

From: Jan Jones janjones38@bellsouth.net 

Subject: HB 881 to be voted on Tuesday

Date: January 12, 2008 at 4:01 PM

To: Vinson, Benjamin bvinson@mckennalong.com, Kara Hornung kara@edreform.com, troberts@gacharters.org, Andrew Lewis alewis@gacharters.org, Mark Weaver mark@communicationscounsel.com, Samuel Casey Carter samuelcaseycarter@verizon.net, Jeanne Allen jra@edreform.com

Cc: Tanenblatt, Eric etanenblatt@mckennalong.com, Moore, Bo bmoore@mckennalong.com, Andrew Broy ABroy@doe.k12.ga.us, Gold, Lawrence lmgold@carltonfields.com

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Brooks Coleman and Edward Lindsey intend to move the bill out of subcommittee the second day of session. I received the announcement Friday. It is pasted in below. It will not be a public hearing but the meeting will be public.

Edward and I will be canvassing the subcommittee members Monday to make sure we have the vote prior to Tuesday.

We will be able to make further tweaks to the bill's language prior to the committee meeting through a committee substitute, if needed. Also, I expect changes in the senate. They won't leave it as is even if it's perfect. That will mean the final version will be perfected in conference committee. That also gives us some time to scrutinize the language and make sure it's the way we want it.

I don't have the latest version. Betsy Howerton is supposed to have it for Andrew Broy and me on Monday morning. We'll review it Monday right after my caucus meeting.

The full funding and independent commission aspects remain. There were a couple of other minor, nonsubstantive changes since the last version.

I meet with the Governor on Thursday at 2 p.m. at his request to discuss the bill. I'll let you know how that goes. Maybe it's a good thing that will occur (per his scheduling) after it moves out of subcommittee.

Also, supposedly a key Democrat, Kathy Ashe, is on board. Not counting on it, but it would be helpful as a contrast to the Republicans that I know will oppose it (because of concerns over loss of "local control" and from the perspective as former school board members, teachers, superintendent).

I'll see some of you Sunday on the circuit of pre-session events. I have a chairman's dinner later that night and will touch base with some key folks, including the Rules chairman, majority leader and such, to make sure they're ready to move quickly.

The earlier we can get it on the floor the better. The water, tax reform, gun, Sunday sales, and other major legislation could gum things up as soon as they get legs. Additionally, except for the Lt. Governor's concerns, the senate should be more favorably inclined than the house.

Brooks Coleman has committed again to NOT move the flexibility bill for school systems until this bill passes. That gives us enormous leverage, or at least it should.

I apologize for being out of pocket the last day or so. I had an unexpected funeral for a young friend of my son's and a dental semi-emergency that I had to get taken care of before session. And the tax reform committee hearings on the GREAT plan and Appropriations meetings are crowding out everything else. That won't change for me or a number of other chairmen as session convenes, so I want to get this moving ASAP.

I'm more optimistic about this legislation than I've been at any time in the process and completely due to all of your efforts. Thanks for your support and help.

I still have 3 p.m. scheduled at the Appropriations conference room to review the polling and focus results.

Jan

To: Charter Schools Subcommittee Members

FROM: Chairman Edward Lindsey

Representative Edward Lindsey, Chairman of the Charter Schools Subcommittee of the House Education Committee has called a meeting for Tuesday, January 15, 2008. We will be meeting in room 406 CLOB at 4:00 p.m.

The subcommittee will be discussing and voting on House Bill 881. Discussion will be limited to committee members only.

Please be prompt for this meeting.

Janet Jenkins

Administrative Assistant

House Education Committee

Brooks Coleman, Chairman

Fran Millar, Vice-Chairman

Office 404-656-9210

FAX 404-656-5070

Email: janet.jenkins@house.ga.gov