

2006 Press Release Archive

Press Release

January 23, 2006

Re: School Board Schedules Out of Town Facilities Visits and Planning Retreat

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will travel to Gainesville, Georgia on February 1, 2006 to meet with Architect Steve Hill. The board will visit different school systems to view facilities for ideas for future planning in Pickens County. The board will stay at the Ramada Inn for the night.

The board will hold a planning retreat on February 2, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

and ending that evening. This retreat will be for planning purposes only, and the board will not vote or take any official action.

The retreat will be held in the Conference Room of the Charles Black Construction Company, Inc., 604 Washington Street, in Gainesville, Georgia.

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Press Release

March 6, 2006

Re: Special Week Honors Georgia's School Board Members

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

Pickens County Schools is joining in a statewide celebration this week to salute the efforts of local school board members. The week of March 13-17, 2006, has been proclaimed School Board Member Appreciation Week in Georgia. The week-long observance calls attention to the contributions of members of local boards of education.

"Citizens elect board members to represent the community's voice on education matters and to set vision for the school district," said Superintendent Mike Ballew. "Our board spends countless hours fulfilling its responsibilities and this is our opportunity to say thank you as a community for their public service.

"Because they are elected officials, they represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making in education," said Superintendent Mike Ballew.

The Pickens County Board of Education members are: Chairman Mark Mitton, in his fourth year of service; Vice-chairman John Trammell, in his second year of service; Tony Young, in his fourth year of service; Ervin Easterwood, in his fourth year of service; and Jerry Chastain in his second year of service.

As constitutional officers of Georgia, school board members are responsible for setting educational policies, employing school personnel, providing buildings and equipment, operating a transportation system and disbursing school funds. As community leaders, school board members serve as advocates for the children in local public schools and must study, evaluate and decide what actions are in the best interest of those students.

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA), sponsor of the celebration, is a voluntary statewide organization of local boards of education. GSBA serves as an advocate for the interest of the state's public school students and local school boards. GSBA also provides in-service training and technical assistance to Georgia's local school systems and school board members. Information about GSBA is available at www.gsba.com.

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Press Release

March 20, 2006

Re: School Board Members and Superintendents Convene at the Capitol

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

On Monday, March 13, 2006, more than 200 school board members and superintendents convened at the Capitol in Atlanta to hear legislative updates and to meet with their legislators about education funding and other education legislation being considered by state lawmakers. A celebration of the work of school board members was also part of the GSBA/GSSA Day at the Capitol as attendees gathered under the Gold Dome to proclaim March 13-17 School Board Appreciation Week in Georgia.

Local school board members Ervin Easterwood and Jerry Chastain from Pickens County School attended the event hosted by the Georgia School Boards Association and Georgia School Superintendents Association. Superintendent Mike Ballew and Mr. Easterwood attended a prior GSBA legislative meeting at the Capitol on March 7. Mr. Easterwood is the legislative liaison for the local board.

Along with discussing important legislative issues, attendees took time to discuss the impact of legislation on local school districts with state lawmakers. Pickens County is served by State Representative Tom Graves and State Senator Eugene E. (Chip)

Pearson, Jr. Legislators were busy with "Crossover Day" at the Capitol, but House Education Committee Chairman Brooks Coleman made brief remarks at the GSBA/GSSA luncheon and Senate Education Committee Chairman Dan Moody was also in attendance for a brief time.

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Press Release

March 20, 2006

Re: Called Board Meeting and Finance Workshop Monday, March 27

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a called board meeting on Monday, March 27, at 5:00 p.m. followed by a finance committee workshop. The board will consider approval of the Five Year Facilities Plan. The board is also expected to discuss elements of the FY07 budget.

The meetings will be held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper.

