

**Georgia School Superintendents Association**  
**Spring Bootstrap Conference**  
**April 20-21, 2022**  
**Marriott Savannah Riverfront**  
**Savannah, GA**

***Turning the Page to New Beginnings***

**Tuesday, April 19**

- 12:00 p.m.    **Superintendent Induction Program - Plaza**
- 5:00 p.m.    **First District RESA Board of Control Meeting – Oglethorpe AB**
- 5:30 p.m.    **GSSA Board of Directors Dinner – Academy**
- 6:30 p.m.    **GSSA Board of Directors Meeting – Plaza**
- 7:30 p.m.    **Platinum & Gold Welcome Reception – Atrium**

GSSA's Platinum and Gold sponsors are sponsoring this event that will start at 7:30 pm in the Atrium of the Savannah Marriott Riverfront to kick start the start the conference. In the past, many of our members have indicated the need for opportunities to network, collaborate, and socialize with colleagues. Having gone through the inevitable and varied experiences of the superintendency, opportunities to have dialog, problem-solving, and commiserate are typically highly valued by superintendents and educational leaders at every level. At this event, you will have the opportunity to meet with our new superintendents, other Georgia superintendents, GSSA staff, some of the speakers for our conference, and national educational leaders, in a relaxed and informal setting. We hope that you will plan to attend so you don't miss out on the refreshments, deserts, the music, and the fellowship with your colleagues.

**Wednesday, April 20**

- 7:30 a.m.    **Southwest GA RESA – Oglethorpe AB**
- 8:00 a.m.    **REGISTRATIONS OPENS**
- 8:00 a.m.    **CSRA RESA – Pulaski**
- 8:30 a.m.    **West Georgia RESA – Forsyth**
- 9:00 a.m.    **Pioneer RESA – Franklin**

## **General session I: *Savannah Ballroom AB***

### **10:00 a.m. Welcome**

GSSA President Rob Brown and Superintendent of Savannah-Chatham County Schools Dr. Ann Levett welcomes members and guests to the conference and recognizes sponsors and other special guests.

### **10:15 a.m. Governor Brian Kemp Message**

### **10:30 a.m. Dr. Curtis Jones: Building Trust**

Dr. Curtis Jones Jr., a passionate educator dedicated to developing students as scholars, leaders and good citizens, joined the Bibb County School District in April 2015. When he joined the district, Dr. Jones set one of his first long-term goals as raising the district's graduation. The district has made great gains in improving its graduation rate, which was 51.3 percent in 2011 and rose to 80.67 percent in 2021. Under his leadership, the Bibb County School District has been cited for its work to advance the district and its students. In December 2018, Dr. Jones was named 2019 Georgia Superintendent of the Year, and he was later named 2019 National Superintendent of the Year by AASA. Highlights of his tenure include implementing 21<sup>st</sup> century technology equitably throughout the district, including one-to-one technology for each student and interactive panels for teachers in all classrooms; implementing The Leader in Me framework districtwide to improve character and discipline; leading the way for overwhelming voter support of two education tax campaigns; implementing the Get Better Faster new teacher induction platform to improve retention and culture; improving the district's overall reputation within the community and throughout the state; and overseeing the district's response to COVID-19. With Dr. Jones at the helm, the district has received national attention. Dr. Jones has been interviewed and cited by national media on multiple occasions, including CNN, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post. He is married to Evelyn, a retired elementary school principal. They have three children and are the proud grandparents of two granddaughters and a grandson.

### **11:30 a.m. GSSA Awards**

Recognition of the 2022 Georgia Superintendent of the Year  
GSSA President's Awards  
Recognition of New Superintendents  
Recognition of Retiring Superintendents  
Awarding of Service Pins

### **12:00 p.m. Lunch – *Atrium***

## **General Session II: – Savannah Ballroom AB**

1:30 p.m. **Superintendent Panel Discussion: Superintendent / Board Relations**

Wes Taylor – Lowndes                      Trent North – Douglas  
Bubba Longgear – Candler              Samantha Fuhrey – Newton  
Vickie Reed – Brooks                      Mike Hickman - Monroe  
Brian Hightower - Cherokee

2:30 p.m. **Jason Downey – State Board Chair**

2:45 p.m. **GA PSC update – Matt Arthur**

3:00 p.m. **TRS Update - Buster Evans**

3:15 p.m. **Jeff Allen – Comedian**

Jeff Allen’s rapid-fire humor, which centers on marriage and family, is a hit with all ages. A live comedy favorite, Jeff has appeared on Dry Bar Comedy, Netflix, Amazon, Huckabee, Pureflix, Showtime, Comedy Central, VH1, and more. He starred in the critically acclaimed film, *Apostles of Comedy*, the syndicated comedy series, *Bananas*, his own one-hour comedy special, *Happy Wife, Happy Life*, and the Warner Bros. comedy film, *Thou Shalt Laugh*. Jeff has been featured at Montreal’s *Just For Laughs* Festival and HBO’s *Comedy Arts Festival*. Jeff’s *Dry Bar Comedy* videos have amassed over 200 million views on social media and other platforms. At times both gut-wrenching and hilarious, Jeff’s one-man show, *The America I Grew Up In*, offers a unique glimpse into his crazy world. Jeff’s shows are appropriate and open for all ages.

4:30 p.m. **President’s Reception – Atrium**

All conference attendees are invited to this reception honoring new superintendents and those who are retiring.

# Thursday, April 21

## 7:30 a.m. **GSSA Breakfast – Savannah Ballroom AB**

Conference attendees are invited to enjoy a buffet breakfast, network with colleagues, and participate in the Association’s business meeting.

## General Session III – Savannah Ballroom AB

### 9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Inspiration**

GSSA president-elect Aaron Geter presides

### 9:05 a.m. **GaDOE News**

- Richard Woods
- Matt Jones
- Matt Cardoza

### 10:00 a.m. **Inspiration - 2022 Georgia Superintendent of the Year – Noris Price, Baldwin County Schools**

### 10:20 a.m. **2022 Georgia Teacher of the Year – Cherie Goldman, Savannah Chatham County Public Schools**

### 10:30 a.m. **GSSA Legislative Update**

**John Zauner** – Executive Director of GSSA

**Jody Barrow** – Deputy Director of GSSA

### 11:00 a.m. **Legal Update - Phil Hartley**

News from the legal front will be presented by GSSA’s long-time friends from the law firm of Harben, Hartley, and Hawkins.

### Noon **Conference adjournment**

### 1:00 p.m. **GAEL Board Luncheon - Academy**

### 12:30 p.m. **GAEL Board of Directors Meeting – Plaza**