Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council Meeting  
Title I Parent Meeting  
October 21, 2011

I. Welcome

Michelle Tarbutton Sandrock opened the meeting by welcoming all of the new Parent Advisory Council members serving for 2012. Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent proceed to facilitate the meeting and he started by talking about the Milken Foundation Award, which he had the honor of giving to a teacher in Clayton County earlier that morning. He explained the importance of the award and how it’s given on an annual basis. He continued with the agenda by requesting that all of the members introduce themselves. He stated that he wanted them to tell everyone who they are, where they live, where their children go to school, and what they expect to get out of the this council.

After the introductions were complete, Dr. Barge explained to the council that we can’t keep doing the same things we’ve been doing and expect a different result in education. He told the council members about himself and gave them some background information about his journey in education and as a parent. He also talked about the new awards that have been created by the department, one for a teacher and one for a school staff member, because he realizes that they both impact the lives of children. He explained that the teacher award is called the Fountain Award in honor of Monty Fountain, a teacher and a coach who helped him and countless others write a better story for themselves. Once each quarter, one teacher will be selected for this award. The public is invited to nominate a teacher who had a profound impact on someone's life and career. He encouraged everyone to share the information about this award in their schools and districts as it is an award for adults to nominate their past teachers. The nomination application can be accessed here: http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/DMGetDocument.aspx/Fountain%20Award%20Application.pdf?p=6CC6799F8C1371F60AF88C976D78E73922776B5A252B2B47DD842EC0FE0FCE83&Type=D

He then went on to briefly talk about The Fat Boy Chronicles, which is a book about bullying and it takes a look into the day-to-day life of an obese teenager who decides to stop the abuse and ridicule he gets at school. Georgia is second in the nation in childhood obesity. While schools cannot solve the obesity problem, they can help students adopt new ways to promote healthy eating habits and bullying prevention. Learn more about The Fat Boy Chronicles by visiting the following link: http://thefatboychronicles.com/

Dr. Barge also talked about human sex trafficking and how Atlanta has been identified as the number one place where this is happening. He stated that approximately 400 girls under the age of 18 are trafficked in Atlanta each month, so the GaDOE has partnered with subject-matter experts to conduct a conference that will help inform school personnel of the warning signs and help them learn more about the resources that are available for these students.
Details about the conference are as follows:

**Who/When:**

**Monday, October 31 - Tuesday, November 1, 2011**
Guest Speakers: Steve Wilkinson and Roddy Llewellyn with the New Scotland Yard are considered two of the leading law enforcement officials in the world on this issue. They will share information about human sex trafficking from the viewpoint of international law enforcement.

**Wednesday, November 30 - Thursday, December 1, 2011**
Guest Speakers: Anna Paden, a human trafficking activist and researcher who often works with the United Nations (U.N.) on these issues; James Dold, who currently serves as Policy Counsel for the Polaris Project and works to advance state and federal policy on human trafficking legislation; and Aaronde Creighton of Street Grace in Atlanta.

**Monday, January 30 - Tuesday, January 31, 2012**
Guest Speakers: Maria Velikonja, who served as a keynote speaker at the U.N. Human Trafficking Conference last year; Jency and Nathan Shirai of International Justice Mission in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Monday, February 27 - Tuesday, February 28, 2012**
Guest Speakers: Christine Dolan, who has worked with ABC News, NBC News, and CNN, and worked undercover on the streets of some of the darkest cities in the world to gather information about human sex trafficking; and Eva Havelkova, who is with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

**Where:** All conference dates will be held at the following address:
Sloppy Floyd Building
Floyd Room
20th Floor Twin Towers West
200 Piedmont Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30334

For Registration and more information please visit our website at [http://www.gadoe.org/_documents/htconference/index.html](http://www.gadoe.org/_documents/htconference/index.html).

Dr. Barge also talked about he recently went to Washington and meet with Arnie Duncan to talk about some of his plans for implementing change in Georgia. He stated that he’s applied for a waiver to be exempt from NCLB. He explained that there were some good things that came out of NCLB, but it hasn’t been working for Georgia’s students across the board, especially in the area of graduation requirements and expectations. For example, it will not recognize a special education diploma as a diploma. He talked about how there are many children that are able to pass tests, but are not ready for college or a career and ultimately, we are hoping to change that culture throughout the state.

