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February 12, 2009

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**NOTE: This meeting can be viewed by going into the Department of Education Website, [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org), under State Board of Education/Webcasts.**

**MINUTES OF THE  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**Atlanta, Georgia  
Wanda Barrs, Chairman**

**February 12, 2009  
Kathy Cox, Superintendent**

The State Board of Education met in an official meeting on Thursday February 12, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. in the State Board Room.

**Executive Session**

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

At 9:35 a.m., by motion of Mr. Hodge, seconded by Dr. Bostic, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to come out of Executive Session.

**Roll Call**

Ms. Wanda Barrs	Mr. Buzz Law	Dr. Elizabeth Ragsdale
Dr. Jim Bostic	Dr. Mary Sue Murray	Mr. Allen Rice
Mr. Brad Bryant	Mr. Jose Perez	Mr. Larry Winter
Mr. Brian Burdette	Dr. Mary Sue Polleys	Mrs. Linda Zechmann
Mr. Al Hodge		

**Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Larry Winter, State Board Member representing the Ninth Congressional District, introduced Staff Sergeant David Harris and Major Dave Simmons to give the inspiration. They talked about the SOAR program that works with students in recruitment for the Army. Mr. Winter led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Cox was presented a painting by the 2009 Youth Georgia Artist of the Year, Karin Husty, at a function held Wednesday evening, February 11. This painting will be hung in the State Board Room.

**Excellence Recognition**

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, Superintendent Cox presented the following Excellence Recognition Awards.

## Excellence in Social Studies

**2008 State and National Champion Mock Trial Team** is from **Jonesboro High School in Clayton County**. The Georgia Mock Trial Competition helps students gain an understanding of the legal system by providing opportunities for school teams to participate in academic competitions –where players assume the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a court case. Representing Jonesboro High today is Mock Trial Teacher **Mrs. Anna Cox**, students: **Jurod James, Jayda Hazell, Joe Strickland, Bridget Harris, Braeden Orr, Tabias Kelly, Brian Bady, Adrienne Marshall, Dominique Delgado**. **Honorable John C. Carbo** from the State Court of Clayton County, the **Honorable Deborah Benefield** from the Superior Court of Clayton County and **Ms. Tasha Mosley**, Solicitor-General of Clayton County were also in attendance.

**2008 Stock Market Game - Oliver Elementary in Clayton County**. **Mike Harrell** has been the advisor for the Georgia stock market game at Oliver for the last four games. This year, Oliver’s team used a strategy of short selling housing-related financial institutions and mortgage providers that would suffer heavy losses in the current subprime mortgage crisis. During the 10 week game the team of two fifth grade girls turned their hypothetical \$100,000 into a portfolio value of \$263,521.

**Georgia Council on Economic Education** recognizes outstanding teachers based upon their knowledge of economics, use of effective instructional strategies, enthusiasm, and creativity. **Mrs. Joanna Errera**, from **Luella Elementary**, was named the **2008 Georgia Economics Teacher of the Year**. Mrs. Errera is currently teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade and was recognized as Georgia Economics Teacher of the Year because of her commitment to making economics education a vital component in elementary education.

**National History Day Contest** winner was **Ajori Spencer**. His teacher, Mrs. Renae Evans, accepted this award on Ajori’s behalf. Ajori attends **Wheeler County High School**. Ajori is a senior at Wheeler County High School and is currently dually enrolled, taking a full load of college coursework at Brewton Parker College. For his winning project, Ajori created a ten-minute documentary outlining the struggles of Hispanic youth during the Chicano Movement of the 1960s.

**Georgia Council for the Social Studies, “Best in Fair**. Winners were **Ally Holland** and **Kasey Wilson** from **Union Grove High School in Henry County Schools**. Ally and Kasey are both sophomores on the honor roll who excel in Social Studies. When their church held a seminar on gang awareness in their community, they had an idea for a social studies fair topic- “Why Do Girls Choose to Join Gangs?” Their research involved interviewing the Henry County Criminal Apprehension Gang Enforcement Unit, collecting evidence of gang activity in Henry County and surveying elementary, middle and high school students about gangs.

**Georgia Council for the Social Studies 2008 Outstanding Educators Award**. This past October in Athens, three outstanding social studies educators were recognized during the annual conference.

The first winner of this award is **Mrs. Fran Bollinger**, a fourth grade teacher at **Sedalia Park Elementary**. Ms. Bollinger is a teacher leader, who models lifelong learning for her peers and students.

