



The Newsletter

June 2008

The Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

President's Comments

by Larry Johnson

(Larry Johnson is GAEL president and principal of County Line Elementary School in Barrow County.)

I had an interesting experience recently. After much thought and consideration, I announced that after a 30+ year career as an educator, I was going to retire. I did all the retirement stuff - met with TRS, spoke to supervisors and faculty, etc.-in preparation for the move.

And then, a phone call from the superintendent. The person approved as my replacement said that he would not take the job. Would I reconsider my retirement plans? Out of respect to him I said I would, but made no promises. Word soon got around (doesn't it always) and I was overwhelmed with calls, emails, and other contacts from staff, students, parents, and peers urging me to remain on the job. Wow! What a feeling of support. What else could I do?

So now, back by popular demand - Larry Johnson, principal of County Line Elementary School - for another year.

What's to be learned from my experience? I submit three things:

1. People appreciate your dedication and hard work. They might not always (or often) tell you, but they know if you really care about them and if you are working hard on their behalf.
2. Once an educator, always an educator. During my brief "retirement," I wondered about I would do with my new freedom? Greeter at Wal Mart? Volunteer at the library? Naah. I love working with students and teachers, so why give it up?
3. You will know it before anyone else if it's time for you to go. Deep down inside, I knew there were a few things that needed to be done and people that needed to be supported before I retired.

So here I am, back in the saddle for another year, looking forward to the tasks at hand.

This is the last newsletter of my year as GAEL President. I deeply appreciate the support of GAEL members, the GAEL Board of Directors, and the GAEL staff as we have worked together this year. I look forward to service as the GAEL immediate past president and to continuing to push to make GAEL the premier education organization in Georgia. ♦

2008 GAEL Summer Conference

July 13-16

Jekyll Island Convention Center
Jekyll Island, GA

See pages 11-13 for more details

Register now
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Reflections

by Jim Puckett, GAEL Executive Director

Reflections: According to Webster, thoughts, ideas, or opinions formed or a remark made as a result of meditation. Some random reflections as we end the 2007-08 school year:

- By their votes ye shall know them. A significant number of members of the General Assembly are not friends of public education.
- Those members of the General Assembly who remain supportive of public education should be praised highly and often.
- The lack of foresight exhibited in the No Child Left Behind Act with its total emphasis on student test scores is finally coming to light. Give us patience.
- In education, as in every aspect of life, you get what you pay for. One of the few lessons we can truly learn from the world of business.
- The public perception of public schools is declining rapidly, driven to a great extent by the mass media. Protect us from talk radio.
- The 'Gallup Poll' syndrome is interesting to watch. Public schools are going downhill, but my child's school (teacher, principal, etc.) is wonderful. Go figure.
- Of late, hardly anyone in public education remains on the job much beyond 30 years. Can anyone spell 'burnout?'
- Charter schools may be the answer for some students. Let's separate the student scores of 'conversion' charters from 'start up' charters and see where progress is (or is not) being made.
- On the subject of charter schools, can anyone show me an example of real innovation? Something that is not already being done in regular public schools somewhere?
- Recent studies on student academic achievement in private v. public schools make for some interesting reading.
- I live for the day when Grant Field, Sanford Stadium and athletic facilities in every Georgia town will be filled for public school math competitions or spelling bees, or science fairs, or debate meets, etc.
- There's a special place in heaven for those of you who keep up the good fight, creating your positive legacy through those students in your schools you impact every day.

On a personal note, I have announced that I will be leaving GAEL on July 31. I deeply appreciate the support of members, staff, officers, and board members over the past 12 years.

The GAEL Board of Directors will be announcing the search process for filling the job of executive director soon. ◆

The Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) is a non profit organization that provides unity of educational leadership groups in Georgia, bringing together the Georgia Association of Middle School Principals, Georgia Association of Elementary Principals, Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals, Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors, Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education, and Georgia School Superintendents Association on issues of common interest. The GAEL Newsletter is published during the school year as an informational service to members. Articles do not necessarily reflect the positions or views of GAEL; products/services/resources mentioned do not imply endorsement by GAEL. GAEL Board of Directors: President: **Dr. Larry Johnson**, principal, County Line Elementary; President elect: **Dr. Suzi Bonifay**, assistant superintendent, Decatur Co.; Past president: **Dr. Bob Heaberlin**, Principal, Lee Middle; **Dr. Jim Arnold**, principal, Shaw High; **Dr. Richard Bazemore**, principal, T. G. Scott Elementary; **Stuart Bennett**, chief deputy state

A Thank-you From

iNet

Karen Mort and I would like to thank you for the warmth of your Georgian hospitality and friendship at the GAEL Winter Conference. We enjoyed your conference and networking with you.

