



Georgia College and State University
August 26, 2024

Meeting Minutes

NOTE: All Council presentations and handouts can be found at [here](#).

President Cathy Cox provided a warm welcome and thanked Council members for choosing Georgia College and State University for their August meeting.

Chairman Scott Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Johnson recognized elected officials and special guests in attendance. Council members in person and virtually introduced themselves.

Monica Flamini and Shuyang Wang, researchers with the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, provided a state literacy data review.

Dr. Dana Rickman, Executive Director for the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, facilitated a superintendents' panel discussion on district-level data with Bubba Longgrear, Superintendent, Candler County Schools, Noris Price, Superintendent, Baldwin County Schools, and Yancy Ford, Superintendent, Effingham County Schools.

Amy Denty, Literacy Director for the Georgia Department of Education, provided an update on the implementation of HB 538, the Early Literacy Act.

Sid Prasanna, Ellie Vachtsevanos, and Blaise Maddox, students at Georgia Tech, presented Georgia literacy facts and data.

Dr. Nik Philmon with GaDOE and Julie Alligood and Richard Smith, RESA Directors, presented on the literacy coach programs.

Dr. Lindee Morgan, Executive Director, Sandra Dunagan Deal Center, provided an update on the selection of not more than five universal screeners. The Council's executive committee voted in June to work with the Deal Center for analysis of the screeners and recommended screeners pursuant to SB 464.

Sarah Richards, Georgia's Literacy Coach, gave an update on the Georgia Literacy Plan and Working Groups.

Irene Munn provided an update on Georgia Reads Day, September 30, 2024, at the Football Hall of Fame. Malcolm Mitchell will lead a Reading Rally that Georgia Public Broadcasting will livestream so that all students can attend. Governor Brian Kemp and Mrs. Kemp are confirmed to participate in the event.

Public Comment:

Sucheta Kamath, explained how executive function impacts literacy outcomes for children. She emphasized the importance of cognitive abilities like goal-directed persistence, inhibition, working memory, and cognitive flexibility in literacy development. Kamath also addressed the challenges of testing and the concept of distal versus proximal learning.

Rep. Lisa Campbell emphasized the need for strategic planning in early learning and childcare. She also discussed the importance of addressing poverty-related issues and the need for increased funding for curriculum, technology, and teacher salaries.

Ms. Felice Atkinson shared personal experiences as a teacher and the progress teachers can make in educational outcomes.

Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:25