
MIDDLE GEORGIA
REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY
80 Cohen Walker Drive
Warner Robins, Georgia 31088

**BOARD OF CONTROL
MINUTES**

December 18, 2013

The Board of Control of the Middle Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency held its regular meeting at Central Georgia Technical College-Macon Campus, 3300 Macon Tech Drive, Macon, GA 31206, President's Board Room, Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 8:15 a.m. with the following present

Mr. Anthony Pack
Dr. Robin Hines
Dr. Mike Newton
Ms. Carolyn Williams
Dr. Steve Smith
Dr. David Fuller

Mr. John Douglas
Ms. Joe Ann Denning
Dr. Ed Hill
Dr. Ivan Allen
Dr. Amy Holloway
Ms. Lara Sims

Mr. Bill Mathews, Superintendent, Jones County Schools; Mr. Elgin Dixon, Superintendent, Twiggs County Schools; Dr. John Black, President, Middle Georgia State College; Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, President, Fort Valley State University; and, Mr. Thomas Jones were unable to attend because of scheduling conflicts. Dr. Ed Hill attended for Dr. Griffith and Dr. David Hill attended for Dr. Black.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Dr. Robin Hines and a second by Dr. Mike Newton, the Agenda for the December 18, 2013 meeting was unanimously approved with one change, Ms. Reba Dyer was taken off of the agenda.

INVOCATION

Mr. Anthony Pack called the meeting to order and welcomed all members. Dr. Mike Newton provided an invocation for the group.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

On a motion by Dr. Robin Hines and a second by Ms. Joe Ann Denning, the Consent Agenda Items; Minutes of the November 20, 2013 BOC Meeting, November 2013 Financial Statement, Records Management Report for November 2013, Consultative Services Report for November 2013 were unanimously approved.

Ms. LARA SIMS, DIRECTOR, MIDDLE GA GNETS

Program Update – Ms. Lara Sims

Ms. Sims gave an update on the scheduled visits by OPB to GNETS centers across the state. The Department of Justice has visited centers in the past following a law suit filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The allegation is that “separate setting is a violation of civil rights.” Currently, Ms. Brenda Purcell from the Governor’s Office is visiting centers to gather information on the program services. Ms. Sims will send the date of the visit and is asking for several superintendents to attend the meeting. Ms. Williams will send the schedule of visits to the BOC.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1 – IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH EFFECTIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

- **School Improvement Focus School Update (Informational)**

GaDOE is submitting new criteria in February for FOCUS school selection criteria. There will be no changes to the FOCUS school designations before next school year 2014-2015.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2 – IMPROVE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

- **Teacher Recruitment Fairs (Informational)**

Bibb County – Saturday, March 8, 2014 (Westside High School)

Middle GA Regional – Saturday, March 15, 2014 (Monroe County, KB Sutton Elementary)

Houston County – Saturday, March 22, 2014 (Veterans High School)

- **NAEP Assessment Tool- (Informational)**

As Georgia prepares to transition to a new assessment system in 2014-2015 – one that is designed to send a clear and consistent message about students’ preparedness for college and careers – the Georgia Department of Education seeks to ensure that educators throughout the state are aware of quality assessment tools. One excellent resource that exists for classroom teachers, at no cost, stems from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is a test that is given to students across the nation in a variety of subjects, including mathematics and reading. Importantly, about one third of the NAEP test items are constructed response, an exposure our students need experience with prior to next school year. The NAEP Question Tool includes over 2,000 previously used NAEP items along with student responses and scoring rubrics. The item detail also shows associated performance data, including how Georgia students performed on the item. Incorporating these items into formative assessments provides an opportunity for our students to have hands-on practice with open-ended items and to see student exemplars for each of the items. This resource, which includes commentaries on the responses, gives students concrete examples of responses that were scored at each of the score points. The exposure to these items, along with hands on practice, will usher our students toward preparation for the next wave of assessments in the state of Georgia.

