

Georgia Board of School Directors
March 10, 2009 at 6pm
Georgia School Library
Regular Meeting

Agenda

- I. *Call to Order (Bruce Chattman, Superintendent)*
- II. *Board Re-Organization*
- III. *Public Comment*
- IV. *Consent Agenda*
 - *Minutes: 2/3/09 (Regular Mtg), 3/2/09 (Special Mtg), 3/3/09 (Special Mtg)*
 - *Reports: Superintendent, Financial*
 - *Correspondence*
- V. *Board Business*
 - *Town Meeting Day Recap*
 - *Suggestions for Next Year's Budgeting Process*
 - *Community Forum - update*
 - *Approve 2009-2010 School Calendar - **Action***
- VI. *Policy Review*
 - *Equipment Policy - **Action***
 - *Role of Policy - 1st Reading*
 - *Policy Development & Adoption - 1st Reading*
 - *Policy Dissemination, Administration, & Review - 1st Reading*
 - *Staffing & Job Descriptions Policy - 1st Reading*
 - *Personnel Files Policy - 1st Reading*
- VII. *Other*
- VIII. *Executive Session (Personnel)*
- IX. *Upcoming Meetings*
 - A. **Community Forum (Special Meeting):** March 12th at 6pm at Georgia School Library
 - B. **Regular Meeting:** April 7th at 6pm at Georgia School Library
- X. *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
February 3, 2009 at Georgia School Library
Budget Meeting at 6:00 PM
MINUTES

Board Present: Jennifer Petrie, Carl Laroe, Casey Hager, Doug Bergstrom, Irene Bonin
arrived at 6:45PM

Administrators: Bruce Chattman (Interim Superintendent), Frank Calano, Flora Hurteau

Others: Chris Sumner

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10PM

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Consent Agenda

- **Minutes: 1/6/09 (Regular Meeting), 1/26/09 (Special Meeting)**

***ACTION:** Motion by Jennifer Petrie to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Carl Laroe, approved unanimously.*

IV. Old Business

- **Community Forum** – The date is set for March 12th at 5PM at the Georgia School. Dinner and childcare will be provided. The Steering Committee is still seeking facilitators. There is another meeting on February 9, 2009 to finalize all the details. There are fliers going out via mail and other outlets within the community. Irene requested a blurb in the electronic e-mail. The Community Forum will last for four hours.
- **School Budget Presentation** – Chris distributed a financial statement. There are no major changes since the last distribution. The powerpoint budget presentation was reviewed and changes were discussed.

V. New Business

- **Approve Transportation Bids**

***ACTION:** Motion by Jennifer Petrie to approve the transportation bid from Terricel Transit for three years, pending budget approval, seconded by Carl Laroe, approved unanimously.*

- **Approve 2009-2010 School Calendar - Tabled**

***ACTION:** Motion by Jennifer Petrie to table the School Calendar approval, seconded by Casey Hager, approved unanimously.*

VI. Policy Review

- **Full-Day Kindergarten**

***ACTION:** Motion by Jennifer Petrie to approve the full-day kindergarten policy, with changes, effective September 2009, seconded by Carl Laroe, approved unanimously.*

- **Equipment Policy** – There was a discussion regarding the desires of the administration regarding the equipment policy. Changes will be made and it will be brought back for a 1st reading.

VI. Other – The PTA is interested in hosting two more coffee house discussions. They are requesting two board members at both meetings and an administrator at one of the meetings.

ACTION: *Motion by Jennifer Petrie for two board members to attend the coffee house discussions, seconded by Carl Laroe, (Casey Hager and Irene Bonin abstained), approved by Doug Bergstrom, motion passed.*

VIII. Upcoming Meetings

- **Budget Presentation (Special Meeting):** March 2nd at 6PM
- **Annual School Meeting:** March 3rd at 10AM at Georgia School Gymnasium
- **Regular Meeting:** March 10th at 6PM at Georgia School Library
- **Community Forum (Special Meeting):** March 12th at 6PM at Georgia School Library

Georgia Board of School Directors
March 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM – Georgia School Library
Special Meeting (Community Budget Presentation)
MINUTES

Board Present: Jennifer Petrie, Carl Laroe, Doug Bergstrom, Irene Bonin

Administrators: Bruce Chattman, Frank Calano, Flora Hurteau, Chris Sumner

Others: Lorie Bechard, Amy Rider, Teresa Rideout, Pat Rideout, Candy Granger,
Heather Grimm, Fred Grimm, Julie Chiappinelli, Rep. Gary Gilbert

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM

II. FY2010 Budget Presentation to Community

The FY2010 budget was presented by the Board, including:

- There was a 4-year budget comparison and chart depicting the overall budget allocation. 78% of the budget goes to direct student instruction.
- High School Tuition: It was noted that Georgia is a “choice” town and has not control over these costs. Increases are due to an unanticipated HS tuition bill that the school needs to pay. Private school tuition rate is based on the state average. There has been a large increase this year in BFA St. Albans tuition, which is one of the more expensive schools that our students attend.
- Budget highlights included expansion of the kindergarten program, consolidation of transportation to a single bus run, FWSU assessment of costs to GEMS will mean better utilization of technology services. There is a net reduction in the budget of 0.5 FTE. The school day will be expanded. Additional reductions totaling \$77,000 were made to the budget following the Governor’s letter.
- The Board discussed reasons for a single bus run including increased contact time with students, decreased fuel costs, and increased length of school day to compare with the region.
- Changes in the general fun provided more detail of the previously explained highlights.
- An enrollment snapshot was also given which shows that GEMS has been fairly consistent over the past 8 years.
- NECAP recognized Elementary Principal Flora Hurteau’s hard work over the past 4 years. The scores show how many meet or exceeded the standard. GEMS students are doing really well! There has been a lot of professional development in writing, reading, and literacy. GEMS scores are very good compared to the State also. Science is an area that GEMS will now focus on.
- The Board explained the estimated tax impact of the budget and the school tax rate in light of the CLA (common level of appraisal). Georgia’s CLA dropped this year. Rep. Gilbert explained the income sensitivity which provides financial assistance to homeowners.
- The Board showed the how GEMS compares with other schools in regards to amount spent per student.
- A slide showed how the school is funded.

There was discussion and questions from the community regard the reduction in special education which is due to a student's change in location.

There was discussion about kindergarten and the single bus run. Flora noted that in her experience there have not been any issues around young children being with the older kids. Currently older and younger students already ride the bus together.

There was a question about whether the kindergarten sessions would remain at four 70% classes if the budget fails. The Board explained that yes, it would remain the same because the current budget allows for three full days and one 70% day.

III. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Georgia Board of School Directors
March 3, 2009 at 10:00am
SPECIAL MEETING: Annual School Meeting
Georgia School Gym

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am.

2. Annual School Meeting

The FY2010 school budget was presented to the voters. The Board responded to questions and comments from the community.

The Board thanked everyone for attending and encouraged them to vote. The polls were open from 7am - 7pm.

3. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.