Scott, Deputy Superintendent for Academics

**Staff:** Linda Almond, Secretary; Mitzi Edge, Liaison; Carolyn Mattingly, Liaison

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**Call to Order** Chair Karen Lewis called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Approval of minutes** May 6 meeting minutes were approved.

**Welcome** Vice Chair Irene Schweiger welcomed new members Valerie Ross, Ann Duncan, Ann Bersson, Julia Allen, and Laura Stewart. Superintendent Vanairsdale introduced Deputy Superintendent for Academics Vickie Perdue Scott.

**Discussions** Chair Karen Lewis asked for feedback on the following changes in meeting structure:

Members wishing to share good news with other council members should forward their information to the Communications Department to be disseminated prior to the meeting. During the informal networking period, council members would discuss pertinent information.

The agenda would be limited to no more than 1-1/2 hours (7-8:30 p.m.). The group would take the last 30 minutes of the meeting to implement a Best Practices Training Component, with adjournment by 9 p.m.

**Superintendent's Update** Superintendent Vanairsdale complimented staff for a smooth opening. The Planning Department received accolades for their forecasting accuracy which was within 1/3 of 1%, or 261 students, of the actual enrollment. The Superintendent also shared the following good news:

- 88% of Fulton's schools made AYP, up from 75% last year.
- 97% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed the reading portion of the CRCT.
- Fulton's SAT score increased seven points from last year—four points in verbal and three points in math. Over the past five years, Fulton has increased its mean score by 40 points. *Note: Since the*

*meeting, the State has released SAT scores and six of the Top 10 highest SAT scores belong to Fulton County high schools.*

### **Charter Schools**

Victory Charter is not meeting performance expectations, and has been operating without a legally-constituted governing board. Staff recommends non-renewal of the charter petition. *Note: The Board did vote on September 9 to not renew the Victory charter petition.*

Both Fulton Science Academy and KIPP South Fulton Academy are doing well. Hapeville MS Charter opened this year with 177 students, 47 higher than projected. *Note: Council members were emailed a response to member's question concerning lunch prices at Hapeville Middle Charter.*

### **Organizational Chart**

A copy of the current organization chart was given to each council member with changes discussed.

### **Policy Governance®**

Superintendent Vanairsdale thanked SAC members who attended the Policy Governance Roundtable discussion. He emphasized that the transition to Policy Governance will require staff members, parents, and Board to adhere to the chain of command. The role of Area Superintendents also will expand as they will be the liaison between the school and community. At the request of council, the Superintendent will address this new role with the Area Superintendents.

Council members asked if the community will continue to have input into topics of concern, such as calendars and grading and reporting. Members also shared concerns that there is a perception that the Board asks for feedback on issues such as grading and reporting, but does not always accept that feedback. Superintendent Vanairsdale expressed confidence that Policy Governance will strengthen the system by clarifying the roles of the Board and staff.

SAC members were invited to community information meetings to be held on September 14, 3-5 p.m. at Dunwoody Springs Elementary School or 7-9 p.m. at the Administrative Center.

*Note: A copy of a Policy Governance video produced by Clark County, Nevada schools has been mailed to SAC members. A Policy Governance link also has been included on the school system's web site. A PowerPoint will be shared with SAC members to use in explaining Policy Governance.*

### **2005-06 Calendar Options**

Superintendent Vanairsdale discussed calendar options before the Board, expressing his concern that we develop a calendar that best meets the academic needs of students while recognizing the desires of families. SAC members reviewed four options that were under consideration, along with a fifth option that had been created as a result of community feedback. Discussion followed on the merits of balanced/year-round calendars. *Note: The Board of Education voted on the calendar on 9/9/04. Start date will be 8/15/05.*

**Expectations of Members** Chairman Lewis stated her belief that the role of SAC members is to inform and involve community members. She also stated that new community leaders must be identified and trained. She would like to have veteran SAC members mentor new members. With consensus from the group, the mentoring program will be established.

**Confirmation of Meeting Schedule** After discussion, it was decided to leave the remainder of the meeting schedule as originally planned.

November 18, Dunwoody Springs ES  
January 27, Dunwoody Springs ES  
March 24, Dunwoody Springs ES  
May 5, Administrative Center

**Other Business** The membership rotation schedule as currently written in bylaws was discussed. *Note: A recommendation to amend the bylaws will be brought to the next meeting.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

*Minutes will be considered unofficial until formal vote is taken at next meeting.*