To access and explore released NAEP items, click on the following link:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/default.aspx>

- **Formative Instructional Practices (FIP) – (Informational)**

As you implement the Formative Instructional Practices (FIP) in your districts, the NAEP Question Tool is yet another resource available to augment this important work. Along with the Online Assessment System (OAS), the NAEP Question Tool is a natural fit with FIP – high quality assessment resources available free of charge!

Please feel free to contact our NAEP State Coordinator, Ms. Bobbie Bable, should you have any questions about the NAEP and/or the Question Tool. Additionally, please know that Ms. Bable is available to assist, again – at no cost, with workshops on this tool should this be of interest to your districts and schools. You may contact Ms. Bable directly to arrange a presentation. She can be reached at 404-657-6168 or bbable@doe.k12.ga.us.

I hope you find this information helpful as you work with your districts to prepare for the changing assessment landscape. As always, please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or if we can assist further.

Melissa Fincher, Ph.D.
Associate Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability
Georgia Department of Education
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive
Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 651-9405

• District Standards/KEYS Feedback

Dear RESA Directors,

The District Effectiveness Team greatly appreciates your assistance in obtaining feedback from the superintendents on the draft of the District Keys. Below are the directions for providing their feedback.

Superintendent,

To review a draft of the **seven strands, 45 standards, and rubrics of District Keys go to**

www.tinyurl.com/mgresaboc

Just as School Keys describes the work of successful schools, District Keys will describe the work of districts as they guide and support their schools. The District Effectiveness Team of the Georgia Department of Education would appreciate your feedback on this work at this point in time. We would like to offer a few guiding questions to frame your review of this draft of District Keys. Please reply to this email by typing your responses next to the items below to offer your feedback before January 31, 2014.

1. Do the current 45 standards capture the important work of districts as they support their schools to serve students?
 - a) Have we omitted any standards that describe the key actions of effective districts?
 - b) If so, what are those actions that should be addressed with additional standards?
 - c) Are any of these standards unnecessary or redundant?
2. Do the accompanying rubrics effectively describe the four performance levels of district work?
 - a) Is the wording across the rubrics clear, concise, and easily understandable by district and school leaders?
 - b) Do the qualifiers (consistent, pervasive, limited, etc.) used in the rubrics provide appropriate "spacing" or variance across the four performance levels? Is the performance described in one level easily distinguishable from the adjacent levels?
3. After reviewing this draft of District Keys, do you have any other suggestions, input, or questions?

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback to our team as we work to design this new tool to advance the important work of districts across Georgia. The attached file begins with a two-page list of all 40+ standards. The accompanying rubrics follow this two-page list.

Samuel Taylor, Ph.D. , District Effectiveness Program Manager
School Improvement
1854 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta , Georgia 30334
Tel (404) 657-7155

- **TKES Training at Middle GA RESA – January 17, 23, and 27 - (Informational)**

Ms. Reba Dyer will be conducting TKES/LKES training at Middle GA RESA on January 17th, 23rd, and 27th for staff who has not received the training. Contact Carolyn Williams at cwilliams@mgresa.us to register staff from your system.

Postsecondary Partnership Updates

- **Central Georgia Technical College – Dr. Ivan Allen**

Dr. Allen thanked the superintendents for their partnerships as we all continue to work together to improve education in the Middle GA region. Following the merger of MGTC and CGTC the program has 12 locations and 55 buildings, now designated as Central GA Technical College. On recent consolidation/SACS accreditation, visits were made to the HCCC having a dual enrollment of 250 students. Visits were also made to Northeast High School and the Career Academy in Bibb County. CGTC will partner with Bibb BOE to provide programs at the Macon Promise Center. Go to <http://maconpromise.org/the-new-adult-education/> for additional information.