Ms. Sandrock then referred PAC members to the “Think it Through Form” that was located inside their folders and instructed them to use it as a tool to write down their questions and feedback for Dr. Barge as the day went on.
II. Georgia Department of Education’s Website Overview

Kristina Gilliard, Project Manager, reviewed some of the suggestions she received from the previous PAC members for improving the Georgia Department of Education’s website. She pulled up the new website and gave everyone a chance to review the recommendations that were made. She welcomed feedback and input from the new PAC members and their recommendations were as follows:

- Create a reference list of things dads can do.
- Create a reference list of how to become more engaged and offer choices.
- Remove the question that asks which school is the highest in my community? Change it to how do I compare schools?
- Put information on there about head lice and other health related subjects. (Everyone was shown where information on health related topics currently exists on the website.)
- Add, Is my child’s teacher certified? One of the advisory council members said that it’s not common to see a teacher’s credentials posted on the wall in their classroom. (Ms. Gilliard stated that she will check on this and report back to the group in January 2012.)
- College information. (Participants were told that GaCollege411 can provide tons of information about graduation.)
- Perhaps create an application for mobile phones so it’s more accessible.
- Translate the website into Spanish.
- It needs to be much more user-friendly and simpler with the information broken down even more than it is now.

Ms. Gilliard showed everyone some of the main features of the new website and where they can find information. She also talked about certain features that will be available to make it easier to navigate and return to your starting point without confusion. It was also reiterated that everyone needed to think high level about the questions they would have for the state versus their local school or district as many questions parents what to have answered are better answered on the local level. Again, members were told to think more about what they would like to see and provide feedback on their “Think It Through Form” if they come up with some more ideas by the end of the day.

III. Lunch

During lunch, Ms. Sandrock encouraged PAC members to use this time to talk to one another and to some of the organizational members so they can get to know one another better. She also encouraged them to take this time to think about additional questions they may have for the Superintendent.
IV. College and Career Ready Performance Index

Becky Chambers, College Readiness Program Manager began this segment by talking about why the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) were created and how NCLB was not able to get the results they hoped it would. The CCGPS was created with indicators that will make our children college and career ready because all jobs do not require a four year degree. The indicators are tough and they are going to hold schools to very high standards. She referred to the handout that everyone had a copy of and pointed out the number of indicators on each academic level, elementary, middle and high school. She also talked about the scoring for each and how schools will be evaluated. This method is a much more inclusive way of getting results and calculating scores. The language is going to be a lot better and there will not be a “did not meet” statement anymore. She stated that they realize that everyone is not going to be at 100% from the start of implementation and it’s going to take time. There is going to be a learning curb, but this is going to be a living document. Dr. John Pritchett, Middle School Curriculum Coordinator, added that parent involvement in schools is one of the areas we want to see improve. Ms. Chambers said that is an area that they would like to start tracking and compiling data, but do not have a tool to use to do so at this time. She stressed that there is a need for a diverse workforce and students learning a second language. CCGPS is a school improvement tool that will be able to communicate what’s being done in our schools and will help with accountability. Student scores will be reflective of the progress and impact that it’s making.

V. Career Pathways

Dr. John Pritchett facilitated this segment of the agenda. He invited everyone to stand up and play along. He asked if you believe that 6th to 8th graders are able to make decisions about what they want to be when they grow up keep standing. He proceeded by asking the following questions:

- How would you rate your understanding of Georgia’s career development process?
- How would you rate your understanding of Georgia’s career pathways?
- How would you rate your understanding of House Bill 186?

Dr. Pritchett referred to Section 14.1-CTAE for all students which means rigorous curriculum, leadership, work-based learning experiences, and industry exposure-validated credentialing and CTAE opportunities. He talked about enrichment opportunities that have been made available through schools such as:

- FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)
- DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)
- FAA (Aviation and Flying Club)
- CTI (Career and Technical Instruction)
- FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)
Dr. Pritchett continued by relaying examples of students who have been able to obtain great jobs and opportunities post high school. He talked about two students who were able to receive $250,000 in scholarship money and another student who was able to start working on a job straight out of high school making $55,000/year. He talked about the Bridge Act and how it mandates that 8th grade students select a program of study based on their career interests. Each student will have an individual graduation plan for grades 9 through 12. He said there will be special school personnel in place to carry out this task because it would be incredibly overwhelming for school counselors to do it alone. He reviewed some of the details of the law and House Bill 186 and talked about the importance of parents being engaged. He was not able to complete this presentation due to a lack of time, but was invited to come back and finish this presentation with the group in January 2012.

