

*Georgia Board of School Directors  
Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 6pm  
Georgia Middle School Room C104  
Regular Meeting*

*Agenda*

**I.**     *Call to Order*

**II.**    *Public Comment*

**III.**   *Consent Agenda*

- *Minutes: 10/16/07, 12/18/07, 1/08/08, 1/15/08, 2/5/08*
- *Reports*
- *Correspondence*
- *Other*

**IV.**    *New Business*

- *NECAP Presentation – Sheila Rivers*
- *Math Program Presentation – Tony Hardy*
- *Review Revised Budget Presentation*

**V.**     *Policy Review*

- *Substitute Teacher Policy – Action*

**VI.**    *Other*

**VII.**   *Executive Session (if needed)*

**VIII.**   *Upcoming Meetings*

- A. **Annual School Meeting/Budget Presentation:** March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM  
at Georgia School Library
- B. **Regular Meeting:** March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Georgia School Library

**IX.**    *Adjourn*

---

*Georgia Elementary/Middle School Goals*

- *To create a committee structure that actively supports the priorities and objectives of the School Board.*
- *To continue to a budgeting process that provides for educational programs and supports the School Action Plan.*
- *To encourage and facilitate communication with Georgia Town Committees and Town Offices.*

**Georgia Board of School Directors**  
**October 16, 2007**  
**Georgia School Library**  
**Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM**  
**REVISED MINUTES**

**Board Present:** Jennifer Petrie, Casey Hager, Doug Bergstrom arrived at 7:00 PM

**Administrators:** Flora Hurteau, Frank Calano, Armando Vilaseca

**Others:**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**II. Consent Agenda**

A. Minutes – The minutes will be approved at the next regular board meeting.

**III. New Business**

A. Kindergarten Presentation – The three kindergarten teachers were present to discuss the kindergarten program. All of the kindergarten students have two full days and three half days. This is the second year of this program. The teachers were able to implement a literacy program with the extra time with the students. Parent feedback has been positive. The first grade feedback has also been positive. Pam Toof spoke to the board about the literacy program. There is an intervention and enrichment program in literacy for these students. MJ Mitiguy was able to serve 41% of the kindergarten students through the enrichment program. Ms. Nye spoke on behalf of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers and their experience with the students who have completed the new program. She stated that the children are more prepared and relaxed. It is an option for parents to only have their children attend half day kindergarten. Ms. Rowell stated that the children transitioned to the full day very well.

B. Ratify New Master Agreement

C. St. Albans Public Access Presentation – Paul Legassey was present from St. Albans Public Access. SAPA has been in service for approximately 8 years. Armando suggested that we explore who is able to view SAPA in the Georgia area. Mr. Legassey stated that they will be gathering some numbers with regards to programming in the area.

**IV. Public Forum: Budget Input**

Doug stated to the general public that the Board was in the beginning phases of the budget planning process. He asked the community members who were present to present their ideas to the board. Some suggestions to the board were:

- ◆ Foreign language
- ◆ Full-day kindergarten
- ◆ Preschool program
- ◆ Enrollment numbers and keeping the quality of the school

- ◆ Supervisory board change. Georgia is currently part of the Franklin West Supervisory Union. There is some consideration to switch to the Franklin Central Supervisory Union. Most of our students currently choose BFA-St. Albans who is part of the Franklin Central Supervisory Union. There is also some discussion regarding consolidating supervisory unions in the state.
- ◆ Transportation issues for the high school students
- ◆ New technology. Alert Now which is a system that allows a message to be sent to parents telephones, e-mails, text message simultaneously. The school is looking into establishing a website that would be accessible to parents to look at their student's grades, homework assignments, etc.
- ◆ The board stated that the bus service is up for bid.

**V. Other**

***ACTION:*** *The Board voted to grant Doris Reed an unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year.*

**VI. Upcoming Meetings**

A. Next Regular Meeting: November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, Georgia School Library

**Georgia Board of School Directors**  
**December 18, 2007**  
**Georgia School Library**  
**Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

**Board Present:** Jennifer Petrie, Casey Hager, Ron King, Doug Bergstrom, Irene Bonin  
**Administrators:** Flora Hurteau, Frank Calano, Armando Vilaseca  
**Others:** Joyce Alspach

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM.

**II. Public Comment – None.**

**III. Consent Agenda**

- Minutes
- Reports
- Correspondence
- Other

***ACTION:*** Motion by Jennifer Petrie to approve the Minutes dated December 4, 2007, seconded by Casey Hager, approved unanimously.

