

# School Governance Councils in the Fulton Charter System

Updated 9.5.13

# *Transform Now Video*



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElLqbDfokao>

# Conversion to Fulton Charter System

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- 1,000+ teachers, administrators, & parents attended 7 Community Forums.
- 80+ students participated in Focus Groups.
- Convened Principal, Teacher, Parent, Community, & Student Superintendent's Councils
- System-wide LSAC & Cluster meetings

Fulton became the state's largest Charter System on July 1, 2012

Fall 2010

Winter 2010 -  
Spring 2011

Fall 2011

Spring –  
Summer 2012

## RESEARCH & PLANNING:

- District staff analyzed feedback from Fall engagement phase
- Report submitted to Board

## BOARD ACTION:

- Board voted to pursue & submit Charter System Application to GA Dept. of Education

# Georgia Charter System Definition

## What is a charter system?

### Definition

- A local district that has an executed charter from the State Board of Education (SBOE) that grants the district flexibility from almost all of Title 20, SBOE rules, and GA Dept. of Education guidelines

### Facts & Features

- The charter is a contract between district and SBOE
- The district gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability
- Emphasis on school-based leadership and decision-making

### Relative Advantages/ Disadvantages

- Increased school-level autonomy and accountability
- Additional per-pupil funding in QBE (state funding formula) if appropriated

### Federal/State Compliance

- Must comply with all federal laws and regulations
- Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations that cannot be waived (e.g., health and safety, funding formulas, or accountability provisions)

## What it **IS**...

- **One unified system** where Superintendent is accountable for student achievement
- **Existing attendance boundaries** policy
- **A systemwide, consistent curriculum** with potential flexibility based on community interest
- **Existing funding formula** per school with potential flexibilities within each school
- **All employees hired and managed by the system** with a system salary schedule

## What it **IS NOT**...

- A collection of individual charter schools with dissimilar accountabilities
- New attendance lotteries or special enrollment requirements
- A set of “theme” oriented schools with very different curricula or standards
- Different funding formulas for individual schools
- Employees hired by the charter school with salaries set by the school



### School Governance Councils

- School & Community Stakeholders



#### Roles and Responsibilities

- Long-term Strategy*
- Local School Flexibility*
- School Community Engagement*

### System Resources and Support

- Central Administration



#### Roles and Responsibilities

- System-wide Planning*
- Data Systems*
- Instructional Support*
- Equitable Resources and Infrastructure*
- Federal Program Management*

### System Governance Team

- Fulton County Board of Education
- Superintendent of Schools



#### Roles and Responsibilities

- System Policy*
- Required District Best Practices*
- Curriculum*
- Hiring*
- Ultimate Accountability for Results*

# Cohort 2 Schools by Learning Community

<b>Northwest</b> <i>Victor Shandor</i>	<b>Central</b> <i>Karen Cox</i>	<b>Northeast</b> <i>Will Rumbaugh</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Donald Fennoy</i>
Cambridge HS	Dunwoody Springs ES	Chattahoochee HS	Bear Creek MS
Crabapple MS	Ison Springs ES	Dolvin ES	Bethune ES
Elkins Point MS	High Point ES	Haynes Bridge MS	Campbell ES
Mimosa ES	Lake Forest ES	Holcomb Bridge MS	Evoline C. West ES
Northwestern MS	Sandy Springs Charter MS	Johns Creek HS	Feldwood ES
Roswell HS	Tri-Cities HS	Medlock Bridge ES	Langston Hughes HS
Summit Hill ES		Ocee ES	Love T. Nolan ES
Sweet Apple ES		River Trail MS	McNair MS
Webb Bridge MS		State Bridge Crossing ES	Palmetto ES
		Taylor Road MS	Renaissance ES
		Wilson Creek ES	Renaissance MS