VI. Georgia’s Family Engagement Conference Planning

Ms. Sandrock facilitated this segment of the meeting by giving the participants an overview of the Parent Engagement Program. She reviewed the program’s brochure, which was included with the handouts, along with the Resolution and Statement of Parent Engagement. She talked about Parent Engagement Month, which is November, as declared by Governor Nathan Deal. She reviewed the National PTA Standards for Family – School Partnerships and informed PAC members that the state has adopted these standards for parent and family engagement. PAC members were encouraged to learn about the Standards before the next meeting and can do so here: http://www.pta.org/national_standards.asp PAC members were informed about the upcoming 2012 Family Engagement Conference and given details about the role they will play at the conference. Ms. Sandrock also reminded PAC members that their local school districts agreed to pay for them to come to this conference, and they will need to register before November 16, 2011. Ms. Sandrock proceeded to explain the different committees that will consist of PAC members and an organizational member. The various roles they will play during the conference will depend on the group they select. The committees, roles and organizational member assignments are as follow:

**Facilitators**

Each PAC member will be asked to serve as facilitator for at least one breakout session during the conference. This committee will be responsible for developing the duties and responsibilities for the facilitators, inclusive of a guiding script for them to follow during the breakout sessions. The committee will also schedule the facilitators for each breakout session once the breakouts are determined.

*PAC Organizational Representative: Jennie Couture, DECAL
Suggested Number on the Committee: 3*

**Georgia PTA Parent Leadership Panel**

Georgia PTA will be holding a Parent Leadership Session for Parents during the Featured Conference Sessions on Thursday, February 16th from 1:30 – 3:00pm. As part of this session they will be holding a parent leadership panel. This committee will help with the planning of the session as well as ask some members to serve on the parent panel.

*PAC Organizational Representative: Patty Yohn, GA PTA
Suggested Number on the Committee: 6*
Meet the PAC

On Friday, February 17th from 4:15- 5:00pm all PAC members will have a chance to be heard as you will host a Meet the PAC session. This will be an opportunity for other parents and educators attending the conference to meet you, ask questions, etc. All PAC members will participate, but this committee will be responsible for planning the session.

PAC Organizational Representative: Julie Hollis, GA PIRC
Suggested Number on the Committee: 7

Excellence, Empowerment, and Equity

Each of our three general sessions will have a theme of excellence, empowerment or equity “in education.” During this time we will have a parent or a pair of parents speak during the parent moment sharing either a personal story or a call to action relating to the theme for the session. This committee will help in the writing of the parent moment, according to the theme and will select those from the committee to deliver the short speech at the three sessions.

PAC Organizational Representative: Margaret Speilman, Parent2Parent
Suggested Number on the Committee: 6

Parent Video

It is vital that parents have a voice in the education process and understand the importance of family and community engagement in education. This committee will develop a short video to be shown before or during a general session to motivate the audience and deliver this call to action.

PAC Organizational Representative: Gaye Smith, GFCP
Suggested Number on the Committee: 8

These groups were given time to outline a plan of action for their committee and also told that they can contact one another between now and the next meeting in January by using the contact sheet that has been provided in their folder.

VII. Wrap-Up

During this segment, PAC members were given an opportunity to ask Dr. Barge additional questions and address topics from their “Think it Through Form”. The questions and responses were as follows:

Q: Where are you with implementing the college and career ready performance and career pathways throughout the state?

R: We have to wait until we hear back from the US Department of Education about the waiver request that was made to stop using NCLB. We are expecting to hear something back by the end of this calendar year, and then we will be able to extend it statewide. We are aiming to implement it statewide by Fall, 2012.
Q: How will the changes made to special education diploma’s effect previous graduates?

R: It won’t affect them, meaning it won’t be able to change their diplomas.

Q: How can counselors effectively implement the career index that was mentioned earlier?

R: There will be special advisors that will provide guidance for each child from the beginning to the end. They will start with that child from 6th to 8th grade and continue with them which promotes relationship building.

Q: Will the new website have a Spanish version available also?

R: That has not been addressed at this time.

Q: How is ESL going to play into the new performance index?

R: Schools will earn points based on the number of students that test out.

Q: How will Title I funds be monitored with the new performance index?

R: The funds will not be based on AYP anymore. More information will be given on that at a later date.

VIII. Announcements

Ms. Sandrock gave instructions about completing the travel reimbursement forms and reminded everyone about the next Parent Advisory Meeting on January 19, 2012. She asked the PAC members about additional topics they would like to have covered at future meetings. Their responses were as follows:

- Engaging the Disengaged
- Having Dr. Pritchett Speak more about Career Pathways
- Legislative Panel
- Longitudinal Data System
- Relationship Building
- How to increase Family Engagement Beyond Primary

These topics will be considered for agenda items at the next meeting. PAC members were also reminded of their home to work with workgroups and review the National PTA Standards for Family – School Partnerships which can be done here: http://www.pta.org/national_standards.asp
Everyone was informed that the minutes would also be sent to them via e-mail and available online within the next couple of weeks. Meeting adjourned.