Walton School Council Cluster Meeting  
February 27, 2018  
7:30 am – 8:30 am | Information Center

School Councils Present: Walton, Dickerson, East Side, Murdock, Timber Ridge, Shallowford Falls, Mt. Bethel

Guest Speakers: Scott Sweeney & Irene Barton

I. LOCAL SCHOOL UPDATES: Schools shared initiatives and information regarding areas of focus in the 2017-18 school year.

Walton High School
- Excited about new building
- Facilities opening and creating processes and procedures

East Side Elementary School
- Communication
- Learning Commons is up and running
- STEM
- Technology use and hands-on in ASP

Shallowford Falls Elementary School
- Professional Learning Communities implementation
- Data collection and working as data teams
- Vertical teaming

Timber Ridge Elementary School
- Back to the basics
- Implementing high caliber strongly effective instruction
- Moving toward Artisan Teacher – Mike Rutheford
- Meeting student needs while adding innovation
- Standards-based grading

Mt. Bethel Elementary
- Literacy through training in Lucy Calkins’ Readers and Writers Workshop Model
- Orton-Gillingham K-5
- New turf field

Dickerson
- PLC process refinement
- Goal = plan and teach
- School Council focusing on communication with community
- Celebrating achievements
II. GUEST SPEAKER: Scott Sweeney – Board Member

- School safety is a priority. The February 15th CCSD Board Meeting had a strong focus on safety. [WATCH THE BOARD MEETING]
  - CCSD has largest police force of any district in Georgia.
  - Alert Point is in process of rolling out. Alert Point is a system that allows every staff member to initiate a code red by pushing a button. Immediate communication to Cobb Schools Police and Cobb County Police.

- General Assembly in session.
  - Threats to public education
  - Diversion of funds

- $167million in austerity cuts expected this year
- Clout of education community is powerful. Don’t hesitate to advocate.

II. GUEST SPEAKER: Irene Barton – Updates from Legislature & Advocacy

- [ANALYSIS OF GEORGIA'S PROPOSED EDUCATION BUDGET BY THE GEORGIA BUDGET & POLICY INSTITUTE]
- This is an increase in the dollar amount over last year, but includes items that are more costly than previous years.
  - increased enrollment
  - increased Medicaid
  - shoring up TRS
  - $23M for health & foster care
  - Austerity cuts ($167m) still in budget
  - Since 2003, austerity cuts have provided education $9B in funding shortfalls

- Bills to Watch
  - HB 743 – Cardiac Arrest Prevention Bill (being aware of signs of cardiac arrest)
  - HB 673 - Distracted Driver. Sponsored by John Carson, Cobb Delegation. PTA has a statement position on distracted driving.
    - Link to PTA Resolution on DISTRACTED DRIVING
  - HB 781 - Sales & Use Tax – Revision of Tax for Education Purposes. Could change some of procedures for spending SPLOST dollars and allow for use for maintenance and operations.
    - This could impact public education $23M-$69M by year 4 if it passes
  - HB 918 – Revenue & Taxation. Federal tax revision put a larger burden on individuals in several states.
    - Delta Fuel Tax included
  - SB 362 – Establishment Innovative Assessment Pilot Program. Testing & Required testing. Districts could drop some required testing and replace with better student assessment. Sponsored by Lindsey Tippins.
  - PTA Position Statements:
    - Link to PTA FIREARMS position statement
    - Link to PTA GUN SAFETY and VIOLENCE PREVENTION position statement