The next **Georgia Council for the Social Studies 2008 Outstanding Educator Award** goes to **Dr. Laura E. Meyers**. Ms. Meyers is an assistant professor in the area of elementary social studies in the College of Education at Georgia State University.

The last **2008 Outstanding Social Studies Educator Award** goes to **Mrs. Sue Funk**. She is a teacher at **Midland Middle School** in **Muscogee County**. Mrs. Funk has taught school for 28 years. She is presently a gifted lead teacher, teaching 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in a special resource class.

Next to be honored was the **Georgia Council for the Social Studies Program of Excellence Winner**. **Luella Elementary** in **Henry County** is the 2008 Winner and **Dr. Lois Wolfe**, Luella's principal, will be accepting the award. The social studies program at Luella Elementary implements curriculum integrating four strands of social studies where students actively participate in learning. The program promotes reading across the curriculum.

The next award was given by the **Georgia Leadership Association for the Social Studies**. The **2008 Georgia Outstanding Supervisor Award** goes to **Dr. Cathy Geis**. Dr. Geis serves as the K-12 Social Studies and Foreign Language Coordinator for **Fayette County Schools**. Dr. Geis was also named the **2008 National Outstanding Social Studies Supervisor Award** by the **National Social Studies Supervisor Association**.

Two student delegates were selected to represent Georgia at the **47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States Senate Youth Program** in Washington, D.C., March 7-14, for a week of intensive study of the people and machinery of the American governing system.

**Joseph Wells Ellenberg** attends **Frederica Academy**, a private school in **Glynn County**. Joseph is the student body President, Business Manager and Editor-in-Chief of the school annual, Varsity Golf Team Captain, Executive Board member of Reaching Out, United Community Bank Junior Board of Directors, Glynn Co. Chamber of Commerce Leadership Glynn Program, and Boys State/Boys Nation.

The next student participating in the United States Senate Youth Program is **William McCormick Burgess**. William is a student at **Sequoyah High School** in **Cherokee County**. William, a resident of Woodstock, is the Student Body President at Sequoyah High School.

### **Guidance and Counseling**

The School Counselor of the Year awards program was open to all 100,000 members of the school counseling profession. The top ten school counselors were nominated by their peers and administrators, and judged by a select panel to be the "best of the best." The candidates were judged on several criteria, including: creative school counseling innovations, effective counseling programs, leadership skills, and contributions to student advancement.

The winner for the **American School Counselor Association “2009 National School Counselor of the Year”** is **Ms. Julie Hartline**. Ms Hartline is a counselor at **Campbell High School** in **Cobb County**. Ms. Hartline was also named 2007 Cobb County High School Counselor of the Year.

The first honoree of the **2009 National School Counselor of the Year Finalist** from the American School Counselor Association is **Mr. Michael “Brian” Law**. Mr. Law is a counselor at **Valdosta High School** in Valdosta City Schools.

The next recipient of the **2009 National School Counselor of the Year Finalist** from the American School Counselor Association is **Mrs. Karen Gannon Griffith**. Mrs. Griffith is an Elementary School Counselor at **Berkeley Lake Elementary** in Gwinnett County.

The next three outstanding counselors received the state’s highest honor for guidance counselors from the Georgia School Counselors Association. They are the **2008 Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Counselors of the Year**. Mrs. Griffith is also the **2008 Georgia Elementary School Counselor of the Year**.

The **2008 Georgia Middle School Counselor of the Year** winner was **Ms. Heather Roth**. Ms. Roth has been a counselor at **Otwell Middle** for the last 5 years in **Forsyth County**. Ms. Roth is a Nationally Certified Counselor through the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). She is a member of the American School Counselor Association.

Our **2008 Georgia Secondary School Counselor of the Year** recipient is **Dr. Helen M. Clark**. Dr. Clark is a High School Counselor at **Dacula High** in **Gwinnett County**. Dr. Clark has been a School Counselor in Gwinnett County for 15 years.

The Georgia School Counselors Association **2008 Georgia Counselor Educator of the Year** is **Dr. Teddi Cunningham**. Dr. Cunningham has been a professor at Valdosta State University for the last 10 years.

Next to be recognized was **Dr. Crystal Giddings-Jackson**, winner of the **2008 Georgia Writer of the Year** award from the Georgia School Counselor Association. Dr. Giddings-Jackson works at **South Cobb High School** in **Cobb County**. The Georgia School Counselor Writer of the Year Award is given to a Georgia school counselor who has contributed to the professional writings and professional learning of Professional School Counselors in Georgia.

