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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 13, 2009

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NOTE: This meeting can be viewed by going into the Department of Education Website, www.gadoe.org, under State Board of Education/Webcasts.
The State Board of Education met in an official meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. in the State Board Room.

**Executive Session**

By motion of Mr. Perez, seconded by Dr. Ragsdale, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing waivers, appeals, legal and personnel matters.

At 9:55 a.m., by motion of Mr. Winter, seconded by Mr. Perez, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to come out of Executive Session.

**Roll Call**

Ms. Wanda Barrs  
Mr. Al Hodge  
Dr. Elizabeth Ragsdale

Dr. Jim Bostic  
Mr. Buzz Law  
Mr. Allen Rice

Mr. Brad Bryant  
Dr. Mary Sue Murray  
Mr. Larry Winter

Mr. Brian Burdette  
Mr. Jose Perez  
Mrs. Linda Zechmann

District three is vacant.

**Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Jose Perez, State Board Representative from the 7th Congressional District, gave the inspiration and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Excellence Awards**

Superintendent Cox gave the following Excellence Awards.

**2009 Exemplary Library Media Program Awards.** The annual Exemplary Library Media Recognition Program is an initiative from the Department of Education to recognize outstanding library media programs in our schools. Georgia’s exemplary media programs have ranged from metro counties to rural. The key to a good program is a Library Media Specialist who is a teacher, an instructional partner, and an information specialist.
The first award winner went to Tritt Elementary in Cobb County. Mrs. Joanne Bates is the media specialist. Mrs. Bates is proud of the collaborative efforts that she has made with her teachers and the data she has been able to collect on her students. Using interactive student response devices, she was able to show that collaboration between teachers and the library media specialist can lead to increased scores on the students’ information literacy skills.

Findley Oaks Elementary School in Fulton County was the next award winner. Ms. Amy Rubin is the media specialist. Ms. Rubin’s focus was placed on developing a more flexible program that emphasized direct collaboration between the media specialist and classroom teachers.

Harbins Elementary in Gwinnett County was the next Exemplary Library Media Program. Ms. Cindy R. Brooks is the media specialist and she says that this award validates what the school media/technology team believes about collaboration, instruction, student achievement and the importance of the school library media program.

The next Exemplary Award went to the Marietta Center for Advanced Academics. Mrs. Stacey Anne Buckalew is the media specialist. Mrs. Buckalew believes the students benefit the most by having more than one teacher responsible for their education and without the teachers and administrative support this award would not have been possible.

Long Cane Middle School in Troup County was the next winner where Mrs. Pamela Murphy is the media specialist. Mrs. Murphy is proud of their reading programs, including the “Cougar Lunch Bunch” and “Strive for 25”. She is also proud of the innovative technology integrations through collaboration with their teachers.

High School Level

Norcross High School, Gwinnett County. Mrs. Jennifer Lund and Ms. Adria Whitworth are the media specialists. Mrs. Lund and Ms. Whitworth have dramatically improved the media program at Norcross in a short amount of time. From creating a more welcoming environment in the media center to collaborating with teachers and leading staff development, they are committed to making the media program a central part of teaching and learning. They make their media center a fun place where students want to visit.

Sprayberry High School, Cobb County. Media Specialists are Mrs. Jo Zarzeka, Kelly Paynter, and Mrs. Ashley Siegel. They model effective use of 21st century technology and provide professional learning for teachers. They offer free SAT prep night, sponsored the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, and took 90 students to elementary schools to read on Dr. Seuss’ birthday.
Hillgrove High School, Cobb County. Hillgrove has two media specialists: Mrs. Heather Kindschy and Ms. Jane E. Roberts. Ms. Kindschy and Ms. Roberts have built a successful library program from the ground up in three years. They are proud of their ability to make the kids that they teach everyday feel welcome and comfortable in their library. 80-100 students are there every morning before school and actively working-doing research, preparing research papers, and reading and working in small groups.

2008 Georgia Library Media Specialist of the Year. The Georgia Library Media Association and the Georgia Association of Instructional Technology co-sponsor the Georgia School Library Media Specialist of the Year award to recognize K-12 library media specialists whose services have resulted in exemplary library media programs. The winner is announced at the Georgia Council of Media Organizations conference.

The 2008 Georgia Library Media Specialist of the Year is Becky Greene, from Alexander II Magnet School in Bibb County. Ms. Greene has developed a dynamic and inviting atmosphere in the Media Center that encourages students to use its resources to learn, to explore and to create. She is very proud of the video production program. Alexander II produces a bi-weekly broadcast that highlights different students each week, allowing many more to participate.