# SGC Cohort 2 Start-Up Timeline

July-September 2013	October-December 2013	January-February 2014	March - June 2014	2014-2015 School Year
Planning Year				Year 1
<p>Cohort 2 principal orientation</p> <p>Cohort 2 Community Information Sessions</p>	<p>School Governance Council elections for parents and teachers</p> <p>School Governance Council school employee and community member appointments</p>	<p>Training of School Governance Council members</p> <p>Hold first meeting of full Council</p>	<p>Certified School Governance Councils in place</p> <p>Strategic planning process begins</p>	<p>Approve school Strategic Plan</p> <p>Approve school budget recommendations</p> <p>Submit requests for “earned” flexibility options</p> <p>Feedback on principal performance</p>



# School Governance Council (SGC) Highlights

- Approve the school **strategic plan**
- Approve the **annual budget recommendations**
- Request flexibility from District for **innovation**
- **Participate in hiring** of the Principal, when vacant
- Provide annual **feedback** on Principal performance

# Members of the SGC

1 – Principal (non-voting)

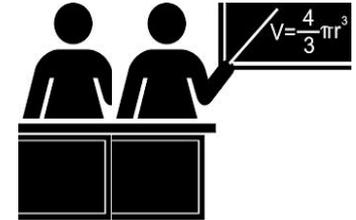
3 – Parents/Guardians (elected)

2 – Teachers (elected)

2 – School Employees (appointed)

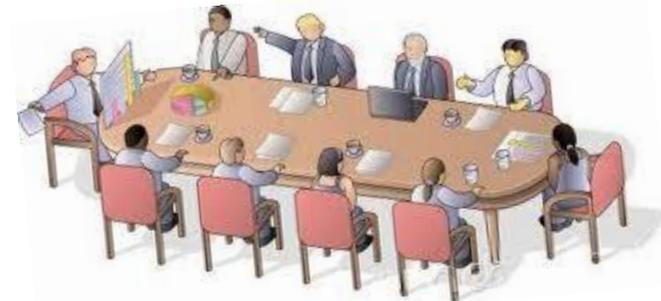
2 – Community Members (nominated,  
approved)

+ 2 – Students (HS only; non-voting)

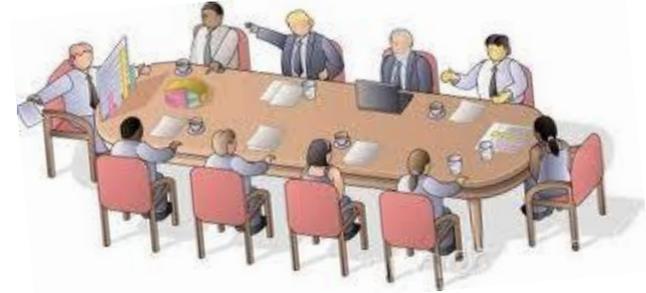


10 Member Council (ES, MS)

12 Member Council (HS)



## ALL Council Members



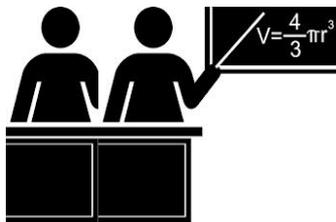
- ✓ May only serve on 1 School Governance Council at a time
- ✓ May NOT be an elected official of a government entity
- ✓ Must be the ONLY member of their family serving on the Council
- ✓ Must be 18 years of age or older (with the exception of high school student members)

# SGC Eligibility by Position



## Parents/Guardians

- ✓ Must have a child enrolled at the school
- ✓ May NOT be an employee of the school



## Teachers\*

- ✓ May NOT be the parent of a child enrolled at the school
- ✓ Must be a school-based employee with a “home school”
- ✓ Must be paid from teacher salary schedule



## School Employees

- ✓ Must be a school-based employee with a “home school”
  - ✓ MAY be the parent of a child enrolled at the school
- 



## Community Members

- ✓ May NOT be an employee of the school
- ✓ MAY be the parent of a child enrolled at the school

## Inaugural SGC (est. 2013-14)

- **Parents**
    - 1 one-year
    - 2 two-year
  - **Teachers**
    - 1 one-year
    - 1 two-year
  - **School Employee**
    - 1 one-year
    - 1 two-year
  - **Community Member**
    - 1 one-year
    - 1 two-year
- ✓ Establishes staggered rotation
  - ✓ Term of office will begin after election/appointment and end June 30, 2015 (one-year) or June 30, 2016 (two-year)