The winner of the Georgia School Counselor Association **2008 Georgia Counselor Supervisor of the Year** is **Dr. Betty “BJ” Thomas McBride**. She works for **Muscogee County** as Director of Guidance. The Supervisor of the Year award is based on several criteria including the initiation of developmental school counseling and guidance programs, and demonstration of leadership.

Next was the recipient of the **2008 Georgia School Social Worker of the Year** award from the **School Social Workers Association of Georgia**.

The winner, **Ms. Ida Hafford-Brown** has worked as a School Social Worker in **Cobb County Schools** since 1990. Ms. Brown has been an active member of School Social Workers Association of Georgia for the last 17 years and has held several offices.

### **Milken Awards**

**The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards** program gives public recognition and financial rewards to elementary and secondary teachers and principals who are furthering excellence in education. By honoring outstanding educators the program strives to attract, develop, motivate and retain talented people to the challenge and adventure of teaching. Superintendent Cox, along with Jane Foley from Milken, presented the winners with a check for \$25,000 to spend as they please. These two winners will attend a conference with Milken Educators from around the country in Los Angeles in April.

**Ms. Susan Grigg** is one of the first **2008 Milken National Educator** winner. She is the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program Coordinator at **Sawyer Road Elementary** in **Marietta City**. Ms. Grigg served as a teacher for ten years, and was instrumental in helping open Sawyer Road Elementary and helped guide her school through the authorization process to become an International Baccalaureate School.

The next **2008 Milken National Educator** winner is **Ms. Andrea King**, a gifted and special needs teacher, who teaches at **Rock Chapel Elementary School** in Lithonia. Ms. King is an exemplary teacher who embodies the true spirit of transformation education. Working with both gifted and special needs students, she is an expert at differentiation.

**Faithful Service Award**. Ms. Melinda F. Scarborough, who works for the Department of Education in School Nutrition, received her 30 year Faithful Service Award

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **AGENDA**

By motion of Mr. Hodge, seconded by Dr. Bostic, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the agenda as amended for the February 12, 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, February 12, 2009 State Board Meeting.*

1. Grant – Regional Agricultural Center. Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to extend the existing grant with Toombs County for a Regional Agricultural Center to December 31, 2009.

2. Contract – 2009-2010 Commercial Distributor Contract Renewal. Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contract with USFoodservice Fairburn, GA; Glover Foodservice Co. Americus, GA; Williams Institutional Foods Douglas, GA; and Ninth District cooperative Purchasing Cleveland, GA at a cost not to exceed \$0.00 in State/Federal funds for receiving, storing and deliver of USDA commodity foods for school systems.
3. Grant – FY 2009 Title I, Part A. Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to Ivy Preparatory Academy at a cost not to exceed \$21,201.00 in Federal funds for Title I, Part A funding.
4. Grant – AP Teacher Grants. Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to selected school systems at a cost not to exceed \$208,500.00 in Title II-A Federal funds for training teachers of Advanced Placement courses.
5. Contract – 2010 Georgia Teacher of the Year Recognition Banquet. Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contract with the Georgia Aquarium at a cost not to exceed \$65,750.00 in Other funds for the Georgia Teacher of the Year Banquet on May 15, 2009.
6. Grant – National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Grants – FY 09. Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to LEAs at a cost not to exceed \$12,294,617.48 in State funds for a salary supplement of .89 percent of state base salary for persons certified through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).
7. Grant – Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) Grants FY 2009. Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to 22 school districts on behalf of 25 Residential Treatment Facilities at a cost not to exceed \$3,810,685.00 in State funds for FY 2009 state grants.
8. Grant – Reading First Additional Grant Funds. Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to 35 Local Education Agencies representing 114 Reading First project schools at a cost not to exceed \$2,526,225.00 in Federal funds for project expenditures as indicated in their approved Reading First grant applications.
9. Grant – Reallocation of FY 08 Federal Grant Funds for Students with Disabilities. Authorized the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to school districts, state schools, and state operated programs at a cost not to exceed \$3,491,498.00 in Federal funds for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) services and for preschool students with disabilities.
10. Charter Amendment – Lewis Academy of Excellence. Approved a charter amendment for Lewis Academy of Excellence, a K - 5 start up charter school located in Clayton County.