World Languages Awards.

American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). The first award was for the AATSP Georgia Elementary/Middle School Poster Contest. For a poster to win, it must first be chosen from all the students’ posters within the school. The selected poster is then sent to the Foreign Language Poster Contest sponsored by the Georgia Chapter of the AATSP. The contest is divided into three categories: Kindergarten through 3rd grade, 4th and 5th grade and 6th through 8th grade. All students enrolled in Spanish or Portuguese classes in Georgia schools can participate, so for a poster to win First Place it must be selected from all of the other students’ posters from the entire state.

K-3 Division First Place Winner is Maggie Ivy. Maggie goes to Athens Academy Independent College Preparatory Day School. Maggie's poster depicts a bright yellow sun with the caption, "One who speaks two languages is worth two people - you can make new friends." Two smiling girls are shaking hands. The girls speak Spanish to ask how old they are.

4th -5th Grade Division is Katharine Suárez. Katherine also goes to Athens Academy Independent College Preparatory Day School. Katharine’s poster depicts four scenes in which children are using Spanish for listening, speaking, reading and writing. She extends the theme of
the contest "One who speaks two languages is worth two people" by adding the caption in Spanish "because you can read, write, speak and understand languages."

**AATSP Middle School Spanish Student of the Year.** This award recognizes outstanding achievement in Spanish studies and extracurricular foreign language enrichment activities at the middle school level.

This year’s winner is **Keisha Bennett.** Keisha attended **Woodland Middle School** at the time she received this award and now attends **Woodland High School in Bartow County.** Keisha received this award because of her academic record, honors in the study of Spanish and community service. One of her greatest accomplishments was making the “All A” Honor Roll for the entire year. This accomplishment meant so much to Keisha because it pushed her to work hard and let her know that nobody could discourage her.

Next to be honored was **Agata Rzucidlo** winner of the **AATSP Georgia High School Spanish Student of the Year** award and the **National Bertie Green Junior Travel Award** to Peru. The first award she won recognizes outstanding achievement in Spanish studies and extracurricular foreign language enrichment activities at the high school level. The second award is based on academic achievement in Spanish, grade point average in high school as well as the quality of work and initiative shown in a written two page essay on a given topic. It’s also based on a five-minute recorded conversation between student and teacher. Agata goes to **Cedar Shoals High School in Clarke County.** Agata says she is most proud that she has been able to learn so much Spanish that she can travel to Latin America, specifically Peru - with no language barrier and can freely communicate with people.

**American Association of Teachers of German.**

**Goethe Institute Award of Excellence in German Study.** Lee Frye received this award. He is a student at **Whitewater High School in Fayette County.** Each year, more than 70,000 students from over 700 different schools in the U.S. and Canada take part in the Award of Excellence contest – whether they study German or not. The goal of the contest is to create and promote an interest in learning German for North American students. Students take a quiz over the subject matter and the interested students wrote an essay and were interviewed by the German language teacher and selected staff. Five winning schools in the U.S. and two schools in Canada are selected based on this information.

**The Duden Award** is presented annually to an outstanding teacher to honor efforts and achievement in teaching German. This year’s recipient is **Margita Haberlen of Austin Elementary School in DeKalb County.** Ms. Haberlen is proud that she started the German program at Austin Elementary School in 1991. Her first kindergarten classes began to join her in
the adventure of daily foreign language immersion. In the following years, the whole school population from Kindergarten to fifth grade was studying German every day. Margita has dedicated much time, energy and enthusiasm to help the elementary school German program expand and thrive for 18 years.

**The Langenscheidt Award** honors a student who has accomplished something noteworthy in activities or achievements directly pertaining to the study of German in Georgia. The winner of the American Association of Teachers of German Langenscheidt Award is Soleil Robichaud, a recent graduate of Northview High School in Fulton County. Soleil attended the State German Convention in February where she was required to write a short, timed essay describing a picture to show her writing proficiency in German. Soleil was then interviewed in German, by the selection committee.

**The German Language Opportunities Website (GLOW) Award**, inaugurated in 2008, is a national award presented to high-school students who distinguish themselves by enthusiastic and extraordinary study of the German language and culture. This year’s winner is Robert Lowell Stone who just graduated from Central Gwinnett High School, in Gwinnett County. Robert took the National test to compete for this award and the test score had to be above a 90 but Robert scored a 98. With all the work that went into winning this award, Robert is most proud that after studying German for two years, he was knowledgeable and fluent enough to be competitive for this honor.

