

CHATTAHOOCHEE/NORTHVIEW CLUSTER
Local School Advisory Council
Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2007
Abbotts Hill Elementary School

Call to Order

8:08 a.m.

An attendance sheet was passed:

Sign-in:

Jan Linscott, Ocee ES Principal;	Kathy Theisen, Chattahoochee Cluster Co-Chair;
Jo Dills, Northview HS Cluster Chair;	Martin Neuhaus, Shakerag ES Principal;
Tim Duncan, Chattahoochee HS Principal;	Gail Salva, LSC Chair, Ocee ES;
Dawn Melin, River Trail MS Principal;	Doug Brown, Barnwell ES Principal;
Peter Zervakos, Northview HS Principal;	Steve Curry, Findley Oaks ES Principal;
Ann Ferrell, Autrey Mill MS Principal;	Ed Williamson, Taylor Road MS Principal;
Randee Nagler, Area Superintendent;	Mitzi Woody, Communications Director FCSS;
Christine Neely, LSAC, Dolvin ES;	Marie Shelton, Dolvin ES Principal;
Toni Raabe, LSC, Dolvin ES;	Christine Lemerond, LSAC, Abbotts Hill ES
Britt Seals, Teacher, Findley Oaks ES;	Teri Hernandez, LSC, Wilson Creek ES;
Jimmy Zoll, Wilson Creek ES Principal;	Mary Ann Bello, LSC Co-Chair, Findley Oaks ES;
Carolynn Briner, LSC, Ocee ES;	Roytunda Stable, Abbotts Hill ES Principal
Margaret Pupillo, Medlock Bridge Principal	
Bharathi Sastry, LSC Parent, Abbotts Hill ES	
Malin Mendez, LSAC Chair, State Bridge Crossing ES;	
Vicki Templet, LSC, River Trail MS & Northview HS;	
Patty Hansen, City of Johns Creek Community Relations Director;	
Mike Russell, Associate Superintendent of Operations FCSS;	
Liz Hausmann, Johns Creek City Council Post 5 Education Committee;	
Sharon Albright, Chattahoochee Cluster Co-Chair, Taylor Road MS & Chattahoochee HS;	
Trey Martin, State Bridge Crossing ES Principal;	
Lucye Caplan, LSC Member, Taylor Road MS	
Cori Davenport, LSC Chair, Medlock Bridge ES	
Susan Auerbach, Northview Cluster Co-Chair, Shakerag ES	

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the November 30, 2006 meeting. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were seconded and approved.

Guests:

Ms. Mitzi Woody, FCSS Director of Communications:	SPLOST III
Mr. Mike Russell, FCSS Associate Superintendent of Operations:	Budget
Ms. Patty Hansen, Johns Creek Director of Community Relations:	Introduction

Guest Presentations:

Ms. Mitzi Woody, FCSS Director of Communications:

SPLOST III

Ms. Woody presented information regarding SPLOST III. The presentation is available online at <http://www.fultonschools.org/PenniesForProgress.htm>

Key points from the presentation include, but are not limited to the following (Please refer to the website above for further details.):

- A Special Purpose Election will be held on March 20, 2007 (voters must register by February 19th). The only item on the ballot is SPLOST III. The March voting date was set when SPLOST initially began. The constitutional amendment was passed in November stating that March was the first eligible date to initially vote. It has been suggested to keep the March voting date schedule. All polling places will be open. You can vote absentee just like a regular election. Absentee ballots can be submitted up to 1 week prior.
- What is SPLOST? SPLOST stands for Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax. This is a 1 cent sales tax added to purchases made within the participating counties/cities.
- Fulton County is joining Atlanta City Schools, Dekalb County, and Decatur City Schools
- A 50% + 1 vote is needed for SPLOST III to pass.
- SPLOST has been in effect for 10 years now. Voters are not being asked to vote on a new sales tax, they are simply asking voters to vote to continue the 1 cent sales tax that is already in place. If renewed, SPLOST III will be in place for 5 more years.
- Other possible alternatives to SPLOST include mileage rate increases, and/or the school system having to take out more bonds.
- SPLOST is a tax that is applied to anyone who makes a purchase in the participating city/county regardless of where they reside.
- Each school has an individual “needs” list that they have developed if SPLOST III passes. Each school’s list will be posted on the website and printed in a handout for distribution.
- Information regarding SPLOST III is being provided to the schools. This information will include an 11 X 17 tri-fold scheduled to be distributed approximately next week. A school specific information letter is being developed and will be distributed to each school and should be distributed closer to election time. These handouts are for informational purposes only. They are not promotional items intended to persuade voters.
- As employees of Fulton County Schools and being funded by tax dollars, the school system and its employees can only provide information concerning SPLOST III. As employees, they may not encourage voters to “Vote Yes or No”.
- Campaigning can take place during a General PTA meeting.