- **Fort Valley State University – Dr. Ed Hill**

Just as all teachers, teacher candidates are over-whelmed with new assessment measures such as the edTPA. GACE measures the content knowledge; edTPA will measure a teacher's pedagogical skills. To learn more about edTPA click here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9EBymF9vDVZVTE4Q2F6Y1BMVHFjQWFqTGRfaXFTSW9oNVpr/edit?usp=sharing>

- **Middle Georgia State College – Dr. David Fuller**

Dr. Fuller thanked the superintendents for working with the teacher candidates from the College of Education. The college will have a new President beginning in January, Dr. Christopher Blake. The college is seeking input from the BOC on how to improve partnerships and recruitment strategies.

Informational Items

- **RESA Sharing – Ms. Carolyn Williams**

- Ms. Williams shared a copy of the November 21st RESA Directors' agenda. Go to www.tinyurl.com/mgresaboc to view the agenda
- **Next BOC Meeting – January 15, 2014, CGTC, Macon, GA 31206**
- **Education Week Article – Performance-Based Tests for Teachers Rolls Out**
Ms. Williams shared an article from Education week describing the impact of edTPA on teachers. Go to www.tinyurl.com/mgresaboc to view the article.

- **GSSA Update – Mr. Anthony Pack
No Report**

- **Legislative Update – Dr. Mike Newton**

Dr. Newton mentioned the excellent school law training by GSBA. Systems will make declarations by June 2015 regarding their School System Flexibility: IE2, Status Quo, Strategic School System, Charter, or System of Charter Schools. For an excellent PP comparing these choices click below:

<https://drive.google.com/a/mgres.us/file/d/0B9EBymF9vDVZQ0JFbXUzalctDAxTnFMaFBfY0hMREI6emJr/edit?usp=sharing>

- **GSSA State Board Update – Dr. Robin Hines**
No Report

System Sharing (Updates/Problem Solving/Exemplary Practices)

- **Bibb – Dr. Steve Smith**

Dr. Smith reported that things are setting down in Bibb. The board will elect officers in January. A 5 year facility plan has been developed that will involve the closing of some schools.

- **Crawford – Mr. John Douglas**

Mr. Douglas said things are going well in the system. Funding cuts continue to be an issue. Everyone continues to work hard, regardless. Middle GA RESA is providing a third day of professional training on Monday, January 6th. Crawford is also working through RESA to develop a system-wide Title I plan for all three schools.

- **Houston – Dr. Robin Hines**

Dr. Hines noted that the system has completed their District SACS visit. It was an enriching process of quality assurance to ensure the system is maximizing district improvement efforts. The results of the visit will continue to effectively drive student performance and improvements in the system.

- **Jasper – Dr. Mike Newton**

As part of the Jasper Mentor Program, preparing students for College and Career ready, students have the opportunity to be involved in the Biotech Pathway Career Path. The teachers, Procter and Cole, have done an outstanding job preparing the students to learn and peak their interest in health and science. The healthcare conglomerate Baxter International is hiring 1,500 positions at the plant with an average salary of \$63,000 a year. This could change the economics for Jasper County if the students are prepared to work at Baxter.

- **Jones – Mr. Bill Mathews**
No Report

- **Monroe – Mr. Anthony Pack**

The system is currently in the rezoning process for their elementary schools. Next years calendar is funding 175 days for students and 185 days for teachers. The Fine Arts Center work is progressing. The system graduation rate was 82.6. Mr. Pack's contract was renewed until 2016.

- **Peach – Ms. Joe Ann Denning**

The year is going well and things are on track. Graduation rates fell from 66.6 to 63 this year. Middle GA RESA will provide school board training in January on Board Ethics/Roles of Superintendent and Board Members.

- **Twiggs – Mr. Elgin Dixon**
No Report

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING

A motion was made by Dr. Robin Hines and a second by Mr. John Douglas to close the December 18, 2013 Middle Georgia RESA Board of Control meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Anthony Pack.

Mr. Anthony Pack
Chairperson

Ms. Carolyn H. Williams
Executive Director