Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 19, 2026	Recognition Item 2

Title

Georgia School Bell Award Winner-Free Home ES

Requested Action

School Board Recognition of Georgia School Bell Award Winner-Free Home ES

Summary Explanation and Background

Free Home Elementary School won the prestigious 2026 School Bell Award from the Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals, which is presented to no more than 10 schools each year in recognition of outstanding curriculum and organizational leadership initiatives.

Free Home ES, led by Principal Julie Peppers, earned the award for its Student-Led Conferences initiative to increase student ownership of learning and improve the quality of communication between the school and its families.

The school held student-led conferences twice last school year: a fall “Dine and Data” after-school event and a spring “Donuts and Data” conference day with sessions during the school day.

Principal Peppers said the initiative led to more independent students who understand their own learning progress and clearer communication between families and schools.

The school surveyed families and teachers to evaluate the initiative's success, with more than 90% of parents expressing satisfaction with the conferences. Teacher feedback indicated rising satisfaction with the conferences, reaching 95% in the spring, with 100% of students rated by their teachers as very engaged.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

N/A

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

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