## SGCs beyond inaugural year

- Two-year terms for all SGC members
- Term of office will begin July 1 and end June 30

## All SGCs (inaugural and beyond)

- No member will serve more than 2 consecutive terms
- A member who has already served 2 consecutive terms may run for election after 2 years off the SGC

# SGC Member Commitments

- Attend the SGC meetings (at least 75%)
- Serve on a SGC committee (attend at least 75% of committee meetings)
- Interact with school community
- Participate in mandatory trainings and SGC assessment processes

- **Accountability:**

- ✓ The Fulton County Board of Education is the official governing body of the Fulton County School System. When an SGC is unable to fulfill its duties and responsibility, the Board of Education has the authority to:

- Require specific interventions
    - Dissolve the current Council

- **Liability:**

- ✓ SGC members are volunteers and are afforded legal immunity under state (O.C.G.A. 51-1-20(a)) and federal law (42 U.S.C. 14501-14505)

- **Compensation:**

- ✓ All SGC members will serve without compensation



# School Governance Council Elections

# Planning Year Elections (2013-14)

- Elections for parent/guardian and teacher positions to be held **November 13 – November 19, 2013**
- Central administration will coordinate SGC elections
- Voters will vote via an online election system – anonymous, secure voting
- Election ballots will be linked to your school's webpage and the district webpage



# Sample Voting Ballot



Where Students Come First

Signed in as 1200 · Sign-out · Poll Menu · Contact  
English · 한국어 · Español

## 2012 School Governance Council Elections

The School Governance Council has 3 parent/guardian representatives. The inaugural School Governance Council will have one parent/guardian representative serving a 1-year term and two parent/guardian representatives serving 2-year terms.

### 2012 Abbotts Hill Parent/Guardian Representatives Election

#### Parent/Guardian Representative – 1-Year Term (through June 30, 2014)

Select one checkbox

- Mickey Rooney CANDIDATE STATEMENT
- Redd Foxx CANDIDATE STATEMENT
- Arnold Palmer CANDIDATE STATEMENT
- Abstain

#### Parent/Guardian Representatives – 2-Year Term (through June 30, 2015)

Select up to two checkboxes

- Jim Snide CANDIDATE STATEMENT
- Alice Walker CANDIDATE STATEMENT
- Henry Miller CANDIDATE STATEMENT
- Abstain

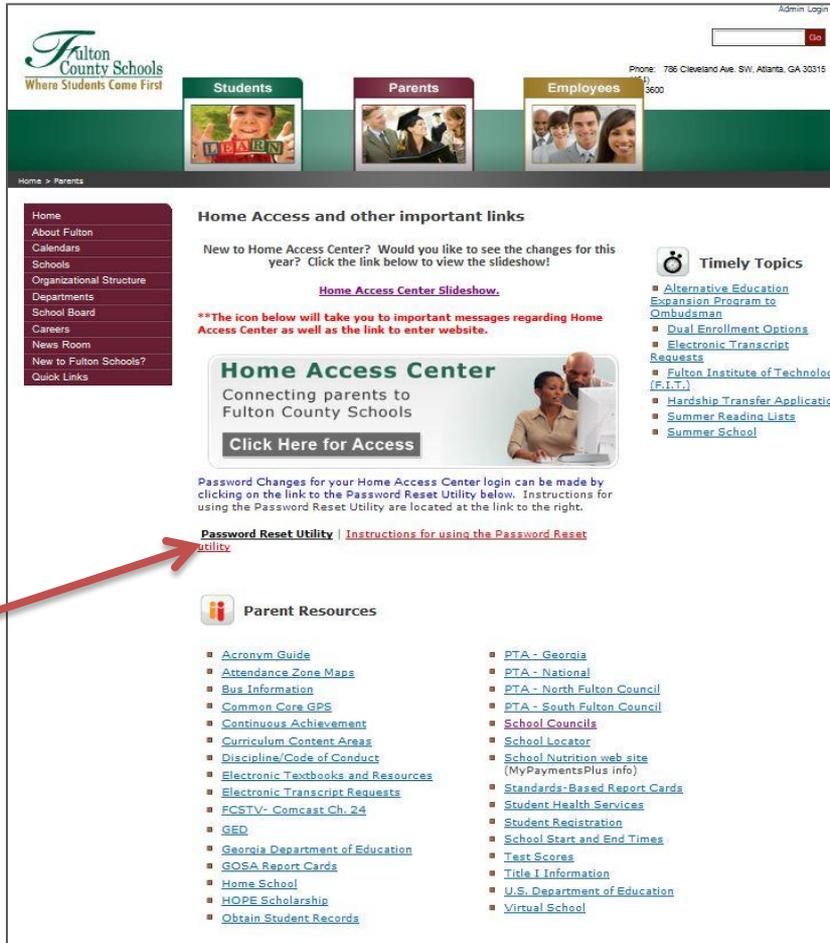
You have not yet voted in this poll  
Open time: Thursday 11 October 2012 10:00 EDT  
Close time: Wednesday 31 October 2012 18:19 EDT