**The American Association of Teachers of German “Teacher of the Year Award”** is based on achievement in German, interest in the language and culture, and speaking/writing proficiency. The award consists of a summer study trip to Germany. The 2009 recipient is Mrs. Sanja Knezovic. Mrs. Knezovic teaches at Parkview High School in Gwinnett County. Sanja is proud of all her students’ achievements and her greatest accomplishment is that two years in a row, she had a student named German Student of the Year. Sanja is actively involved in American Association of Teachers of German and the Foreign Language Association of Georgia. She won the Rookie of the Year award in 2001 and the Foreign Language PEAK Award in 2008.

**The American Association of Teachers of German “Student of the Year Award”** is based on achievement in German, interest in the language and culture, and speaking/writing proficiency. The award consists of a summer study trip to Germany. The 2009 recipient is Tiffany Diebold, a student at Lakeside High School in DeKalb County. Tiffany is currently on her trip to Germany, so her teacher, Jennifer Schultz, accepted the award for her. The last three years at the State German Convention, Tiffany has won all 4 of her competitions. Tiffany skipped German III and went straight to AP German and received a 5. She scored a 100% on the National Test in German.
The Foreign Language Association of Georgia (FLAG) Leadership Award recognizes those who have taken an active role in promoting foreign language education through professional and/or academic endeavors. The winner was Rhonda Wells, the World Language Coordinator for DeKalb County Schools. Rhonda is most proud of the work she and her teachers have done on developing a curriculum which will allow DeKalb teachers to implement K-12 articulated sequences in world languages. She feels her greatest accomplishment has been developing and implementing a program for at-risk students at the middle school level.

Foreign Language Association of Georgia Teacher of the Year. This award recognizes teachers who effectively strive to use various strategies, techniques, and materials to enhance the students’ interest in, acquisition of, and proficiency in a second language.

Ms. Clarissa Adams-Fletcher is the FLAG Teacher of the Year. Ms. Adams-Fletcher currently teaches at Dunwoody High School in DeKalb County. Clarissa is most proud of the innovation that she has been able to bring to the classroom through internet tools. These programs have enabled her students to use Spanish more effectively outside of the classroom. Many of the students are fanatics of television programs, pop stars and they have discovered Hispanic authors.

The third FLAG Award is the Administrative Support Award. This award recognizes a Georgia dean, superintendent, principal, or other administrators who have evidenced strong and overt support of foreign languages. The recipient of this award is Ms. Kathy Annis, Director of Instructional Administration for Cobb County Schools. With all the work that went into this award Kathy is most proud that she was able to sustain the trust and respect of her colleagues in their work together. Maintaining her long-term working relationship with other education professionals and her marriage to her high school sweetheart are among Kathy’s greatest accomplishments.

The last FLAG Award is the Fostering Partnerships Award. The winner of this award is Ms. Bobbi Lynn Moreno, a Spanish Teacher at Southeast Bulloch High School. Ms. Moreno is most proud of the fact that she was able to show students that learning a new language can open up a whole new world for them that involves travel, customs and culture as well as the practicality of knowing a foreign language in today’s work force. She considers her greatest accomplishment to be the number of students that develop a love of Spanish through what they have learned in her classroom.

Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) Awards. The SCOLT Teacher of the Year award goes to Jennifer Schultz. Ms. Schultz has been teaching since 1994 and currently teaches at Lakeside High School in DeKalb County. Ms. Schultz has been a strong presence within the German teaching community and also shares her energy and enthusiasm for
teaching with colleagues. She presents regularly at workshops for German teachers in the state as well as on the regional and national level. She has been President of the Georgia Chapter of AATG and served as Director of the State German Convention for 7 years.

The next Southern Conference on Language Teaching Award is the Scholarship Winner for French Cultural Studies. We are proud that Georgia has two scholarship winners this year. The first is Ms. Kathy Wheeler, a French teacher at Pickneyville Middle School in Gwinnett County. The Cultural Services of the French Embassy Scholarship is available to French teachers in levels K-12. It provides three weeks of study in France during July. It includes registration, tuition and an allotment for lodging, meals, and expenses while in France.

The final Southern Conference on Language Teaching Award is the Scholarship Winner for Centro Mundo Lengua. Erica Poole, a teacher at South Gwinnett High School in Gwinnett County received this award. This scholarship is available to secondary school teachers of Spanish who teach AP classes or can validate that they will do so in the near future. It provides tuition for a 2-week course, room, board, and materials. The course, an AP summer institute endorsed by the College Board, is in Sevilla, Spain.

