



Board of Education Newsletter for August & September 2013

The Jones County Board of Education met recently to establish goals that would help close the communication gap between the Board and the citizens that we serve. We hope this information will keep you informed of events that affect our school system and our community and will help you have a better understanding of our school system.

<p>BOE School Board Celebrations:</p> <p>Your Board of Education wants you to know that we are very proud of the hard work and sacrifices you have made to make our school system one of the best!</p> <p>Finance: One of the most important jobs of the Board of Education is to approve a budget each year.</p> <p>No furlough days this year! We are finally there.</p> <p>No cuts in Medical Insurance: The BOE understands how important medical insurance is for our employees. The local BOE's share of this expense is \$900.00 per employee each month.</p> <p>Cost of Living for our classified personnel: Classified Employees will receive a 2.5 percent cost of living increase.</p>	<p>BOE meetings:</p> <p>The Board of Education meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.</p> <p>Highlights :</p> <p>High School: Ms. Bonnie Peters shared student dropout summary information. The number of dropout students has decreased from 77(2012) to 39 (2013). This improvement is because of the hard work of many dedicated educators taking the time to build personal relationships with these students.</p> <p>New Gray Elementary School: Groundbreaking for the new GES to be held Sunday, September 29, 2013 at 3:00 pm at the work site located next to the Jones County Fair Ground.</p> <p>Budget for 2013-2014: A \$41,318,395 budget was approved by the Board. We have a great deal to be thankful for.</p>
<p>Board of Ed. Work Session Minutes :</p> <p>Strategic Plan:</p> <p>The Board members discussed the results of the BOE self-assessment. Two of the eight areas indicated a Needs Improvement rating. These included the development of a Strategic Plan by creating performance goals for the district, improve communication with the community, and increase community engagement. The Board completed a Strategic Plan Worksheet and reviewed the SACS areas of Needs Improvement. Strategic Plans from other districts were also reviewed. Performance goals for the system's District Strategic Plan were selected.</p> <p>Board/System Governance Planning: The BOE reviewed and discussed the Vision for Public Education in Georgia and the legislation that will require school systems to choose to operate as Investing in Educational Excellence (IE2) School System, Charter System, or Status Quo School System. The BOE will continue to discuss this requirement throughout the 2014 Legislation Session.</p>	<p>State Level & Important Legislation:</p> <p>Good News about Georgia Education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Peach State got high marks from the Center for Education Reform for the amount of involvement parents have in their children's education. Georgia took 7th place in the Center's "Parent Power Index" which ranks states based on the number of school choices, teacher quality, transparency of schools for information, and online learning options available. Georgia was the ONLY state in the country to see growth on the most recent national assessments (ACT, SAT, AP and NAEP) in 2013. <p>Legislation: The bill known as the new "State Evaluation for Principals, Assistant Principals, and Teachers" has been signed by the Governor. The good news is that Jones County already does about 90% of what the evaluation requires. Gray Elem. and Dames Ferry will pilot the teacher evaluation instrument this year.</p> <p>To learn more, visit: www.doe.k12.ga.us/School-Improvement/Teacher-and-Leader-Effectiveness/</p>