



GCPS SCENE

School-to-Community Education News, Etc.

November 2012

Statement from CEO/Superintendent Wilbanks regarding approval of Amendment I

Even though tonight's outcome is not what we had hoped for regarding Amendment 1, the focus on education has been extraordinary. We now hope that the energy and effort this campaign generated will be applied where it matters most – to advocating for restoring full funding for Georgia's public schools so all our children can have a quality education.

The intentionally misleading ballot language, the massive amounts of money that poured in from out of state companies to promote the amendment, and the brazen attempts to silence the opposing voices were too much for our significantly less-well-funded grassroots campaign to overcome. In the end, the voters have spoken and we respect their decision. We congratulate those who supported the passage of Amendment 1, but at the same time continue to believe that their agenda is not in the best interest of students and public education in this state.

It had been our hope that we would defeat Amendment 1 and then work with the state on developing more effective ways to address the challenges Georgia's schools face... challenges such as the severe lack of state funding that has financially crippled many of our schools. We are disappointed that with the passage of Amendment 1 the state, rather than being our partner, has become our opponent in the all-important work of educating the state's children.

I do need to thank those many Georgians who with their "no" votes rejected the efforts by some to privatize, defund, and dismantle public education. We appreciate your support.

Tomorrow we will begin again to focus on securing the funding our schools need to provide an educational program that will serve Georgia's students well and prepare them to be competitive on the world stage. We will continue to establish and support high-quality charter schools approved by our local board of education. And we will continue to be optimistic that the state's leaders will once again value the public schools that educate the vast majority of the state's children.

Election Update

The following Gwinnett County Board of Education members won re-election—

Carole Boyce, District I

Dr. Mary Kay Murphy, District III

Louise Radloff, District V

GCPS' top teacher named



Gwinnett County has named its 2013 **Teacher of the Year (TOTY)**— Jay Nebel of **Norcross High**. In addition to earning the school system's top honor, the veteran world history teacher and basketball coach was named the 2013 Gwinnett County High School level winner. He now advances to the state TOTY competition. Mathematics Specialist **Erica Leach** of **Walnut Grove Elementary** is this year's Elementary School Teacher of the Year. **Heidi Mikulecky**, who teaches language arts to students learning English at **Richards Middle**, is the system's Middle School TOTY. The annual event is an opportunity to honor the county's local school TOTYs, 131 teachers who were chosen as representatives by their peers. The other three Teacher of the Year finalists were **Deborah Johnson** of **Berkmar Middle**, **Celisa Edwards** of **Dacula Middle**, and **Dean Landers** of **Peachtree Ridge High**. The six finalists were chosen from among 26 semifinalists.

New application system to launch Nov. 12



GCPS is about to launch a cloud-based applicant system to recruit, employ, develop, and retain employees. On Nov. 12, the school district is launching **AppliTrack**, an enhanced applicant tracking system used by more than 1,900 school districts nationwide. The new system will provide applicants a user-friendly tool to browse and apply for positions in the district. AppliTrack offers a seamless connection by linking the online application to job postings in desired certification areas and by alerting candidates when new job openings in their desired fields are posted online. Applicants who apply before Nov. 9, must reapply when the new system goes live Nov. 12.

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Questions? Call GCPS Department of Communication & Media Relations at (678) 301-6020.



MyPaymentsPlus adds mobile app

Technology continues to play an integral role in changing the way schools interact with parents and children. Parents may now use a free mobile app available at the Apple® App Store™ —**MyPaymentsPlusSM**— to purchase K–12 school meals, check account balances, review purchase history, and make payments right from their iPad or iPhone. Visit Horizon Software International website for more info.

Key GCPS dates

November 13–19	American Education Week
November 15	School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Instructional Support Center, (ISC)
November 19–23	Thanksgiving holidays for schools
November 21	Furlough day for 12-month employees, central office locations closed
November 22–23	Thanksgiving holidays for central office locations
December 13	School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., ISC

Open house, registration continues for charter schools, special program

The school district’s charter schools and a special technical education program have scheduled information sessions and registration dates as they prepare for the 2013–14 school year:

- **Gwinnett Online Campus (GOC)**, GCPS’ diploma-granting, virtual charter school, will serve grades 4–12 next year. GOC will hold information sessions around the district on Nov. 13, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Jan. 24, Jan. 31, and Feb. 7. Registration for full-time students will be open Feb. 1–28.
- **Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (GSMST)**, the district’s STEM-focused charter high school, will hold informational meetings for interested 8th graders on Nov. 13, Dec. 13, and Jan. 15. The registration packet is available for download, with a Feb. 1 deadline. If more registrations are received than available seats, the school will hold a public lottery on Feb. 11.
- **Maxwell HS of Technology** begins online registration on Feb. 1. Maxwell is GCPS’ technical career-focused charter high school. Students attend classes at both Maxwell and their regular GCPS school. A winter open house is set for Feb. 21.
- **Grayson HS Technical Education Program** is a career-focused special program housed at Grayson High. An information session for the 2013–14 school year is scheduled for Feb. 7 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Registration applications will be available online Feb. 1.
- **New Life Academy of Excellence**, a system-approved charter school with two locations, will serve grades K–8 next year. Families of kindergartners may register Jan. 7–11 at the Norcross campus. If more registrations are received than available seats, the school will hold a public lottery. A tour and information session is scheduled for Nov. 15 at the Duluth campus.

Learn more about these special programs on the GCPS website.

Good news from GCPS

25 GCPS Relay For Life school teams and three central office teams each raised \$10,000 or more for the American Cancer Society for the 2012 event. GCPS raised a total of \$1,021,357.43—once again, more than half of the county’s total of \$1,804,602.



- GCPS had 97 student entries honored at the International Student Media Festival.
- A **Collins Hill High** color guard student was selected as a member of the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.
- **Dr. Ammie Butorac**, an administrator at **Sweetwater Middle**, was honored for winning Teach For America’s Principal Champion Award.
- **Parkview High Marine Corps Junior ROTC** was named a Naval Honor School by the Commanding General Training and Education Command, MCCDC, in Quantico, Va.
- The **Shiloh High School Air Force Junior ROTC** unit was designated as a 2012 Air Force Junior ROTC Distinguished Unit.
- The Georgia Department of Education (DOE) honored **Knight Elementary** as a Highest Performing School under the state’s Rewards Schools Program for performance. The DOE also named **Benfield, Bethesda, Lawrenceville, Minor, Partee, Kanoleda, and Winn Holt** elementary schools Highest Progress Schools.
- **Britt Elementary** is one of three schools in the state to win the first Georgia Department of Education Family-Friendly Partnership School Award for providing exceptional customer service.
- **Dr. Aimée Burgamy** of **Trickum Middle** was named the Georgia Art Education Association’s Middle Level Art Educator of the Year.