**IV. New Business**

- **Education Presentation** – Joyce Alspach was present to discuss the Foundations Reading Program. Two first grade and two second grades are piloting the program this year. There was a video of Ms. Alspach’s classroom working on the program. They used a magnet board, sky writing, gel boards and other tools to learn words, sounds and the composition of words. Flora mentioned that Foundations is included in the budget for next year for all first and second graders.
- **Continued Budget Work** – Armando presented the budget numbers at a 4.37% increase. At this increase there is exposure for possibly the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to a foreign language and the kindergarten could be increased to three full-day kindergarten and a 70% session, which is currently the program at this time. There was some discussion regarding what constitutes a “full day”. There are currently two teachers who teach two full classrooms. Doug stated that we are currently within the time frame, as far as hours, as many other districts who are considered to have “full day” kindergarten. Ron suggested 4 kindergarten classrooms at 70%. The school transportation provider has agreed to carry over the contract for one more year. There was a review of past years increase history. There has been a representative at both the senior luncheon and pancake breakfast to register voters and to take names for absentee ballots.

**V. Policies**

- **Drug, Alcohol & Substance Abuse Policy** - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Armando stated the policy does not currently cover situations where children are using materials not for their intended use.

**VI. Other** – Armando stated this past week there was an interruption with the phone service. Armando came up some ideas should this event happen again such as notify the town clerk, post on the website, notify the Northwest Supervisory Union. Frank will be contacting the Alert Now system. Armando also suggested a cell phone program. Armando stated that BFA-St. Albans will not include money in their budget for busing next year. There was a \$7,000 fee for a consultant to review the supervisory unions which has been withdrawn. The legislators will be discussing this issue soon and the board will wait to see what comes of it.

**VII. Executive Session (Personnel)** - Entered Executive Session at 8:30 PM, exited at 8:55 PM.

The Board continued their regular meeting and discussed different options for the kindergarten issue. They decided to include, for the time being, the option of 4 sections of 70% kindergarten, with 3 of those teachers staying with 100% FTE contract and the new person hired at .70 FTE. The budget would stay the same as presented.

**VIII. Upcoming Meetings**

- A. FWSU Quarterly Meeting: December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, Fairfax Community Library
- B. Next Regular Meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, Georgia School Library

**Georgia Board of School Directors**  
**January 8, 2008**  
**Georgia School Library**  
**Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

**Board Present:** Casey Hager, Ron King, Doug Bergstrom, Irene Bonin  
**Administrators:** Flora Hurteau, Frank Calano, Armando Vilaseca  
**Others:** Chris Sumner

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM.

**II. Public Comment – None.**

**III. Consent Agenda**

- Minutes
- Reports
- Correspondence
- Other

**ACTION:** Motion by Ron King to approve the Minutes with a minor change dated December 18, 2007, seconded by Casey Hager, approved unanimously.

**IV. Executive Session – Motion by Irene Bonin to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Casey Hager, approved unanimously. Entered at 6:15 PM, exited 6:55 PM.**

**ACTION:** Motion by Irene Bonin to accept Pat Chamberlain, Marcy Hancox and Diane Ladens' choice to participate in the early retirement incentive, seconded by Jennifer Petrie, approved unanimously.

**V. Old Business**

- **Continued Budget Discussion –** NISBET decreased the budget by \$11,000. The Town has increased the snowplowing fee to \$7,000. Doug suggested that we put the snowplowing out to bid. Armando suggested we put the bid out for next year's budget. Special Education tuition has increased. Transportation contract came in at a 3.8% increase. The budget was presented at a 4.54% increase. Chris distributed numbers regarding specific increases tied to a dollar amount and the percentage change to the budget. Foreign language is at 60% which will cover all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This will enable the students be enter high school at a level 2 for a foreign language. Ron inquired if offering a foreign language is necessary at this point, looking at it from a budget standpoint. Frank stated that it will give the students an opportunity to decide if it is something that they would consider pursuing. Doug asked if Frank could obtain the percentage of our students that take a foreign language in high school. During the summer there will be a technology course offered for the teachers to learn to integrate technology into the classroom. The Board decided not to the increase the computer technology teacher, 5 wall-mounted computers were added to the budget for a .085% increase bringing the budget increase to 4.625%. Chris will bring an updated budget to the next meeting.

## **VI. Policies**

- **Drug, Alcohol & Substance Abuse Policy**

***ACTION:** Motion by Ron King to approve the Drug, Alcohol & Substance Abuse Policy as presented, seconded by Casey Hager, approved unanimously.*

**VII. Other** – Casey mentioned the last year’s budget that passed by three votes. There has been a drive to register new voters. The PTA is doing an informational newsletter out to the residents regarding absentee ballots, registering to vote, voter turnout and other issues surrounding voting in Georgia. Room mothers will also be contacting the parents from each classroom around voting time to remind parents to vote. Frank said that they are in the process of putting together a letter to be sent home to obtain numbers, etc. from parents to be input into the AlertNow system. The hope is that the AlertNow system will be operating by February vacation. Irene inquired whether the school has ever surveyed our students who are now in high school. Armando stated that we currently have 1,000 free responses at Survey Monkey. These issues will be revisited after budget time.

## **VIII. Upcoming Meetings**

A. Next Regular Meeting: January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, Georgia School Library