

Jasper County School System
Charter System Overview
Q & A
for
Stakeholders
Spring /Summer 2015



MIKE NEWTON,
ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT
JASPER COUNTY
SCHOOLS
MONTICELLO, GA

OUR Vision



“The vision of Jasper County Schools is to provide committed staff, supportive environments, and high standards to achieve academic growth and success.”



OUR Mission and Core Beliefs



MISSION STATEMENT

The responsibility of the Jasper County School System is to graduate all our students prepared for future opportunities.

CORE BELIEFS

- All students can learn.
- Students should be challenged with a rigorous and relevant curriculum.
- Visionary leadership is essential to continuous improvement.
- Employing and retaining quality personnel and providing opportunities for their professional growth is essential to system effectiveness.
- Decision-making is data driven.
- Creating a caring culture is key to engaging all learners.
- Everyone takes personal responsibility for achieving targeted results.
- It is the responsibility of the system to engage all stakeholders in the educational process.
- It is the responsibility of the system to be a good steward of resources.

Where are we?



Are we here?



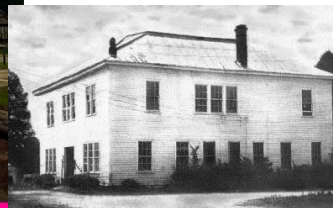
OR here?



Jasper County~



**SOUTHERN
CRESCENT**
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



“A welcoming community, Jasper County works collaboratively to provide a superior education, managed development and exceptional outdoor activities.”



~Jasper County Charter School System~



What is a Charter System?



Definition

- A local district has a performance contract with the SBOE granting it all allowable waivers from Title 20 provisions, SBOE rules, and GaDOE guidelines.
- Although charter systems are granted a broad flexibility waiver, the application requires a list of waivers the district needs to implement its strategic plan.

Facts and Features

- The performance contract is between the District and the SBOE.
- The District gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability.
- There is a distributed leadership process- including local school governance councils for each school.

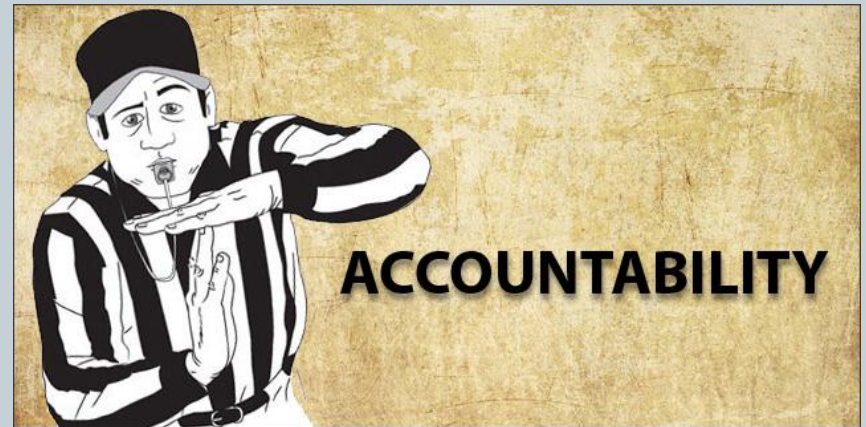
Advantages...



- Flexibility to innovate
 - Financial savings from waivers
 - Additional per-pupil funding in QBE IF appropriated.
 - School level Governance
- =New and exciting initiatives like STEAM, non-graded, seat time, etc.
 - =Flexible pay schedules for NEW employees
 - =Not counting on this...but the status may make us eligible for more state and federal grants!
 - =Increased ownership, buy in and accountability at the school level.

Consequences/Accountability

- Probationary status
- Early termination or nonrenewal of the performance contract.



Facts and Figures as of December 2014

- There were 28 Charter Systems in Georgia.
- There were 22 letters of intent for Charter System Status



How did we arrive at the decision to become a Charter System?



- Several years ago, the Georgia Legislature passed a law that required school systems to make one of the following decisions: IE2, Charter System, System of Charter Schools, or Status Quo.
- ALL school systems must make a declaration/decision by June 30, 2015.
- Jasper County Schools: Dr. Newton reviewed and studied all flexibility options with the BOE, CCT, and various advisory groups during the FY13-14 school year.
- During the summer and fall of 2014, a community conversation and various focus groups met to discuss the future direction of Jasper County Schools.
- During the fall of 2014, the GaDOE revised some of the accountability option details.
- Fall 2014: Dr. Newton attended several DOE updates at RESA and at several conferences.
- Dr. Newton, Ms. Edge, Ms. Burrell, and Dr. Fendley attended a Charter System workshop in January 2015.
- Dr. Newton reviewed the flexibility changes with the Board.
- Dr. Newton recommended the Board choose the Charter System option in February 2015.

What are the next steps in the Charter System process?



- The District Leadership Teams (CCT, BST) will meet this summer (July 22-23) to develop a comprehensive framework for our charter (i.e. Revamp the District CIP).
- Board of Education and other community stakeholders will be included in this summer planning meeting.
- FY 15-16: The CCT will work in collaboration with BSTs and School Councils to complete a comprehensive district strategic plan that includes the required Charter System Components.
- The plan will also include Jasper County's signature focus that is aligned with OUR vision and mission (which will likely be revised).
- We hope to align the new Charter System Plan with our AdvancEd renewal.



Questions to consider as we redesign....

- What is our district's strategic plan?
- What are our areas of needed improvement?
- What evidence exists that these areas are challenges for your district?
- What actions will your district take to address these challenges?
- What research do you have that these actions will be effective?
- What Georgia laws or DOE rules will you need to waive in order to implement your actions?
- What is the timeline for your actions?



Your Questions????