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages presented the Florence Steiner Award for Leadership in Foreign Language Education, Postsecondary to Dr. Jana Sandarg at their national conference in Orlando last fall. Dr. Jana Sandarg is a professor at Augusta State University. She has been in Georgia since 1981 and also worked with Florida teachers and associations to promote foreign languages. This award really made Jana proud of Georgia and all that has been accomplished. Jana says she is also proud to see her former students become foreign language teachers and complete graduate programs.

The next award is given by the National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages. The 2008 District Supervisor of the Year Award went to Mr. David Jahner. Mr. Jahner is an Administrator at the Instructional Support Center with Gwinnett County. Mr. Jahner is most proud of the fact he gets the opportunity to work with and support the teachers in Gwinnett as well as other district supervisors around the country. He also started a national retreat weekend to provide support for new district supervisors.

The Board took a short break to congratulate the winners.

The Board reconvened at 11:25 a.m.
ACTION ITEMS

AGENDA

By motion of Mr. Burdette, seconded by Mr. Law, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the agenda as amended for the August 13, 2009 State Board Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

By motion of Dr. Bostic, seconded by Mr. Law, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the following items on the amended Consent Agenda.

All of these items in their entirety, with backup material, can be found on the State Board of Education E-Board website, August 13, 2009 State Board Meeting.

1. **FY 10 Thinkfinity State Rollout Partnership Agreement.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to accept a grant donation in the amount of $50,000 from Verizon Foundation for Thinkfinity State Rollout partnership agreement.

2. **Grant – Safe and Drug-Free Schools.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to LEAs at a cost not to exceed $6,308,397.00 in Federal funds for administering Safe and Drug-Free Schools activities.

3. **FY 10 Contract – GALILEO.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contract with The Board of Regents at a cost not to exceed $130,738.50 in State funds for continuing to provide access to GALILEO.

4. **FY 10 Contract – Columbus State University and Georgia Southern University.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contract with Columbus State University and Georgia Southern University at a cost not to exceed $152,793.53 in Federal funds for developing online resources and a content/technology workshop for astronomy.

5. **FY 10 Grant – Title III, Part A.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to LEAs and to Southwest Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (SWGA RESA) for the Title III Consortium of LEAs at a cost not to exceed $15,654,935.00 in Federal Funds for No Child Left Behind Programs for FY 2010.

6. **Grant FY 10 – McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Continuation Grants.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to 15 school districts at a cost not to exceed $895,000.00 in Federal funds for McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Continuation grants.

7. **Grant – FY 10 Title I, Part C Allocations.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to local educational agencies (LEAs) and First District RESA (Migrant Consortium) at a cost not to exceed $6,057,180.13 in Federal Funds for Migrant Education Program services.
8. **Grant – Even Start Family Literacy Program Funding for New Grantees.** Authorized the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to award grants at a cost not to exceed $2,560,024.00 in federal funds.

9. **Revocation of FY 09 Academic Achievement Awards for Three Title I Schools.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to revoke the FY09 Academic Achievement Awards for three Title I Schools in the total amount of $19,076.00 in Federal funds for Title I Academic Achievement Awards.

10. **Contract – Georgia State University Reading Recovery Training FY 10.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contract with Georgia State University at a cost not to exceed $150,000.00 in Federal funds for training teachers in the use of Reading Recovery and to allow for the redelivery of the training to additional teachers.

11. **Grant – FY 10 Even Start Family Literacy Continuation Grants.** Authorized the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to award two continuation grants at a cost not to exceed $355,000.00 in Federal funds for Even Start Family Literacy Centers.

12. **Grant – Charter Schools Planning Grants.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to thirteen applicants at a cost not to exceed $104,000 in State Funds for Charter Schools Program Planning Grants. (*This list can be found on E-Board, August 13, 2009 State Board Meeting under Consent Agenda.*)

13. **Grant – Charter Schools Implementation Grants.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to KIPP STRIVE Academy, Elite Scholars Academy, Reese Road Elementary and Lake Oconee Academy at a total cost not to exceed $1,400,000 in Federal Funds for Charter Schools Program Implementation Grants.

14. **System Waiver – Commerce City Schools Instructional Program Waiver.** Approved a waiver of specified portions of SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.13 Statewide Passing Score to allow Commerce City Schools to implement standards-based report cards in kindergarten through fourth grade.

