

Superintendent Evaluation 2006 – 2007

The Gainesville City Board of Education is proud of the progress our system has made over the last six years under the leadership of Dr. Steven Ballowe. He has been a strong leader in education for the state of Georgia by implementing a “Dare to Share” initiative that encourages systems across the state to share best practices and lesson plans as we unpack the new Georgia Performance Standards. Dr. Ballowe was also instrumental in assisting Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle draft “Charter School Systems” legislation, which was passed by the General Assembly this year. The Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia School Board Association have links on their prospective websites for our “Dare to Share” initiative and our “M.A.G.I.C.” program. Dr. Ballowe has been a good steward of our taxpayers’ resources. There has not been a millage rate increase from the Gainesville City Board of Education in the six years that Dr. Ballowe has been the superintendent.

The Superintendent’s evaluation is a part of the Gainesville City Board of Education’s governance model. The evaluation is based on a pre-determined set of performance objectives the Board and Superintendent have mutually agreed upon prior to the school year. Each objective is weighted by the Board on a scale of one to five. Throughout the year the Board receives written and oral reports on each objective. The final superintendent’s evaluation is a compilation of all the information received. Dr. Ballowe’s evaluation score for the 2006-07 year is 4.41 on a scale of five.

Strengths:

We noted several areas of outstanding performance including:

- Increased test scores at the elementary level
- Improved high school graduation rate above both the state and national norm
- Increase in number of students taking Carnegie courses at Gainesville Middle School and an improvement in the diversity of the students in Carnegie courses
- The early passage of a SPLOST allowed an early start to the building of a new GMS, saving the school system five million dollars

Opportunities for growth:

We noted several opportunities for continued growth for the upcoming year:

- Improved test scores at GMS and an articulation plan between GMS and GHS
- Improvements in the reporting from both the finance and personnel departments
- Hold practice drills for all our schools in lock down and evacuation procedures
- Insure that every student at GMS and GHS has a yearly meeting with the guidance counselors

We congratulate Dr. Ballowe on another successful year and we look forward to working with him to meet the challenge of educating all our students.