



**Georgia Council on Literacy
Executive Committee Meeting
June 7, 2024
Minutes**

Attendance:

Executive Committee: Chairman Scott Johnson, Sen. Billy Hickman, Rep. Chris Erwin, Andri Pilgrim, Dr. Stan DeJarnett

Council Staff: Joy Hawkins, Sarah Richards, Ann Rosenthal, Irene Munn

Guests: Dayle Burns; Lindsay McVicar, Senate Budget Office; Richard Smith, First District RESA; and Dr. Juli Alligood, Middle Georgia RESA

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by Chairman Scott Johnson. All five executive committee members were in attendance.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rep. Chris Erwin, second by Andri Pilgrim.

Chairman Johnson moved into the following agenda items:

- I. Introduction of Georgia's Literacy Coach, Sarah Richards

Sarah Richards provided a brief introduction of her background and informed the Executive Committee that she begins this position July 1.

- II. Universal Reading Screeners, Lindee Morgan, Executive Director, Sandra Dunagan Deal Center, presented the proposal for analysis of no more than five screeners and will lead the process to meet the requirements of SB 464.

- a. **Action required by Executive Committee pursuant to SB 464 – Request that the Deal Center select no more than five universal screeners, one of which shall be free to schools and school districts.**

At the request of Chairman Johnson, Dr. Morgan provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Andri Pilgrim asked for an amendment to the proposal that adds the following language: "The application will require that individuals with a track record of success in improving reading achievement at the district or school level can provide evidence as such."

Rep. Chris Erwin made a motion to accept the amendment and adopt this proposal. Sen. Hickman provided a second to the motion.

Prior to the vote, the Executive Committee discussed the new authority of the committee provided for by SB 464. Georgia Code Section 20-1-43(b)(1) and (2) states as follows:

From among the members provided for in Code Section 20-1-42, five shall be designated as an executive committee of voting members of the council as follows:

- (A) One designated by the Governor;
 - (B) One designated by the President of the Senate;
 - (C) One designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (D) The member who is the representative of the State Board of Education appointed by the Governor as provided in subparagraph (a)(1)(C) of Code Section 20-1-42; and
 - (E) The chairperson of the council, who will serve as the chairperson of such executive committee.
- (2) A quorum for transacting business of the council shall be a majority of the voting members of the council provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

The Georgia General Assembly enacted the above provision as a way for the Council to make business decisions that can move the Council's work forward. With this meeting being the first of the executive council, there were questions about how the full Council will be involved and informed in the future. The Executive Committee members emphasized the importance of the entire Council's work, the working group recommendations, and communication. The time-sensitive nature of these actions was noted, and members also noted the need to get these Executive Committee actions to the entire Council soon.

The motion to approve the Deal Center proposal passed by unanimous consent.

- III. Literacy Coach Program Proposal and Budget recommendations, Richard Smith, Director, First District RESA, and Dr. Juli Alligood, Executive Director, Middle Georgia RESA
 - a. **Action Required by Executive Committee pursuant to Gov. FY 25 Budget Instructions: RESAs' literacy initiatives funded through this program are aligned with the recommendations of the Georgia Literacy Council to maintain consistency statewide in addressing student literacy needs.**

At the request of Chairman Johnson, First District RESA Director Richard Smith provided a brief overview of the proposal.

Dr. Stan DeJarnet made a motion to accept the amendment and adopt this proposal. Sen. Hickman provided a second to the motion.

Members discussed the proposal and there was a request to amend it to include the importance of appropriate data collection by the literacy coaches and support for local school data driven decision making. Andri Pilgrim asked for the following amendment to be included in the recommendations: "State data collection of all relevant data will be reported out in the annual report headed by the RESAs and disseminated as regularly as possible throughout the year." This amendment was included in the proposal without objection.

The motion to approve the RESA Literacy Coach Program proposal passed by unanimous consent.

- IV. Georgia Reads Campaign, Irene Munn
- Chairman Johnson asked Irene Munn to provide an update on the upcoming Georgia Reads Campaign announcement at the June 24th Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Convention. Irene informed the Committee that Speaker and Mrs. Burns, Sen. Hickman and Georgia Reads Coach

Malcom Mitchell will attend and announce the Council's Georgia Reads Campaign in partnership with GMA. The Executive Committee and Council members are invited to attend this event at 8:30 a.m. at the Savannah Convention Center.

There was no further business for the committee and Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3 PM.