15. **Murray County Schools Administrative Waiver.** Approved a waiver of SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.01 School Year to allow Murray County Schools to implement a 170-day school year for teachers.

16. **System Waiver – Alternative Education Programs.** Approved for the 2009-2010 school year, the waivers for the Alternative Education Programs (AEP) for the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on the attached list. (*This list can be found on E-Board, August 13, 2009 State Board Meeting under Consent Agenda.*)

17. **Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program – 2009-2010 Private School List.** Approved the attached list of private schools to participate in the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship
Program for the 2009-2010 school year. *(This list can be found on E-Board, August 13, 2009 State Board Meeting under Consent Agenda.)*


19. **2009 State-Recommended Learning Resources List.** Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to approve the 2009 State-Recommended Learning Resources for K-12 Foreign Language, K-12 ESOL, and Grades 9-12 English Language Arts and amend as required by state statute (O.C.G.A. 20-2-1012).

20. **Personnel Action.** Approved the August 13, 2009 personnel actions as recommended by the State Superintendent of Schools.

21. **Case No. 2009-52. P.C. v. DeKalb County Board of Education.** Sustained the decision of the Local Board.

22. **Case No. 2009-53. Arthur Anderson v. Grady County Board of Education.** Sustained the Local Board’s decision.

23. **Case No. 2009-54. S.G. v. Gwinnett County Board of Education.** Sustained the Local Board’s decision.

24. **Case No. 2009-55. C.J. v. Gwinnett County Board of Education.** Sustained the Local Board’s decision.

25. **Case No. 2009-56. N.T. v. Troup County Board of Education.** Dismissed this appeal.


27. **Variance Requests of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests or the Georgia High School Writing Test.** Approved the requests for a variance of the identified portions(s) of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) or the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) for the following cases:

   - **Mathematics:** 09-1224, 09-1347
   - **Science:** 09-1379, 09-1380, 10-0001, 10-0002, 10-0006, 10-0008, 10-0009, 10-0010, 10-0011, 10-0013, 10-0014, 10-0015, 10-0019
   - **Social Studies:** 09-1378, 10-0018, 10-0020, 10-0021.

28. **Waiver Reconsideration Requests of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) or the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT).** Made the following decisions on the waiver requests of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) or the Georgia High School Writing Tests (GHSWT) for the students and areas identified below:
## Waiver Requests of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests or the Georgia High School Writing Test

Made the following decisions on the waiver requests of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) or the Georgia High School Writing Tests (GHSWT) for the students and areas identified below:

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<td>Writing</td>
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30. Minutes – July 28 Called State Board Meeting. Approved the minutes of the July 28, 2009 Called State Board Meeting.

31. Minutes – July 2009 State Board Meeting. Approved the minutes of the July 9, 2009 State Board Meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTIONS**

1. **Waiver Request – Case 09-1226 Georgia High School Graduation Test.** By motion of Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Hodge, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the request for a waiver based upon hardship of the Social Studies portion of the Georgia High School Graduation Test for the student identified as Case 09-1226.
2. Waiver Request – Case 09-1351 Georgia High School Graduation Test. By motion of Mr. Bryant, seconded by Dr. Bostic, an affirmative vote was given to approve the request for a waiver based upon hardship of the Science portion of the Georgia High School Graduation Test for the student identified as Case 09-1351, with Mr. Law voting No.

POLICY/RULES COMMITTEE ITEMS

1. Rule 160-5-1-.07 Student Data Collection. By motion of Dr. Bostic, seconded by Mr. Law, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to adopt an amendment of State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.07 STUDENT DATA COLLECTION.

2. Rule 160-4-2-.09 Governor’s Honors Program. By motion of Mr. Bryant, seconded by Dr. Ragsdale, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to adopt the amendment to State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.09 GOVERNOR’S HONORS PROGRAM.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Georgia Performance Standards for K-12 Fine Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts). By motion of Mr. Rice, seconded by Mr. Law, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to authorize the State Superintendent of Schools to post the K-12 Fine Arts Education Georgia Performance Standards for 60 days.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Budget Update. Deputy Superintendent Scott Austensen gave an update on the FY 10 budget that will be presented to the Governor. The four, six, and eight percent cuts will be presented to the Governor. The department has a five percent holdback in our budget for all programs except QBE. More information will be presented to the Board at their September Board meeting.

Adjournment

At 12 noon, by motion of Dr. Bostic, seconded by Mr. Hodge, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to adjourn the State Board meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting of the State Board

The next State Board Meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2009.