Question was asked:

What happens if Milton County is formed?

- The Board Members have sent a letter to legislation requesting that if Milton does become a new county, all SPLOST plans remain as is and not be changed or effected by any impacts that the formation of the new Milton County might have on the area.

Ms. Patty Hansen, Johns Creek Director of Community Relations: Introduction

Ms. Patty Hansen is the Director of Community Relations for Mayor Mike Bodker.

- On behalf of the City of Johns Creek, Ms. Hansen thanked Fulton County Schools, and the citizens of this community for their support throughout the campaign process and now as the City of Johns Creek.
- Johns Creek would like to work closely with schools on special programs, internships, speaking to students, etc. As a brand new city, they are asking what they can do to support the school system.
- Randee Nagler, Area Superintendent, will work with the City of Johns Creek to help organize the requests from individuals and groups. Ms. Nagler will be involved in the communication process between the city and the schools.

Question was asked:

Where does the city of Johns Creek stand on SPLOST III?

- The City of Johns Creek will be working on a resolution in reference to SPLOST.

Mr. Mike Russell, FCSS Associate Superintendent of Operations: Budget

Mr. Russell presented information regarding the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2007-2008.

Portions of the presentation can be found at

http://www.fultonschools.org/story_detail.asp?id=1774.

Key points from the presentation include, but are not limited to the following (Please refer to the website above for further details.):

- Preliminary position projections will be available for school principals on February 5th so they can begin the hiring process.
- The cost-center information will be presented to the Board on February 15th. At this time the Board will review formulas and data to see what the county will be able to fund.
- FY 2008 Budget Meeting Calendar http://www.fultonschools.org/story_detail.asp?id=1801
- The following is only preliminary budget information. The budget is still not set. FCS is seeking to finalize the budget so principals can begin the hiring process.
 - Cost per Student Analysis was conducted.
 - How does our cost per student relate to other counties?
 - The November 28th cost analysis presentation is available on the website at <http://www.fultonschools.org/media-bin/documents/11.28.06%20Board%20Roundtable.pdf>
 - State Funding Changes
 - What impacts do State funding have on Fulton County Schools?
 - Capital outlay will be funded at the 40% level (40% versus 100%)
 - Maximum class size for Grades 9-12 will be reduced from 30/32 to 28. State funding is not provided to meet these guidelines.
 - There are increases in employer costs for health insurance (approximately 16%-18% of state salaries)
 - Fulton County Budget initiative
 - Salary Discussion- FCS is reviewing possible salary increases for all employees (3% or 4% are being discussed)
 - Full Experience Credit

- The county is looking at offering full experience credit for employees transferring to FCS. The numbers are being reviewed.
 - Special Education personnel allotments will be handled through the cost-center. Allotments will be provided up front. The allotments are based on a formula. When looking at regular education positions, principals will also have special education allotments.
 - Formula allotment for Instructional Support Teachers (ISTs)
 - Safety and Security initiatives
 - Other areas to address based on student analysis:
 - What is the direction of the board and how do we want to spend tax dollars.
 - Question is...Rollback or no Rollback on taxes- Once they decide on taxes, the county can make decision on initiatives based on available funds.
 - A new tax assessor will help review property taxes and reassess some areas. This will not necessarily cause an increase in taxes, but will include a review of some exempt properties.
- The Budget and a Point System:
 - A point system was addressed in regards to providing schools with choices in spending.
 - Point systems look flexible but by the time you have addressed all areas, there is not a lot of room left for flexibility. Flexibility is usually derived from more funding.
 - At the February 15th Board meeting, the differences between the cost-center system and points system will be reviewed.
- Board meeting information is available on the website. Meetings are also available for viewing through web casts.

