



## GCSA Weekly Update

**Dear Jeniffer,**

Leading up to the annual conference, we will be sending out weekly updates, to keep you abreast of all conference related news in addition to current news in the Georgia Charter sector.

### Ian Jukes

Keynote Speaker on January 25th  
Georgia Charter Schools Association 6th Annual  
Conference

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**Ian Jukes** has been a teacher, an administrator, writer, consultant, university instructor and keynote speaker. As the Director of the InfoSavvy Group, an international consulting group that provides leadership and program development in the areas of assessment and evaluation, strategic alignment, curriculum design and publication, professional development, planning, change management, hardware and software acquisition, information services, customized research, media services, and on-line training as well as conference keynotes and workshop presentations. Over the course of the past 10 years, Ian has worked with clients in more than 40 countries and made more than 7,000 presentations typically speaking to between 300,000 and 350,000 people a years. Recently Consulting Magazine Online named him one of the top ten educational speakers in America.

Ian has written six books, 9 educational series and had more than 100 articles published in various journals. Ian is also the publisher of an on-line electronic newsletter, the Committed Sardine Blog, which is electronically distributed to almost 60,000 people in 60 plus countries.

He is also the creator and co-developer of TechWorks, the internationally successful K-8 technology framework; and was the catalyst of the NetSavvy and InfoSavvy information literacy series; he has been a Contributing Editor for several journals and magazines. His two most recently published books are *Net.Savvy: Building Information Literacy for the Classroom*, co-authored with Anita Dosaj and Bruce Macdonald, and *Windows on the Future*, co-authored with Ted McCain. Corwin Press publishes both books. He is currently working on 3 books - a 2nd edition of *Windows on the Future*, a book on Understanding Digital Kids and another on Designing Schools of the Future.

Ian has also been working for several years with architectural firms to help facilitate planning new learning environments by taking the groups through a visioning process to help them align the thinking of the community (school board, administration, parents, students, community) about what new facilities should look like and how its



design should align with the learning and instructional intentions of the school/district.

He also works with organizations and communities that have lost their market or economic base and wish to explore possibilities for preferred economic futures.

But Ian is an educator first and foremost. His focus has consistently been on the compelling need to restructure our educational institutions so that they become relevant to the current and future needs of children. His rambunctious, irreverent and highly charged presentations and articles emphasize many of the practical issues related to ensuring that change is meaningful. As a registered educational evangelist, his self-avowed mission in life is to ensure that children are properly prepared for the future rather than society's past. As a result, his material tends to focus on many of the pragmatic issues that provide the essential context for educational restructuring.

## Remember...

The 6th Annual Georgia Charter Schools Conference will be held January 24-26, 2008 at the Marietta Conference Center & Resort in Marietta Georgia.

For Online Registration and Hotel Reservations: [Conference Registration](#)

## Georgia House of Representatives, Charter School Sub-Committee Hearing on Friday, November 30, 2007 Regarding HB 881

The Georgia House Education Subcommittee on Charter Schools had its third and final hearing on Friday, November 20, 2007, to hear public comment on HB 881. HB 881, authored and sponsored by Jan Jones, provides for an Alternate Authorizer for Charter Schools. The hearing room was literally packed with those speaking for or against the bill as well as interested observers.

Rep. Setzler is no longer promoting passage of his earlier "Multiple Authorizer" bill and is publicly supporting HB 881 as witnessed on last Friday in his repeated defense of the bill and with his "hard questions" to those who spoke against the bill.

In its current form, HB 881 calls for a single statewide Commission which would be the Alternate Authorizer. The Commission would be operated by the State and staffed either with existing personnel or newly hired staff. The current Charter Advisory Commission would be revamped to become the Charter Authorizer Commission. The role of the State Board of Education would be that they could veto a charter school authorized by the State Commission only with a 2/3 vote. But, their role would not be a routine evaluation of or action on all petitions.

Full funding (both state and an amount equal to the respective local funds) would be assured by the Commission being the conduit of those funds to the Commission charter schools. The funding model first offered by Ed Setzler has been incorporated into HB 881 for both constitutional and operational (practical) reasons as well as to unify the provisions of the bill which will be considered in the House with that which Senator Dan Weber will introduce in the Senate. Weber strongly urges this manner of funding. Under this scheme, the State would withhold state funds from local districts based on enrollment levels in Commission charter schools operating within those districts. This would allow paying state funds along with an amount equal to the local funds to Commission charter schools.

As expected, several district representatives spoke against HB 881. Apparently, each of them had gotten their information about the bill from a single (erroneous) source as they all were misinformed about the particulars of the bill. For example, each witness from the School Districts offered their opposition to "multiple authorizers." Rep. Jan Jones and Ed Setzler repeatedly corrected each of those after their testimony explaining the bill calls for only one alternate authorizer.

According to House Education Chair Brooks Coleman, HB 881 will be introduced in the House on the first week of the legislative session. From our point of view, the bill has good momentum and growing support for passage.

Jeniffer Collins  
Georgia Charter Schools Association

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