We are hopeful that we will have a network established in Georgia you in the coming weeks.

iNet now has some 5000 schools affiliated around the world and we are excited about schools in Georgia joining the network and becoming a resource for schools in countries such as Australia, South Africa, China and Hong Kong, Mauritius, and of course the UK. It will be exciting, too, if we can arrange visits for you to schools and school systems around the world and for them to visit you.

During the Conference, I was asked at GAEL how schools and systems can join iNet. Dean Cindy Chance at Georgia Southern University is our iNet 'champion' and contacts can be made at lchance@georgiasouthern.edu or dbath@georgiasouthern.edu.

Annual schools affiliation is \$285 US Dollars. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me, and thank you again for allowing us to be a part of your wonderful organization for a few days.

Tom Clark

tomc@ssatrust.org.uk

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General Assembly Report

In summarizing the 2008 session of the Georgia General Assembly, one lawmaker lamented, “But when all was said and done, much more was said than done.”

Yet, for educators, much that wasn’t done was a good thing. The following is a summary of selected actions from this year’s legislative session:

FY08 Continuation Budget:

- Provide funds for increased student (FTE) counts (\$75.7 million)
- Provide training and experience funds (\$137 million)

FY09 Budget:

- A 2.5% pay raise for teachers, bus drivers, and lunchroom workers
- Continuation of \$100 “gift cards” for teachers;
- Funds (\$10.7 million) to “plug the \$30 million hole” in the equalization grant program created by Governor Perdue’s original budget recommendation
- \$50 million to apply against the continuing, “temporary austerity cuts” that have appeared in every budget since 2003, leaving the FY09 austerity cuts at approximately \$91 million. (It is estimated that over the past half-dozen years, the state obligation to fund the QBE formula is running \$1.4 billion short)
- Provide for 11 Math Mentor positions within the Department of Education
- Provide start up funds for the Georgia Charter School Commission
- Funding for 14 graduation coaches for new schools
- Provide funding for elementary school foreign language media materials (a change made by the Governor from use of the funds for foreign language seats in the Georgia Virtual program)
- Provide funds (\$5.6 million) for special education scholarships (vouchers)
- Reduce funding for the High Performing Principal program
- Reduced RESA funding by \$125,000

Education-related bills passed during the 2008 Session and signed into law by the Governor.

- HB 152 -- provides that qualified students who complete a home study course and who score in the 85th percentile or higher on a standardized college admission test shall be eligible for the HOPE scholarship.
- HB250 – allows the Professional Standards Commission to investigate reports of criminal offense involving the manufacture, distribution, trafficking, sale, or possession of a controlled substance or marijuana.
- HB 296 – restricts the dates for which special elections (such as SPLOST) may be held

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superintendent, GA Department of Education; **Pat Blenke**, principal, Duluth High; **Emily Bolton**, assistant superintendent, Chattooga Co.; **Dr. Maria Bradley**, principal, Gladden Middle; **Winnette Bradley**, principal, Richmond Co. Evening School; **Lynn Clark**, principal, Funston Elementary; **Jerry Davis**, assistant superintendent, Coweta Co.; **Dr. Buster Evans**, deputy superintendent, Forsyth Co.; **Tracie Fleming**, principal, McIntosh High; **Dr. Steve Hankla**, vocational supervisor, Colquitt Co. High; **Ray Jordan**, superintendent, Turner Co.; **Becky Maddox**, principal, Huddleston Elementary; **Dr. Jack Parish**, superintendent, Henry Co.; **Keith Porter**, assistant superintendent, Dawson Co.; **Dr. Bettye Ray**, superintendent, Social Circle City; **JoAlice Ray**, director, student services, Rabun Co.; **Dr. Rhonda Rowland**, principal, Chatsworth Elementary; **Dr. Bonnie Seery**, director, special education, Thomas Co.; **Christi Teal**, director, special education, Douglas Co.; **Peggy West**, director, exceptional students, Muscogee Co.; **Dr. Willie Wiley**, assistant principal, Collins Elementary.

