

BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

January 21, 2009
9:00 a.m.

Nell C. Hallford Memorial Board Room
North Georgia RESA
Ellijay, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Petruzielo, Chairman, Cherokee County Schools..... Absent
Jim Hawkins, Superintendent, Dalton City Schools..... Absent
Mark Henson, Superintendent, Fannin County Schools.....Present
Randy Parson, Superintendent, Gilmer County Schools.....Present
Vickie Reed, Superintendent, Murray County Schools.....Present
Mike Ballew, Superintendent, Pickens County Schools.....Present
Katie Brochu, Superintendent, Whitfield County Schools..... Absent
Sanford Chandler, President, Appalachian Technical College..... Absent
David Simmons, Acting President, Appalachian Technical College... Absent
John Schwenn, President, Dalton State College..... Absent
Joe B. Forsee, Northwest Georgia Regional Library System.....Present
Larry G. Harmon, Secretary, North Georgia RESA.....Present

In Chairman Petruzielo's absence, Vice Chair Vickie Reed called the January board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed all members and guests attending.

Dr. Reed introduced guests from Murray County attending the meeting.

On a motion by Joe Forsee, seconded by Randy Parson, the January Board of Control Meeting Agenda was unanimously approved by the board as presented.

On a motion by Randy Parson, seconded by Mark Henson, the November Board of Control Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved as presented. As a quorum was not present, no meeting minutes were available for December.

Larry Harmon presented the RESA November and December Financial Reports. He briefly discussed the contents of each and noted that all accounts appear to be order for this time in the fiscal year. Mr. Harmon asked the board members to review these reports at their convenience and contact him with any questions. On a motion by Joe Forsee, seconded by Randy Parson, the November and December Financial Reports were unanimously approved by the board.

Larry Harmon then introduced Dr. Georgia Evans, the new GLISI director for our RESA area. Dr. Evans updated the board on GLISI activities noting that the program continues to collaborate it's offerings with those of the RESA's and the Georgia Department of Education. Dr. Evans requested suggestions from the board regarding a location to host a workshop in February for 75

participants at tables and with wireless access. Dr. Evans closed her presentation by answering questions from the members regarding program content and the possible effect of anticipated budget cuts.

Larry Harmon next introduced Dr. Gary Walker from the Professional Standards Commission. Dr. Walker is responsible for ethics training for the PSC. He discussed HB1321 and HB250, passed in the 2008 legislative session, and reviewed changes in the definitions of moral turpitude and school misconduct by educators, staff and administration. He went through a powerpoint presentation and offered to share these materials with all systems for training purposes. He noted that under these two pieces of legislation, this training is mandated for all system employees.

Dr. Walker then responded to numerous questions from the board members.

Dr. Reed thanked both guests for their attendance and presentations to the board.

As Dr. Petruzielo was unable to attend the meeting, a GSSA Board of Directors Report and a GSSA Legislative Committee Report were unavailable.

The next item on the meeting agenda allowed time for informal discussion among the members on methods being used to deal with deeper and deeper budget cuts. Each member discussed particular difficulties being dealt with in their system/library and shared insight on ways and means to cut spending with the least possible impact on services offered to students. They discussed the Governor's State of the State address and the implications the governor's proposed budget could have on RESA's. One member brought to the others' attention that, in order for the RESA's to be dissolved, the law would have to be changed. Mr. Harmon noted that the governor is offering a simplistic answer to a complex question and many details would have to be addressed prior to the fiscal year end. The superintendents discussed the loss of funding for school nurses and teacher furloughs as related to employment contracts.

Mr. Harmon then presented the State Board of Education Liaison Committee Meeting Report. He reported that the meeting was held by teleconference on January 7. The SBOE introduced new appointees to the board expected to be announced on January 22, approved waivers that will amend the rule that states 6th, 7th and 8th grades for middle schools be housed in the same facility, a waiver related to middle school athletics regarding practice time, day/night issues, times, etc. Ms. Cox unveiled her plan for class size relief to the board which will basically add 2 students per class in grades K-8, resulting in a savings of \$ 200M state-wide. Finally, the SBOE is expected to approve the Gwinnett County IE2 plan to expand flexibility. He noted that this plan bears

watching as it will be the first approved program in the state and, therefore, somewhat of a blueprint for all others to follow.

Mr. Harmon then presented his RESA Directors Report. He reported that the annual analysis of CRCT scores from the RESA systems has been distributed but the information needed to develop this report will no longer be available to RESA. Mr. Harmon next provided the board with an update on services provided to our member systems by our consultants. He then furnished a state financial update reporting that tax collections, sales, income and corporate taxes all continue to decline. He reported that it is expected that the February report, which will include most of the holiday season in December, will be even more dismal.

Mr. Harmon next discussed the redirection of all state RESA funds back to QBE in the governor's FY10 proposed budget. He discussed the numerous side effects of this proposal to the systems and to RESA. He added that this move was not expected and the RESA's are presently working to generate a response to this proposal.

Mr. Harmon then updated the board on the RESA Site Visit, asking superintendents and system curriculum supervisors to be prepared to meet with the visiting team after lunch on March 26. He asked the members to watch for further information as plans are finalized.

In closing, Mr. Harmon reported that North Georgia RESA's printer, Richard Warren, passed away on January 8 after a brief battle with cancer. The RESA staff will miss Richard and his contributions to the North Georgia RESA operation.

Larry Harmon thanked Dr. Reed for chairing the meeting and, with all business complete and all comments heard, on a motion by Mike Ballew, seconded by Mark Henson, Dr. Reed adjourned the January meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Vickie Reed, Vice Chairman

Larry G. Harmon, Secretary