

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 672](#) – Speed Detection Devices. Ability for school personnel use speed detection devices near a school. Spurred by loss of Cobb crossing guard.
 - [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.
 - [HB 482](#) - Georgia Education Scholarship Bill. Voucher bill: Education Savings Account. Redirect state money from public education to fund private education. Introduces new cost to state.
 - 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