Submit Vote

Anonymous settings Δ1 · Restricted access voting · Votes can be revised ten times · Page visible to authorized people only

- ✓ Click link on school (or district) website
- ✓ Insert HAC ID and password to access voting ballot
- ✓ Vote for one 1-year representative
- ✓ Select two options to vote for two 2-year representatives

# Home Access Codes



- ✓ Each parent/guardian must use their own HAC id and password to vote
- ✓ To get HAC id and password, go to your school and present valid identification
- ✓ Go to district website ("Parents" page) and sign up for HAC "Password Reset Utility" to avoid access issues during voting period

[portal.fultonschools.org/parents](http://portal.fultonschools.org/parents)

# Who can Vote in SGC Elections?

## Parent/Guardian

Any individual on record as a parent/guardian of a student attending a Cohort 2 school may vote in the election of the Parent/Guardian SGC members

- Home Access Codes
- 1 vote per parent/guardian for each school at which they have a child

## School Employee

Any school-based employee with a Cohort 2 school as their “home” school is eligible to vote of the SGC teacher members

- FCS employee login ID
- 1 vote per employee

# Candidate Declaration

**Declaration Period: Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**

		<p align="center"><b>School Governance Council</b>  <b>Parent/Guardian Candidacy Declaration Form</b>  <b>PLEASE SUBMIT BY OCTOBER 15, 2013</b></p>	
<b>SECTION I - NAME &amp; CONTACT INFORMATION</b>			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Address:			
City:		State:	ZIP Code:
Email address:		Best phone contact:	
Is this phone number: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Cellular			
<b>SECTION II - SCHOOL, STUDENT &amp; TERM INFORMATION</b>			
Please select the school in which you are interested in running for an SGC position (you must have a child enrolled at this school):			
Select your school			
I am the parent/legal guardian of (student[s] who attends the above referenced school):			
In order to serve on the School Governance Council in a "Parent" position, you may not be an employee of the school or be an elected official.			
I am an employee of the above referenced school:		I am an elected official:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Typically all "parent" terms will be two-years in length, however during the "planning year" there will be one 1-year and two 2-year term options in order to establish a staggered rotation of parent SGC members.			
I wish to run for a (select ONE):			
<input type="checkbox"/> One-year term (through June 30, 2015)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Two-year term (through June 30, 2016)			
<i>Note: If your child will be completing his or her studies at your school during the 2014-2015 school year, a one year term may be optimal.</i>			
<b>SECTION III - CRIMINAL BACKGROUND PRELIMINARY SCREENING</b>			
Each of the following questions must be answered with a "yes" or "no." If any answer is yes, please provide a brief explanation below.			
Have you ever been found guilty, entered a plea of nolo contendere, been granted first offender treatment without adjudication of guilt, been placed under a court whereby an adjudication or sentence was otherwise withheld for a felony or any misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature, or is any charge currently pending against you of the same nature? (Note: A third DUI conviction raises the offense to a high and aggravated nature.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Have you ever been investigated for allegations of sexual offenses?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Candidates desiring to run for a School Governance Council Candidate Declaration Form and submit to the district office by Oct. 15th.