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- SB 327 -- “retirees return to full-time work” legislation.
- HB 426 – requires school systems to survey its established school bus routes annually and submit to the Department of Transportation a list identifying each rail crossing that does not have active warning devices on an established bus route; “local school districts shall exercise best efforts to minimize the number of established school bus routes that cross rail crossings that do not have active warning devices”.
- SB 480 – continues HOPE scholarships for high school students whose school loses SACS accreditation.
- SB 492 – defines resident status for HOPE eligibility; adds Florida Council of Independent Schools to list of approved accrediting agencies for HOPE purposes.
- HB 602 -- allows county board members to sell supplies or equipment to their school system under certain circumstances.
- HB 637 -- each local school system may elect to administer, with state funding, nationally norm-referenced instruments in reading, mathematics, science, or social studies in grade three, four, or five and in grade six, seven, or eight.
- HB 656 – following divorce, a TRS member may remove a spouse as beneficiary of benefits, or reallocate the former spouse’s benefits allocation.
- HR 791 – creates a study committee to review the PreK Program.
- HB 831 -- subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the state board shall establish a grant program providing matching funds donated to a qualified charter school organization up to a maximum amount authorized by the state board for charter school construction or land purchase projects.
- HB 881 -- creates a state-level “charter school commission,” authorized to approve “commission” charter schools in local systems regardless of whether the locally-elected school board agrees. Non educational entities may be ‘partners.’ The Commission is to monitor and annually review and evaluate the academic and financial performance, including revenues and expenditures, of commission charter schools and hold the schools accountable for their performance pursuant to the charter. In addition, the bill creates a process for the state-level commission to award local monies to their state-approved charter schools, once again without the approval of the local board.
- HB 948 -- the annual “back-to-school sales tax holiday.”
- HB 969 – defines ‘approved driver education training course’ to include instruction given in the course of a home school program that meets reporting requirements of state laws and utilizes a curriculum approved by the department of education.
- SR 996 -- a proposed constitutional amendment (question will be on November ballot) seeking to allow local school tax dollars to be part of TAD (Tax Allocation District) projects.
- HB 1031 – requires each high school to have a defibrillator on site; trained users
- HB 1065 – authorizes local systems to include local charter schools, state chartered special schools, or both in SPLOST projects
- HR 1014 – urges the State Board to develop uniform standards for honors courses.
- HR 1016 – creates a study committee leading to develop a high school curriculum on emergency response and preparedness.
- HR 1103 – creates a study committee on teacher training and certification.

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- HB 1133 – provides tax credits to individuals or businesses who donate funds to ‘student scholarship organizations,’ such funds to be used for student scholarships to private schools.
- HB 1209 -- the Governor’s bill emanating from some of the meetings held by his education finance task force (IE2) and allowing systems wishing to do so to sign “more flexibility with higher accountability” contracts with the state.
- SR 1213 – creates a Senate Education Funding Mechanisms Review study committee
- HB 1277 – allows charter school staff to participate in the State Health Insurance Program.
- HB 1300 – allows local systems to waive up to four days of the school calendar which were canceled due to disaster, emergency, act of God.
- HB 1321 – requires school discipline codes to set penalties for students who falsely report misconduct by educators.
- HR 1610 – creates a House Study Committee on Emergency Response and Preparedness Curriculum for high schools

Education-related bills that passed but were vetoed by the Governor:

- SB 345 -- authorizes Georgia’s participation in an interstate compact agreement governing the treatment of students who are children of military personnel.

Education-related bills that did not pass during the 2008 Session:

- SB 372 – required establishment of an ethics panel for local governments, including school boards.
- SB 458 -- the second annual attempt at voucher legislation had passed the Senate and had made it through the House Committee process. However, even though it appeared on more than one House debate calendar, it was never called for debate and a vote, and it is dead.
- SB 461 redefined bullying as ‘person to person’ interactions, thus opening up teachers and administrators to be accused of bullying when disciplining a student; or an administrator could have been accused of bullying when discussing performance with a teacher, etc.
- SB 497 -- called for the transfer of all high school physical education teachers to elementary schools
- SB 535 -- Governor Perdue’s bill calling for the recall of school board members in systems that lose accreditation. The contents of this bill were later folded into a “committee substitute” version of SB458, but as noted earlier, that bill was never voted upon.
- SB 506 -- the SHAPE bill, much-amended but still calling for testing of students’ physical fitness, was soundly defeated on the floor of the House
- HB 652 – required (1) blind/visually impaired children to be instructed in Braille if recommended by IEP; (2) textbooks and other instructional materials be furnished in an electronic version in which the content is encoded in text suitable for conversion into Braille and synthesized speech; and (3) after July 1, 2012, those teaching blind or visually impaired children must have completed an approved course in the teaching of Braille approved by the commission; hold a nationally recognized certificate in Braille, as approved by the commission; or pass a test in Braille approved by the PSC.
- HB 905 -- the BRIDGE bill calling for increased emphasis on high school career pathways
- HB 962 – required public notification if a system went into deficit funding
- HB 994 – expanded duty free lunch requirements to all grades
- HR 1246 – property tax ‘reform’
- HB 1286 -- would require public schools to close on Veteran’s Day each year ◆

Member News

County Line Elementary principal (Barrow County) **Larry Johnson**, who announced his plans to retire at the end of this school year, has decided to remain in the position. Larry is serving as president of GAEL. Larry was the recipient of the Excellence In Educational Leadership Award presented by the University Council for Educational Administration.

Fulton superintendent **James Wilson** retired February 1. **Cindy Loe** was named to the position. **Theresa McDugald** has been named chief financial officer in the system.

Gary Hobbs is associate superintendent in Walton County and **Nathan Franklin** is principal of Loganville High.

Hall County personnel moves, effective July 1: Mt. Vernon Elementary principal **Wayne Colston** moving to the central office, Lula Elementary principal **Terry Dover** retiring, Lyman Hall Elementary principal **Aaron Turpin** to technology coordinator, **Delane Melton** retiring, North Hall High principal **Gary Brown** retiring, Davis Middle assistant principal **David Robles** to instructional technology coordinator. **Connie Daniels** has been named principal of Mount Vernon Elementary, **Pat Tilson**, principal of Lyman Hall Elementary, **Matt Alexander**, principal of Lula Elementary, and **Joe Gheesling**, principal of North Hall High.

Janet Wiley, associate superintendent in Elbert County, has joined the staff of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. **Lamar Scott** has been named interim Curriculum Director in the system.

Judy Forbes, superintendent in Habersham County, has announced her retirement. **Robert Costley** becomes superintendent on July 1.

Baldwin County superintendent **Gene Trammell** has announced his retirement.

Marlene Bryar, associate superintendent for innovative instruction, GA DOE has retired.

Muscogee County superintendent **John Phillips** and deputy superintendent **Robin Pennock** have announced their retirements. Other personnel moves in Muscogee County include: **Joseph Myles** will replace **Pauline Talley** as principal at Davis Elementary, **Melanie Knight** will replace **Gary Shouppe** as principal at Veterans Middle School, **Pam McCoy** will replace **Mary Sanks** as principal at Benning Hills Elementary, **Janice Miley** will replace **Rocky Wilson** as principal at Midland Academy, **Penny Thornton** will replace **Cliff Moulton** as principal at Fox Elementary, **Tim Smith** will replace **Rochelle Jones** as principal at Blanchard Elementary, **Molly Hart** will replace **Mike Hudson** as principal at Double Churches Middle, **Patrick Knopf** will replace **Molly Hart** as principal at River Road Elementary, **Mike Hudson** will replace **Jennifer Allen** as director of student services, **Cleo Griswold** will replace **Ed Barnwell** as principal at Kendrick High School, and **Alonzo James** will replace **Cleo Griswold** as principal at Eddy Middle School.

Lisa Smith is the new system math specialist in Gilmer County.

Appling superintendent **Charles Webb** has announced his retirement effective July 31 due to health reasons. **Sam Herndon** was appointed acting superintendent. Dr. Webb was recently honored by the local branch of the NAACP as its Most Inspirational Person for 2007. The organization cited Dr. Webb's leadership in expanding employment and promotion opportunities for minorities and for encouraging more minority parents to become involved in school activities.

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Rhonda Heffner Packer is recovering from major surgery. Rhonda is on the staff at Northeast Georgia RESA.

