

Superintendent's Advisory Council
January 25, 2005 – 6:30 p.m.
Administrative Center

Members present: Mike Vanairsdale, Superintendent; Carolyn Carson, Alpharetta; Valerie Ross, Banneker; Ann Duncan, Centennial; Kathy Theisen, Chattahoochee; Susan Campbell, Milton; Irene Schweiger, North Springs; Bev Miller, Northview; Robin Hickey, Riverwood; Ann Bersson, Roswell; Julia Allen, Tri-Cities; Cliff Hepburn, Westlake; Annie Gist, SFPTA Council; Laura Stewart, NFPTA Council

Guests:

Warren Collier, NFPTA Council

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

Call to Order

Vice Chair Irene Schweiger called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Recommendations from
High School Needs
Assessment**

Due to the death of Dr. Vickie Scott's father-in-law, she was unable to attend the meeting. This topic will be rescheduled for a later meeting.

Legislative Update

Dr. Jim Welsh provided a written legislative update. Ms. Edge noted that Dr. Welsh's update provided the council with the names of legislators who have assumed important leadership positions.

Dr. Welsh also provided web site addresses where council members can get daily reports from the Capitol. He stated that Sally FitzGerald, Education Policy Consultant for the Georgia PTA, provides a detailed update available on the Georgia PTA web site.

Council members were also reminded of Governor Sonny Perdue's and State School Superintendent Kathy Cox's first "Community Conversation," which will be held Thursday, January 27, from 6:45-9 p.m. Two Fulton County high schools – Chattahoochee and Tri-Cities – will host this event.

Council members also were reminded of PTA Day at the Capitol on February 17.

Superintendent's Update Superintendent Vanairsdale provided handouts from his recent State of the System address and discussed some of the points in his address.

- Balanced Scorecard objectives are being modified to better focus on key issues affecting student achievement
- Limited English Proficiency CRCT math and reading scores are not where we want them and are being addressed
- Third grade CRCT reading scores are much improved, particularly in south county
- Gap in north and south 5th grade writing assessment scores has closed significantly
- SAT scores at six Fulton County high schools are in the top 10 in the State
- Overall SAT scores have improved for 11 consecutive years
- All elementary schools made AYP
- Overall, parents and teachers are satisfied with our schools and feel that schools are safe
- Average days of sick and personal leave per teacher is too high
- Fulton County now has 124 National Certified Teachers, more than any other school system in the state

Web Site Mitzi Edge showed a web site that has been designed for local, cluster and Superintendent's councils to post minutes and list meeting dates. Members were asked to look at the site, www.fultonschools.org/lisac, and provide Ms. Edge with suggestions and comments.

Sharing of Concerns The following concerns/issues were discussed:

- Susan Campbell asked if substitute teachers' qualifications could be matched to the subject needed. She also said the substitute pool has been closed, which means we may be missing out on well qualified applicants. (Substitutes need close supervision by school administrators.)
- Julia Allen pointed out that Fulton County doesn't offer summer enrichment programs.
- Bev Miller raised a concern about the Recovery policy saying the Northview and Chattahoochee clusters were very concerned and stated there was cluster consensus for the need for consistency within the policy. Ann Bersson also stated that the Roswell Cluster shares this same concern.
- Robin Hickey and Irene Schweiger said the Riverwood and North Springs clusters are concerned about overcrowding.

Other issues/questions raised included:

- Students who graduate out of ESOL classes still need help.
- Will findings of Capital Programs audit be published?
- Can schools that are piloting the Affidavit of Residency program receive support from administration?
- What programs are going into the old Milton High School building?
- Assignments, case loads and current reporting methods for school social workers.
- Survey of students regarding what they consider to be the real needs.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next SAC meeting is scheduled for **March 24**, 6:30 p.m. at Dunwoody Springs ES in the media center; however, the Board's tentative budget calendar shows a Public Hearing for that evening. Should the Budget Calendar be approved as currently drafted, we will need to reschedule SAC.

These minutes are approved as of February 8, 2005.