11. Charter Amendment – Marietta Charter School. Approved charter amendments for Marietta Charter School, a K - 5 start up charter school located in the Marietta City School District.
12. Charter Amendment – North Springs High School. Approved charter amendments for North Springs High School, a 9 - 12 conversion charter school located in the Fulton County School district.
13. Charter Amendment – Peachtree Charter Middle School. Approved a charter amendment for Peachtree Charter Middle School, a 6 - 8 conversion charter school located in the DeKalb County School System.
14. Charter Amendment – KIPP West Atlanta Young Scholars Academy. Approved charter amendments for KIPP WAYS, a 6 - 8 start up charter school located in the Atlanta Public Schools system.
15. System Waiver – Class Size Waivers – February 2009. Approved for the 2008-2009 school year the requests to waive SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.08 CLASS SIZE to increase the maximum class size requirement for the six school districts listed below.
 

Banks County Schools	Harris County Schools
Coweta County Schools	Thomasville City Schools
Dougherty County Schools	Ware County Schools
16. System Waiver – Title 20 Waiver – Murray County Schools. Approved Murray County Schools request for a Title 20 Waiver for the 2008-2009 school year.
17. Minutes. Approved the corrected minutes of the January 8, 2009 State Board Meeting.
18. Personnel Action. Approved the February 12, 2009 personnel recommendations as presented by the State Superintendent of Schools.
19. Case No. 2009-15. A.A. v. Henry County Board of Education. Appeal was dismissed.
20. Case No. 2009-20. S.L. v. Clayton County Board of Education. Appeal was dismissed.
21. Case No. 2009-22. B.R. v. Whitfield County Board of Education. Sustained the Local Board's decision.
22. Case No. 2009-23. S.H. v. Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education. Appeal was dismissed.
23. Case No. 2009-26. E.B. v. Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education. Appeal was dismissed.
24. Waiver Request – Case 09-0611 – Georgia High School Graduation Requirements. Approved the request of the student identified at Case 09-0611 to substitute two units of

American Sign Language (ASL) to meet the foreign language requirements in order to receive a college preparatory diploma.

25. 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 (GHS GT) or the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHS WT) for the following cases:

**Mathematics:** 09-0649; 09-0650; 09-0651;

**Science:** 09-0594; 09-0596; 09-0599; 09-0606; 09-0608; 09-0609; 09-0612; 09-0615; 09-0616; 09-0617; 09-0618; 09-0621; 09-0622; 09-0623; 09-0624; 09-0626; 09-0630; 09-0635; 09-0636; 09-0637; 09-0638; 09-0639; 09-0640; 09-0642; 09-0643; 09-0645; 09-0646; 09-0647; 09-0654; 09-0657; 09-0662; 09-0663; 09-0665; 09-0666; 09-0670; 09-0671; 09-0672; 09-0673; 09-0674; 09-0675;

**Science and Social Studies:** 09-0595; 09-0610; 09-0644; 09-0661

**Social Studies:** 09-0597; 09-0598; 09-0607; 09-0619; 09-0633; 09-0634; 09-0641; 09-0658; 09-0664;

**Writing:** 09-0648

26. 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 (GHS GT) or the Georgia High School Writing Tests (GHS WT) for the students and areas identified below:

Case #	Recommendation	Area(s) of Request
09-0512	deny	Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics
09-0514	deny	English Language Arts, Science and Mathematics
09-0575	deny	Mathematics and Social Studies
09-0576	deny	Science
09-0577	deny	Science
09-0581	deny	Writing
09-0582	deny	Writing
09-0601	deny	Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies
09-0602	deny	Science and Social Studies
09-0603	deny	Science and Mathematics
09-0604	deny	English Language Arts and Science
09-0605	deny	Science
09-0625	approve	Social Studies

09-0627	deny	Science
09-0628	approve	Science
09-0629	deny	Science and Social Studies
09-0631	approve	Mathematics
09-0632	deny	Social Studies
09-0652	deny	English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies
09-0653	deny	Science and Social Studies
09-0656	deny	Science
09-0659	deny	Science and Mathematics
09-0660	deny	Social Studies
09-0667	deny	Science and Writing
09-0669	deny	Mathematics
09-0678	deny	Science and Social Studies

27. Waiver Reconsideration Requests of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHS GT) or the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHS WT). Made the following decisions on the reconsideration requests for Waivers of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests or the Georgia High School Writing Test made at earlier State Board of Education meetings for the students and areas identified below:

Case #	Recommendation	Original Decision Date	Areas of Request
09-0188	Overturn denial and approve waiver	10/9/2008	Science
09-0600	Sustain decision to deny	5/10/07	Science
09-0620	Sustain decision to deny	1/15/08	Science

**POLICY/RULES COMMITTEE ITEMS**

1. Rule 160-4-2-.20 List of State-Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses for Students Entering Ninth Grade in 2008. By motion of Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Winter, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to adopt the amendment to State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.20 LIST OF STATE-FUNDED K-8 SUBJECTS AND 9-12 COURSES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING NINTH GRADE IN 2008.