Robert Morales has joined the GSSA staff.

Michael Surma becomes superintendent in Henry County on July 1.

Susan Clark has been named superintendent in Peach County.

Enota Elementary (Gainesville) principal **Sally Meadors** has announced her retirement effective in June. **Ken Martin** has been named campuswide principal at Gainesville Middle.

In Gwinnett, personnel moves for the 2008-09 school year include: **Audrey Baptiste**, principal, Partee Elementary; **Donna Bishop**, principal, Cooper Elementary (current principal **Phil Epperson** is retiring); **Angie Wright**, principal, Craig Elementary (current principal **Mary Ray** is retiring); **Valerie Robinett**, principal, Mountain Park Elementary (current principal **Debbie Allred** is retiring); **Doris Jones**, principal, Dacula Middle (current principal **Beverly Todd-Lee** is retiring); **Tarsha Chambers**, principal, Rosebud Elementary; **Leigh Westcott**, principal, Head Elementary; **Michelle Farmer**, principal, Puckett's Mill Elementary; **Jeffrey Mathews**, principal, Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology; **F. A. Juard McLeod**, principal, Camp Creek Elementary; **Leigh Westcott**, principal, Head Elementary; **Charlotte Sadler**, principal, Parsons Elementary (current principal **Melinda Sepmeyer** is retiring); **Jason Lane**, principal, Duluth High (**Pat Blenke** is retiring); **Kevin Tashlein**, principal, Peachtree Ridge; **Kay Sands**, principal, Phoenix High; **Vince Botta**, principal, Crews Middle; **Gene Taylor**, principal, Lilburn Middle. **Bobby Crowson** will head the Division of Teaching and Learning, **Steve Flynt** and **Calvin Watts** have been named area superintendents. **David Ashton** becomes principal at Oakland Meadow replacing the retiring **Carol Quinn**; **Reginald Kirkland** becomes principal at Richards Middle, replacing **Judy Stephens** who is retiring; **Gene Taylor** replaces the retiring **Cecilia Garcia** at Lilburn Middle; and **Wendy Taylor** becomes principal at Lilburn Elementary replacing **Jackie Beasley** who will be moving to the Central Office.

Buford High principal **Steve Miller** is leaving that position at the end of the school year to become principal of Otwell Middle in Forsyth.

Banks Bitterman has been named principal of Buford High, effective July 1.

Northwest Georgia RESA executive director **Mona Tucker** has announced her retirement at the end of the school year. **Dexter Mills** has been named to the position.

Wanda Creel is the new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Houston County.

Beth Kieffer has been named Assessment Coordinator in Forsyth County, effective July 1.

Greene County superintendent **Shawn McCullough** is moving to a superintendency out of state.

Tim Helms becomes Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in Houston County on July 1.

Duluth High (Gwinnett) principal **Pat Blenke** has announced his retirement, effective June 30.

Lynn Plunkett is superintendent in Floyd County.

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Emily Collins has been named by G-CASE as Executive Director, effective July 1. Emily is a veteran educator, currently employed as Director of Pupil Services, Chattahoochee Flint RESA. Emily is also president elect of the national Council of Administrators of Special Education.

GASSP president **Steve Hankla** is leaving that office and will be replacing the retiring **Pat Blenke** on the NASSP Board of Directors. President-elect **Tracie Fleming** will assume the office of president in July and the GASSP Executive Committee will name a new president-elect.

Robert Costley becomes superintendent in Habersham County on July 1. **Judy Forbes** is retiring.

Jason Lane becomes principal of Duluth High (Gwinnett) on July 1.

Michael Ashmore is the new director of policy at the Georgia Department of Education.

Robert Burke, associate superintendent of curriculum and instruction in Fulton County has announced his retirement effective June 30.

In Coweta County, **Derek Pitts**, principal at East Coweta High School, has been selected to begin the alternative middle school program; **Dr. Rick Waggoner**, principal at Arnall Middle School, has been named principal at East Coweta High School; **Katie Garrett**, assistant principal at Elm Street Elementary School, has been named principal of Grantville Elementary School replacing **Carol Criswell** who has retired; **Christi Hildebrand**, school improvement specialist at Evans Middle School, has been named director of testing; **Dr. Karen Barker**, principal of Arnco-Sargent Elementary School, has been named Director of Elementary Curriculum replacing **Nancy Royal** who has retired; **Dr. Monica Hughes**, assistant principal at Willis Road Elementary School, has been named principal at Arnco-Sargent Elementary School replacing **Dr. Karen Barker**; and **Denise Pigatt**, assistant principal at Western Elementary School, has been named principal at Western replacing **Dr. Mike Cutchen** who has retired.