As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

-end-

Press Release

March 31, 2006

Re: School Board Schedules Finance Committee Meeting

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a finance committee meeting Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. The board is expected to discuss elements of the FY07 budget. The meeting will be held in the Board Conference Room on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper. As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

-end-

Press Release

April 3, 2006

Re: Board Schedules Public Forum to Discuss New School Attendance Zones

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a public forum on Monday, April 10, at 6:00 p.m. New school attendance zone maps will be displayed for viewing at Pickens High School Auditorium beginning at 4:00 p.m. A sign up sheet will be available for those wishing to

comment referencing the new school attendance zones.

The public forum will be held at Pickens High School Auditorium, 500 Dragon Drive, Jasper, Georgia.

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Press Release

April 24, 2006

Re: School Board Schedules e-board Training and a Finance Committee Meeting

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education has scheduled e-board training on Wednesday, May 3, 2006, at 3:30 p.m. The board will conduct a finance committee meeting Wednesday, May 3, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. The board is expected to discuss elements of the FY07 budget. The meeting will be held in the Board Conference Room on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper. As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

-end-

Press Release

May 16, 2006

Re: School Board Schedules Finance Committee Meeting

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a finance committee meeting Tuesday, May 23, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. The board is expected to discuss elements of the FY07 budget. The meeting will be held in the Board Conference Room on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper. As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

-end-

Press Release

June 2, 2006

Re: School Board Schedules Finance Committee Meeting

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a finance committee meeting Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 3:30 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting. The board is expected to discuss elements of the FY07 budget. The meeting will be held in the Board Conference Room on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper. As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

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Press Release

June 13, 2006

Re: School Board Schedules First Class e-mail Training

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education has scheduled First Class e-mail training on Thursday, June 15, 2006, at 5:30 p.m. The training will be held in the Conference Room at the Pickens County Board of Education Central Office on Stegall Drive in Jasper. As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

-end-

Press Release

July 14, 2006

**Re: Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA)
Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly**

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

Representatives from Local System Join 650 Other Educational Leaders in Savannah to Hear About Reforming High Schools, Legislative Issues and Plan GSBA's Legislative

Program

Chairman Mark Mitton, Tony Young, John Trammell, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and Superintendent Mike Ballew met with other board members and superintendents from around Georgia in Savannah June 23-24 for the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly. Highlights of general sessions include:

— Governor Sonny Perdue and State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox shared their insights on educational initiatives with conference attendees.

— A presentation by Dr. Willard R. Daggett, president of the International Center for Leadership in Education. Dr. Daggett spoke on preparing students for our changing world and high school reform. He offered recommendations on making the curriculum more rigorous and relevant for all students.

— A panel discussion on legislative issues featuring Dr. Don Rooks, GSBA legislative specialist; Dr. Jeffrey Williams, research director, Georgia School Superintendents Association; and Phil Hartley, GSBA general counsel, Harben and Hartley Law Firm. Panelists discussed recent legislative initiatives that will impact public education.

On Friday, June 23, representatives from 119 school boards in Georgia met to approve the legislative positions of the association and to elect GSBA's 2006-2007 officers. The complete list of legislative positions can be found under "Advocacy" on GSBA's website: www.gsba.com. Diane R. Sandifer (Harris County Board of Education) was installed as president. Smith Pass (Coweta County Board of Education) was installed as president elect. Gillis "Skip" Dawkins (Houston County Board of Education) was installed as vice president. Julia Bernath (Fulton County Board of Education) began year two of her three-year term as treasurer. Carroll Gay (Jenkins County Board of Education) became past president.

On Saturday, conference attendees also had an opportunity to hear a panel discussion on state politics featuring former WSB TV political reporter Bill Nigut as moderator. Panelists included: Alexis Scott, publisher, Atlanta Daily World; Tom Crawford, political editor, Capitol Impact; and Dr. Charles Bullock, Richard B. Russell Professor of Political Science, University of Georgia.

Prior to the conference, hundreds of school board members convened in Savannah at the Hyatt to fulfill their annual training requirements as outlined in Georgia law. GSBA offered three workshops to allow board members to receive training: the New Board Member Orientation, the Communications Workshop and the Policy Workshop.

