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

Fulton County Schools
Where Students Come First

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)

Fulton Charter System Basics

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

Charter System Governance Framework

Fulton County Schools
Where Students Come First

Improving Student Achievement

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

6

Cohort 2 Schools by Learning Community

Northwest *Victor Shandor*	Central *Karen Cox*	Northeast *Will Rumbaugh*	South *Donald Fennoy*
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**
Cohort 2 principal orientation Cohort 2 Community Information Sessions	School Governance Council elections for parents and teachers School Governance Council school employee and community member appointments	Training of School Governance Council members Hold first meeting of full Council	Certified School Governance Councils in place Strategic planning process begins	Approve school Strategic Plan Approve school budget recommendations Submit requests for "earned" flexibility options Feedback on principal performance

School Governance Council (SGC) Highlights

SGC Responsibilities

➢ 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)**

---
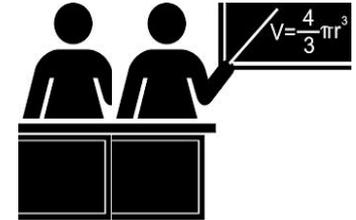
10 Member Council (ES, MS)
12 Member Council (HS)

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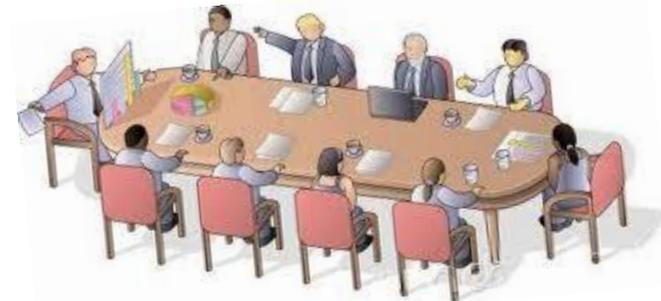
ALL Council Members
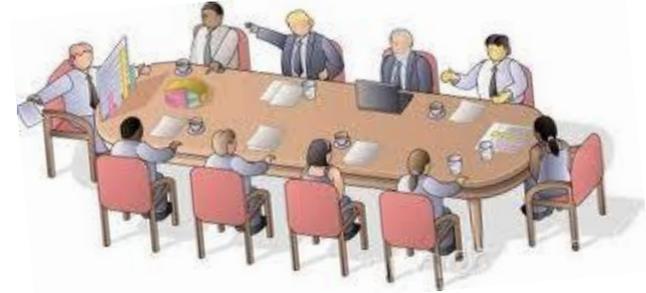
- ✓ May only serve on 1 School Governance Council at a time
- ✓ May NOT be an elected official of a government entity
- ✓ Must be the ONLY member of their family serving on the Council
- ✓ Must be 18 years of age or older (with the exception of high school student members)

SGC Eligibility by Position

Parents/Guardians

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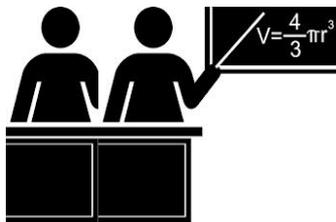
Teachers*

- ✓ 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

*The list of job positions eligible to serve as a Teacher representative is available in the Candidate Guide and on the Charter System website

SGC Eligibility by Position

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)

SGC Terms of Office

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, Liability, and Compensation

- ## 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

- ✓ 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

21

Home Access Codes
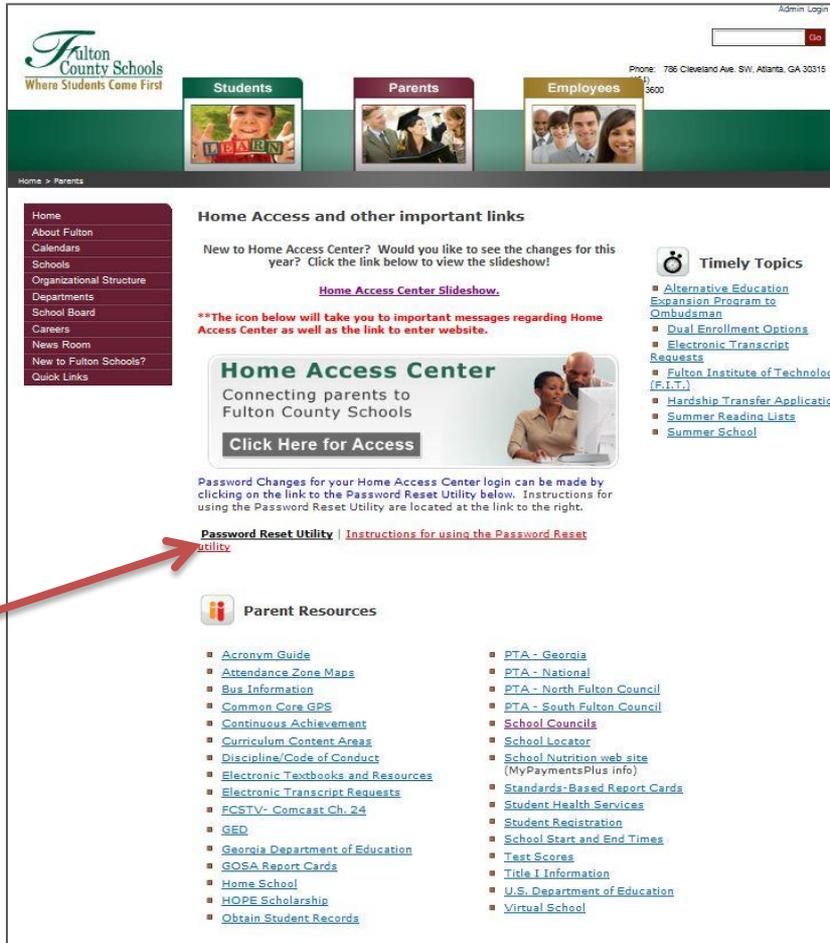
✓ Each parent/guardian must use their own HAC id and password to vote

✓ 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

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

School Employee

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

- Home Access Codes

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

- FCS employee login ID

- 1 vote per employee

23

Declaration Period: Sept. 3rd – Oct. 15th

Candidates desiring to run for a School Governance Council position must complete a 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**

24

Candidate Declaration

- **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. 9th – Sept. 26th

- Candidate Declaration: Sept. 3rd – Oct. 15th

- Elections: Nov. 13th – Nov. 19th

Appointed/Nominated Positions

2 School Employees appointed by Principal (~December 2013)

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

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**
Cohort 2 principal orientation Cohort 2 Community Information Sessions	School Governance Council elections for parents and teachers School Governance Council school employee and community member appointments	Training of School Governance Council members Hold first meeting of full Council	Certified School Governance Councils in place Strategic planning process begins	Approve school Strategic Plan Approve school budget recommendations Submit requests for "earned" flexibility options Feedback on principal performance

Visit the Charter System Cohort 2 Website

Questions?

Contact Tiffany Taylor at
taylorti@fultonschools.org
or 404.669.4919

www.fultonschools.org/CharterSystem

Questions?