Will Rumbaugh becomes associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Lumpkin County.

John Harper is superintendent in Bartow, filling the vacancy created when **Abbe Boring** left for a job in Texas.

Matt Maynor has been named principal of the Classical Studies Academy at Gainesville Middle School. **LaCrisia Larkin** was named principal of the Careers.net Academy at Gainesville High School.

Anthony Pack has been named superintending in Monroe County. He will take the position currently filled by **Scott Cowart** who will become director of executive development for the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement.

GAEL past president **Bob Puckett** has announced his candidacy for a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives.

Troy Journigan is the finalist for the superintendence in Baldwin County. **Gene Trammell** announced his retirement earlier in the year.

John Thompson is superintendent in Clayton.

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Bill Cason is superintendent in Valdosta City replacing **Sam Allen** who is retiring.

Recent principal appointments in Dougherty County include **Gail Solomon** at Turner Elementary School, **Zeda George** at International Studies Elementary Charter School and **William Chunn** at Westover Comprehensive High School.

Houston County administrator appointments include: **Mark Scott** to principal of Northside High School, **Robin Hines** to assistant superintendent of school operations, **Sherri Freeman** to principal of Houston County High School, **Ronnie Walker** to principal of Houston County Crossroads Center, replacing **Randall Hinson**, who is retiring, and **Zabrina Cannady** to special education director.

Sheila Beckham has been named principal of Oconee County High School.

Jimmy Pitzer has accepted a position with Walton County Schools.

Pam Wood has been named principal of the Freshman Academy at Gainesville High.

Judith Simmons has been named interim deputy superintendent in Clayton County. **Gloria Duncan** will serve as administrative assistant to the superintendent.

Rob Johnson has been named assistant superintendent of district services in Barrow County.

Becky Whaley is retiring and has announced her candidacy for the Board of Education in Murray County.

Oconee superintendent **Tom Dohrmann** has announced his retirement. **John Jackson** is interim superintendent. Other system employees retiring in June include **Kathy Wright**, **Beth Williams**, and **Lynda Hale**.

Philip Mellor has been named executive director of special education in Henry County.

Lynn Clark has been named Elementary Curriculum Director in Colquitt County.

(Changing jobs? Retiring? Good things happening to you? Your friends in GAEL want to know. Pass the information along to Robin Edwards at redwards@gael.org.)◆

GAEL Needs You...

Increasing the membership of GAEL is essential if the association is to truly represent educational leaders before state decision-makers. If you are not a member, please join today. If you are already a member, please recruit a non-member colleague. ◆

Kudos

Philip Mellor has been chosen GAEL president-elect for 2008-09 by his peers at G-CASE. On July 1, Philip will lead the special education division in Henry County.

Osborne High (Cobb) featured in NASSP's 'Principal Leadership.' Principal **Steve Miletto** was on the NASSP Conference program in February highlighting the school's "No Walls, No Excuses" emphasis.

Creek View Elementary principal **Ronald (Tracy) Trussell** featured in a recent edition of 'Atlanta Parent' magazine.

Lowndes principal **Wes Taylor** and members of his staff have published "Made You Look" a magazine designed to help the community become better acquainted with school activities, mission, and accomplishments.

The Georgia Association for Alternative Education presented the GAAE Neil Shorthouse Award for outstanding service in advocating and promoting alternative education opportunities for students at risk to **Winnette Bradley**, principal, Richmond County Evening School.

Emily Collins is president-elect of CASE and the new executive director of G-CASE.

Mark Wilson, principal of Morgan County High, is the 2008/09 NASSP Georgia Secondary Principal of the Year.

Ed Mashburn, principal of Northside Middle in Houston County is the 2008/09 NASSP Georgia Middle School Principal of the Year.

Hall superintendent **Will Schofield** received the Leadership Award from the Georgia Association for Gifted Children.

GAEL president **Larry Johnson** was the recipient of the Excellence In Educational Leadership Award presented by the University Council for Educational Administration.