Reports:

Councilman Liz Hausmann

Mrs. Hausmann spoke on behalf of Ms. Ashley Widener, District 5 Board Representative. Mrs. Hausmann addressed concerns regarding the formation of Milton County. She stated that Milton County has been sent to a study committee. They are looking at a financial feasibility study as well as the schools/school systems that could be impacted by any changes. Ms. Hausmann also addressed the City of Johns Creek's Education Committee that will be meeting with Mrs. Nagler. If you are interested in serving on a committee with the City of Johns Creek, you can contact Liz Hausmann or any City Board Member.

Question was asked:

What is the status on the adult entertainment case?

- The city is still working through the legal issues. Fulton County is still involved in the case so they are working in support of Fulton County. Once the matters with Fulton County are resolved it will possibly become a Johns Creek case. The city will post

information on their website, www.cityofjohnscreekga.us, as they receive new information.

Randee Nagler, Area Superintendent

Ms. Nagler reviewed further information regarding SPLOST III.

- On February 7th, Mr. James Wilson, FCS Superintendent, will be speaking to the Northview/Chattahoochee Cluster at Northview High School beginning at 7:00pm. The goal is to have at least 40 parents from each school attend the SPLOST information meeting.
- Northview High School will assist in filming the presentation to air on the FCS channel.
- Randee Nagler is available to do presentations on SPLOST if you let her know as soon as possible. Contact her directly.

Ms. Nagler highlighted Chattahoochee High School, Northview High School, and Autrey Mill Middle School's achievements in Atlanta Magazine.

The cluster vertical team meetings have been conducted for four years now. Ms. Nagler addressed the importance of this initiative and the success she is seeing from having the 4th & 5th grade teachers all the way to 12th grade teachers collaborating together on lesson plans, resources, and curriculum.

Tim Duncan, Principal of Chattahoochee High School

Mr. Duncan provided an update on the turf project currently taking place. At this time, depending on the weather, the project is scheduled for completion on February 28th.

Sharon Albright, Chattahoochee/Northview Cluster Chairperson

SPLOST III update from Mr. Wilson:

- Watch for opposition in the community. If possible, get a name so they can be contacted and provided with information concerning SPLOST III.
- SPLOST funds come from all activities that take place in the participating area.
 - 40% of the funds actually come from outside of Fulton County
- The last SPLOST vote consisted of approximately 14,000 Yes votes and approximately 6,000 No votes.

Early Release Dates (5days):

- It is important to notify parents and the community now regarding the five early release days scheduled for next year.
- Coordination with local daycares and YMCA are critical.
 - The Area Superintendents are working closely with YMCA.

Roundtable Items:

- The county is looking at bringing in a consultant to review safety in schools.
- All schools have a safety plan in place.
- GEMA spoke to the Chattahoochee/ Northview cluster in regards to their school safety plans.

- In reviewing the county budget for next year, FCS is looking at hiring a Safety Director that will coordinate with GEMA and address health concerns.

Continuous Achievement Levels on Report Cards:

- Ms. Nagler addressed some of the county concerns regarding the continuous achievement levels on the report cards and the QCC/GPS transition. The curriculum departments are reviewing the continuous achievement levels and the correlation with Georgia Performance Standards. Ms. Nagler provided reassurance that the TAG criteria are being adjusted to meet the new standards for eligibility purposes.

Informational Items:

- <http://www.boarddocs.com/ga/fcss/Board.nsf> - 1/09/07 Pre-Board Agenda 2B. Board Matters – Legislative Priorities
- <http://www.atlantamagazine.com/article.php?id=323> - Atlanta Magazine article on High Anxiety

Important Dates:

- Pre-Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 6, Dunwoody Springs ES, 4:30 p.m.
- SPLOST III Informational Mtg., February 7, Northview HS, 7:00 p.m.
- Board Workshop, 5:00 p.m., Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 15, Hamilton E. Holmes ES
- Board Roundtable, Tuesday, February 27, Admin. Center, 5:00 p.m.
- February Community Meetings
 - Ashley Widener, Friday, February 9, Ocee ES, 1:00 p.m.
 - Katie Reeves, Tuesday, February 13, New Prospect ES, 9:30 a.m.
- March Community Meetings
 - Ashley Widener, Friday, March 9, Abbots Hill ES, 1:00 p.m.
 - Katie Reeves, Tuesday, March 13, Crabapple Crossing ES, 9:30 a.m.
- Chattahoochee/Northview Cluster Meeting, March 22, State Bridge Crossing ES, 8:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Lemerond
Abbots Hill Elementary LSC Secretary