- ✓ Contact information
- ✓ Select 1 or 2 year term
- ✓ Candidate statement

❖ Forms may be submitted electronically or by mail

- **Candidate Declaration Forms – Due October 15th**
  - **Online**  
(<http://portal.fultonschools.org/CharterSystem/Pages/Cohort2Implementation.aspx>)
    - Select Parent Candidacy Form or Teacher Candidacy Form under “Cohort Elections 2013”
    - Complete form and Click “Submit” button
  - **Mail-in**
    - Pick up hard copy of Candidate form from school (or in the back of the Candidate Guide) and
    - Follow mailing instructions in School Governance Candidate Guide
  - **Candidate eligibility will be confirmed (or denied) within 5 business days of receipt of the form.**

# Elections Timeline

- Information Sessions: Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>
- Candidate Declaration: Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>
- Elections: Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>



# Appointed/Nominated Positions



2 School Employees appointed by Principal  
(~December 2013)



2 Community Members nominated by  
Principal and approved by SGC  
(~December 2013)

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# Visit the Charter System Cohort 2 Website

Admin Login |

Phone: 786 Cleveland Ave. SW, Atlanta, GA 30315

3600

Home > Charter System

Home  
About Fulton  
Calendars  
Schools  
Organizational Structure  
Departments  
School Board  
Careers  
News Room  
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Quick Links

### Fulton's Charter System Implementation

Fulton County Schools' charter system status officially began on July 1, 2012. As a charter system, the district is well positioned to drive system-wide gains in student achievement by unleashing the innovative energies of our local school leaders and their communities. **It is important to note that this designation does not make the school system a system comprised of individual charter schools.**

The Fulton Charter System website will continue to be an important resource for timely updates and other announcements related to the implementation phase, as well as more general information for each of our school communities. We have also maintained all the documents and resources shared during the two-year exploration process on this site.

#### Updates

8.29.13  
Parents/Guardians and teachers in Cohort 2 schools can sign up to run for a position on their school's Governance Council! The candidate declaration period opens **September 3rd**. Any candidate wishing to run for an elected position must complete the [Parent/Guardian Candidacy Declaration form](#) or the [Teacher Candidacy Declaration form](#) and submit to the district office by **October 15th**. Forms that are completed online can be submitted by simply clicking the "Submit" button at the end of the form. Forms are also available in hard-copy at your Cohort 2 school. Forms that are completed in hard-copy must be submitted by following the mailing instructions on the back of the form!

8.29.13  
The 2013-2014 [SGC Candidate Guide](#) is available for parents and teachers interested in running for a position on their Cohort 2 school's Governance Council. The guide includes useful information about candidate eligibility and declaration requirements.

8.11.13  
Next up for Cohort 2 schools are information sessions to be held across the district, in September and October, to prepare parents and school employees for the elections, which will take place in mid-November. The dates and locations for the information sessions will be provided to schools and communities soon!

8.8.13  
In July, 37 Cohort 2 principals participated in an Orientation to the Fulton County Schools charter system. Principals learned about the new governance structure of the system including the important role of School Governance Councils, as well as the elections and appointments processes to establish Councils at their schools. Principals worked together to develop ideas for communicating about the charter system with their communities as well as brainstorm "get out the vote" efforts.

4.19.13  
[Thirty-seven schools](#) have confirmed their participation in Cohort 2 of the charter system. The list includes 18 elementary schools, 13 middle

#### Charter System Cohort Implementation

Cohort 1 Implementation

Cohort 2 Implementation

#### Charter System Quick Links

Charter System Application  
Charter System Summary Paper  
Charter System Presentations  
News: Fulton Granted Charter System Status - May 10, 2012  
Charter System FAQ's  
Cohort 1 Participating Schools  
Cohort 2 Participating Schools  
Related Links and Resources

## Questions?

Contact Tiffany Taylor at  
[tayloriti@fultonschools.org](mailto:tayloriti@fultonschools.org)

or 404.669.4919

[www.fultonschools.org/CharterSystem](http://www.fultonschools.org/CharterSystem)



**Questions?**