Cartersville High School English teacher **Leanne Maule** was named the 2009 Georgia Teacher of the Year. ◆

National, State and Local News

The Gainesville law firm Harben and Hartley has merged with the Decatur law firm formerly known as Weekes and Candler. The new firm will be based in Gainesville and will be known as Harben, Hartley, and Hawkins.

According to Education Week, College Board officials overseeing the Advanced Placement program have announced that they intend to drop AP classes and exams at the end of the 2008-09 school year in four subject areas (Italian, Latin literature, French literature, and computer science AB) in a pullback expected to affect about 12,500 students and 2,500 teachers worldwide. ◆

Jekyll Notes

As you make your plans to visit Jekyll Island for the Summer Conference, you will be interested to know of plans for Island upgrades over the next year or so:

1. May 2008 Start date for new 138 room Hampton Inn & Suites, finish date spring 2009.
2. 300 room 4-star hotel with 18,000 square feet of meeting space, to open early 2010.
3. Embassy Suites: Start date January, 2009 finish date December 2009.
4. Existing Jekyll Island hotel rooms recently upgraded: 925.
5. Jekyll still offers its 55,000 square foot ocean-front convention center. nine miles of beaches, 63 holes of golf, Summer Waves water park, 20 miles of serene bike trails and much more on this pristine barrier Island

Bottom line, make your plans now to attend the 2008 GAEL Summer Conference at Jekyll Island on July 13-15. ◆



This Incredible Line-Up of Speakers will be at the 2008 GAEL Summer Conference!



Heather Whitestone McCallum was selected as Miss America 1995 on September 17, 1994. During her year of service as Miss America, Heather focused her efforts and activities on motivating our nation's citizens to achieve their dreams through dedication, commitment and hard work. As she delivered her message, "Anything is Possible," throughout her term, Heather sought to inspire individuals to achieve their goals through the S.T.A.R.S. program (a five-point approach for personal empowerment).



Dr. Douglas Reeves is the founder of The Leadership and Learning Center. The author of more than 20 books and many articles on leadership and organizational effectiveness, he has twice been named to the Harvard University Distinguished Authors Series. His monthly column on change leadership appears in *Educational Leadership*. Dr. Reeves was named the Brock International Laureate for his contributions to education. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Parents Choice Award for his writing for children and parents.



Dr. Mark A. Elgart currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer for AdvancED, the parent organization for the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). Prior to his appointment to lead AdvancED, Elgart served as Chief Executive Officer for SACS CASI.



Phil Hartley is a partner in the law firm Harben, Hartley, & Hawkins. The firm limits its practice exclusively to the representation of public educational entities in the state of Georgia and presently represents over 100 public school districts throughout the state. The firm also serves as general counsel to the Georgia School Boards Association and as an advisor to the Georgia School Superintendents Association and Georgia Association of Educational Leaders.



Kathy Cox is the State Superintendent of Schools for Georgia. Under the State Superintendent of Schools, the Georgia Department of Education functions as a service-oriented and policy-driven agency that meets the needs of local school systems as they prepare all students for college or a career in a safe and drug-free environment where we ensure that no child is left behind.



Kelly C. Henson was named Executive Secretary of the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) in November 2007. The PSC is charged with establishing a certification/licensure process that is streamlined, understandable and flexible in order to attract qualified individuals into the education profession. Through its work in Certification, Educator Preparation and Ethics the PSC seeks to make Georgia's Education workforce the most highly skilled and qualified in the nation.

For Registration and Information go to www.gael.org

Look for more information about Tennis, Golf, Low Country Boil, Awards Luncheon, John Yates Beach Run, Family Fun, Fireworks on the Beach, Children's Activities, & more.



Georgia Association of Educational Leaders
 5634 Atlanta Hwy • Suite 300 • Flowery Branch • GA • 30542 • Phone 770-967-2050 • FAX 770-967-2021

Register on-line at www.gael.org and receive a \$30 "eDiscount" per registration

Name _____ Position _____

School _____ System _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Phone _____ FAX _____ Email Address (very important) _____

Registration (Choose One) Enter Amt.