2. Rule 160-4-2-.03 List of State-Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses for Students Entering Ninth Grade Prior to 2008. By motion of Mr. Hodge, seconded by Mr. Law, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to adopt the amendment to State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.03 LIST OF STATE-FUNDED K-8 SUBJECTS AND 9-12 COURSES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING NINTH GRADE PRIOR TO 2008.
3. Rule 160-5-4-.18 Bidding Requirements for State Funded School Capital Outlay Projects. By motion of Mr. Winter, seconded by Dr. Ragsdale, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the revision to Rule 160-5-4-.18 Bidding Requirements for State Funded School Capital Outlay Projects to reflect changes in O.C.G.A. 36-91-20.
4. Waiver Request – Waive State Board of Education Rule 160-4-9-.04(3)(a). By motion of Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Burdette, it was recommended that the State Board of Education waive Rule 160-4-9-.04(3)(a) concerning letters of intent to allow the districts listed below to apply for a system charter for opening in Fall 2009. After a great deal of discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Perez, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to call the question. An affirmative vote was given with Dr. Polleys and Mr. Hodge voting no. The vote was taken on the original recommendation. An affirmative vote was given with Dr. Bostic, Mrs. Barrs, Mrs. Zechmann and Mr. Hodge voting no. (9-4)

White, Harris, and Muscogee Counties

### **OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Resolution to Support Alliance Task Force and HR 1103 Study Committee Recommendations. By motion of Mr. Law, seconded by Mr. Winter, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to adopt the resolution to support the recommendations of the Alliance Task Force and HR 1103 Study Committee on teacher training and certification.
2. New Georgia Performance Standards for Science Courses. By motion of Dr. Bostic, seconded by Dr. Ragsdale, an affirmative vote was given to authorize the State Superintendent of Schools to approve the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for astronomy, botany, ecology, entomology, forensic science, geology, meteorology, microbiology, oceanography, and zoology.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ITEMS**

1. One-Day Board Meeting. By motion of Mr. Hodge, seconded by Mr. Bryant, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to move for discussion the amended State Board meeting calendar to combine the March 2009 Committee of the Whole and the State Board Meeting to meet for one day on Thursday March 12, 2009. After discussion this item was unanimously approved.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Superintendent Cox introduced Mr. Kenny Moore, who is now the new Director of the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf. Mr. Moore replaces Dr. Cynthia Ashby who recently retired.
2. Ms. Clara J. Keith, Deputy Superintendent for Policy and External Affairs gave an update on Legislative Issues. She talked about several House and Senate Bills that have an impact on education policy and funding. Summary information will be e-mailed to the Board members on a regular basis and if Board members have any questions about the pending bills, they should contact Mr. Buck Hilliard.

Chair Barrs asked Mr. Brad Bryant, Mr. Al Hodge, Mr. Larry Winter, Mr. Brian Burdette and Mr. Jose Perez to participate in the Legislative Conference Calls to provide direct feedback to the department with regard to legislative issues.

### **Announcements**

1. Chair Barrs gave a list of the Local Board Advisory Committee to the Board. This Advisory Committee is made up of one local board member from each of the 13 Districts. They will have their first meeting in March and at that meeting will develop meeting dates and agenda.
2. Chair Barrs also gave a list of the Local Board Standards Task Force to the Board. This Task Force will hold their first meeting at the end of February. They have a 90-day plan to come up with recommendations and it is anticipated the Board will receive a draft of local board standards for review in May. One of the sections of that standard will be ethics. These standards will be posted for 60 days, with a public hearing in June, and will come back to the State Board for adoption in July. Chair Barrs indicated that we have never had standards or an ethics policy for local boards that was adopted by the State Board of Education. This is about highlighting the best practices that elevate the services of local board members.

### **Adjournment**

At 11:20 a.m., by motion of Dr. Bostic, seconded by Mr. Bryant, 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 March 12, 2009.

Lynn Roberts, Recorder