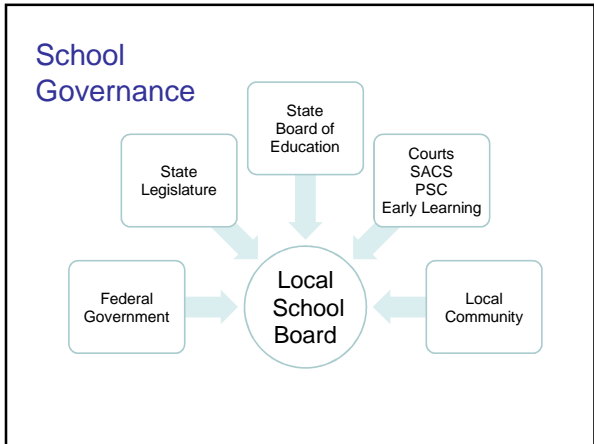


Who is the Voice for Your Child?

Advocating for children at the local school level

- ## What we will cover...
- Role of the Superintendent and School Board
 - How to impact school board decisions
 - Advocating for your child within the school
 - City and County Government Roles



Federal Government

- No Child Left Behind – standardized testing, highly qualified teachers
- IDEA – rules and regulations for special education students
- Title I – funding for high-poverty schools
- Federal Lunch Program –Free/Reduced Lunch, School Wellness Policy, nutrition guidelines

State Legislature

- K-12 funding (QBE formula, categorical)
- Pre-K and HOPE (lottery), Regents
- Taxation
- No Social Promotion
- Class Size
- Charter Schools & Systems, Vouchers
- Gun issues, Teen Drivers

State Board of Education

- Curriculum – Common Core Georgia Performance Standards
- Graduation Requirements
- Statewide Testing (CRCT, EOCT, GHSGT)
- Maximum class size
- Laws adopted by State Legislature

Other

- Courts - Desegregation orders
- SACS Accreditation (AdvancEd)
- PSC (Professional Standards Commission) - teacher certification
- Ga. Dept of Early Care and Learning
- Local Community - other programs in schools, attendance zones, textbooks, class size, local budget

School Board Role - Leadership

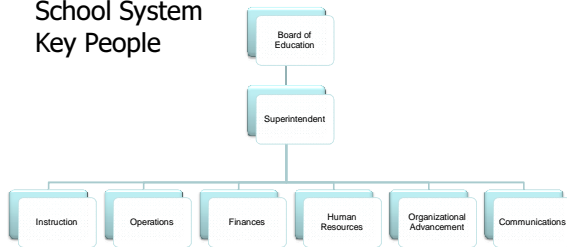
- Hiring and evaluating the superintendent
- Long-range strategic planning
- Curriculum - standards beyond state GPS
- Instruction - How is the curriculum delivered? What materials/textbooks?
- Local assessment program - norm-reference tests, common assessments

- Alignment of resources - includes budget preparation, personnel
- Collaboration with all stakeholders
- Accountability and Continuous Improvement - using data to assess progress and adjusting as needed

Other School Board functions

- Hire employees as recommended
- Establishing policies needed for governing
- Approve local budget and levy millage
- School system property (capital plan, maintenance, sale, etc)
- Adopting a plan for assigning students
- School calendar

School System Key People



Do you know the answers?

- Who are the members of our school board and how are they elected?
- What is the system's organization chart?
- What opportunities are there for parental involvement in system/school decisions? (including curriculum, programs and budget)

Do You Know the Answers?


- What are the long-range goals of the system/school?
- Where can I find current and proposed school board policies?
- What is the budget process?
- When are school board meetings, how can I find the agenda, can I speak?

Simple Things that Build Relationships

- Introduce yourself
- Include school board members in PTA meetings and communications
- Attend school board meetings
- Express interest in participating in committees/task forces
- Provide positive and constructive comments on issues


Tips for Emails

- Keep it short – state what you want to happen in the first paragraph
- Include contact info and school(s)
- Personal experiences are effective
- Don't scream, insult or threaten
- Consider that the information you have might not be accurate




Coalition Building on Issues

- School Councils
- Your PTA membership
- Other PTAs
- Students
- Other advocacy groups



Advocating for your Child

- The first point of contact for a student matter is usually the teacher
- If not satisfied, find out the next level of contact (AP, Principal, Dept staff)
- Your school board member can help identify the next contact person and the issues resolution process



Examples of Concerns

- Bullying/ Discipline
- Classroom assignments and grading
- Student Placement
- Attitude and teaching style of teacher
- Materials used in class
- Classroom environment

Role of City and County Government

- Children's health – immunizations, clinics, etc.
- Underage drinking and drug abuse
- After-school programs
- Housing – emergency and transitional
- Workforce development

Questions

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