GAEL/Affiliate Regular Registration

Check one affiliation:

- Georgia Association of Curriculum & Instructional Supervisors (GACIS) \$475.00
- Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals (GAESP) \$475.00
- Georgia Association of Middle School Principals (GAMSP) \$475.00
- Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals (GASSP) \$475.00
- Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) \$400.00**
- (**Note: Additional fees to be assessed by GSSA at a later date)
- Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE) \$425.00

GAEL/Affiliate Retired Member Registration \$360.00

- (Circle affiliation: GACIS GAESP GAMSP GASSP GSSA G-CASE)
- (Note: Not eligible for this category if working full or part time in an educational leadership capacity.)

If you wish to participate in additional Affiliates, please circle here and enclose additional amounts:

GACIS \$75; GAESP \$75; GAMSP \$75; GASSP \$75; GSSA \$100; G-CASE \$25

No part of affiliate dues (GACIS, GAESP, GAMSP, GASSP, GSSA, or G-CASE) is deductible as a charitable expense. According to provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, 88% of member dues for the 2008 calendar may be deductible as a business expense. The other 12% is our estimate of the portion of dues allocable to non-deductible lobbying or political expense.

Optional Conference Activities

▶ Low Country Boil - Sunday, July 13, 7:00 p.m.

One **FREE** Ticket per registration. Please check here if you plan to attend _____

Additional Adult Tickets \$27.00 each (# of tickets _____) _____

Kid's Ticket (12 years & under) \$10.00 each (# of tickets _____) _____

▶ Awards Luncheon - Monday, July 14 \$26.00 each (# of tickets _____) _____

TOTAL REMITTANCE _____

Payment Method

Check # _____ payable to GAEL: Amount enclosed _____

Please charge my (please circle card type) **VISA** **MASTERCARD** **AMERICAN EXPRESS**

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Purchase Order Number _____

Please do not fax a registration without a Credit Card payment or Purchase Order number.

▶ Cancellation fee is \$50.00. Cancellations must be in writing either faxed or mailed by July 3. No conference registration, Low Country Boil, or Luncheon ticket refunds after July 3, but substitutions are encouraged. GAEL and Affiliate Membership fees will also be retained to keep your GAEL/Affiliate Membership Active!

▶ Do not submit this form if you have registered on line at www.gael.org

**Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals
Georgia Association of Educational Leaders
2008 Pre-GAEL Summer Conference School Law Workshop**

Actions of the 2008 General Assembly involved issues of major interest to educational leaders: expansion of charter schools, flexibility and accountability through school system contracts with the State Board, changes in retiree return to work provisions, new provisions for dealing with children of military personnel, and penalties for students who falsely accuse educators of misconduct were topics of successful legislation awaiting the Governor's signature. Recent decisions by the State Board, Professional Standards Commission, and the courts also impact educational leaders.

GAESP and GAEL are pleased to announce a workshop designed to help local school and school system leaders gain accurate information on these and other educational issues. The workshop will emphasize a question and answer format to ensure the topics covered are of interest to participants.

Who should attend: Principals, assistant principals, curriculum specialists, superintendents, and central office staff desiring to remain "up to speed" on school law issues impacting their job roles.

FACULTY: Phil Hartley, Harben & Hartley Law Firm

DATE/LOCATION/TIMES

Friday, July 11, 2008 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center, 1 Beachview Drive

Agenda: 12:30 p.m.-Registration / 1:00-Program Begins / 4:00-Program Adjourns

REGISTRATION: \$75 registration fee. If there are questions, call 770-967-2050. Complete and mail this form to GAEL, 5634 Atlanta Hwy., Ste. 300, Flowery Branch, GA 30542 or fax with purchase order to 770-967-2021.

GAESP/GAEL 2008 Pre-Summer Conference School Law Workshop

Name _____ Position _____

System _____ School _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Registration fee:

\$75 Registration Fee

Make checks payable to GAEL

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Payment: () Check enclosed # _____ () Check to be mailed from school/school system: PO # _____

() Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

(\$35 cancellation fee if written notice of cancellation received prior to July 3. No shows will be billed.)

Deductability Disclosure: No part of affiliate dues (GACIS, GAESP, GAMSP, GASSP, GSSA, or G-CASE) is deductible as a charitable expense. According to provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, 88% of member dues for the 2009 fiscal year may be deductible as a business expense. The other 12% is our estimate of the portion of dues allocable to non-deductible lobbying or political expense.