The mission of the Georgia School Boards Association is to ensure excellence in the governance of local school systems by providing leadership, advocacy and services and by representing the collective resolve of Georgia's 180 elected boards of education. GSBA is a voluntary association of the state's 180 local boards of education.

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Press Release

July 18, 2006

Re: Harmony Elementary School Grand Opening

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education proudly announces the grand opening of Harmony Elementary School. The grand opening celebration is scheduled for Sunday, July 30, at 2:00 p.m. A brief ceremony will be held in the gymnasium followed by a reception and tour. The public is cordially invited to come and view the newest addition to the Pickens County School system funded by SPLOST dollars.

Harmony Elementary School is located at 550 Harmony School Road, Jasper, Georgia. The public may enter from either Highway 515 or Refuge Road.

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Press Release

July 24, 2006

Re: Facilities Workshop and Called Board Meeting Thursday, July 27

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a facilities workshop on Thursday, July 27, at 3:15 p.m. followed by a called board meeting at 5:30 p.m. The board is expected to discuss future projects. The board is also expected to discuss personnel.

The meetings will be held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper.

As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

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Press Release

September 1, 2006

Re: Facilities Workshop and Called Board Meeting Wednesday, September 6

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a facilities workshop on Wednesday, September 6, at 5:00 p.m. followed by a called board meeting. The board will discuss the Mountain Education High School in Gilmer County and will hold an executive session to discuss personnel.

The meetings will be held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper.

As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

-end-

Press Release

September 15, 2006

Re: Local School Board Members Work to Ensure Educational Quality

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

Members of the Pickens County Board of Education were recently recognized for successfully completing board member training activities sponsored by the Georgia Schools Boards Association. Receiving certificates of recognition at the September 14, 2006, meeting of the board were members: Chairman Mark Mitton, Tony Young, John Trammell, Jerry Chastain, and Ervin Easterwood.

Georgia was among the first states in the nation to require that local school board members receive training to ensure quality educational leadership. Board members receive training on topics such as: Georgia's Quality Basic Education Act (QBE), budgeting and financing, legal and policy issues, school and community relations and the roles and responsibilities of the school board.

"By participating in training and board development activities, local school board members show their dedication to improving the educational system for the students within their communities," said Jeannie M. (Sis) Henry, GSBA executive director. "Life-long learning doesn't just apply to our students, it applies to all of us-especially to those in a leadership role in public education."

The Georgia School Boards Association is a non-profit association representing Georgia's locally elected school boards.

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Press Release

September 22, 2006

Re: Facilities Workshop Tuesday, September 26

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a facilities workshop on Tuesday, September

26, at 4:30 p.m. The board is expected to discuss the additions to Pickens High School.

The workshop will convene in the Auditorium at Pickens High School, 500 Dragon Drive, Jasper, Georgia.

As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

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Press Release

September 27, 2006

Re: School Board Schedules Called Meeting to Tentatively Set Millage Rate

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a called board meeting on Friday, September 29, at 12:00 p.m. to tentatively set the 2006 millage rate.

The called meeting will be held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper.

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Press Release

October 11, 2006

NOTICE

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education has cancelled the Public Hearings that were scheduled for October 12, 2006, at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and October 20, 2006, at 12:00 p.m.

The regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.

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Press Release

October 23, 2006

Re: Workshop and Called Board Meeting Wednesday, October 25

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a workshop on Wednesday, October 25, at 5:00 p.m. followed by a called board meeting. The board is expected to hold an executive session to discuss personnel.

The meetings will be held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper.

As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

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Press Release

November 28, 2006

Re: Facilities Workshop and Called Board Meeting Wednesday, November 29

Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700

The Pickens County Board of Education will hold a called board meeting on Wednesday, November 29, at 12:30 p.m. followed by a facilities workshop. The board is expected to approve a loan resolution.

The meetings will be held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper.

As always, the public and employees are invited to attend.

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