



**Arts Learning Task Force  
Meeting Agenda • October 28, 2014**

**North Gwinnett High School • 20 Level Creek Road, Suwanee, GA 30024**

**Attendees:** Debi West, Gladys Wyant, Thomas Lockamy, Karen Hallacy, Shawn Bender, Woody Leonard, John White, Pam Beagle-Daresta, Atiba Mbiwan, Lisa Love, Barry Schrenk, Karen Paty, Allen Bell

**10:00 am Review of Schedule and Agenda for the Day and Welcome to North Gwinnett High School**

Principal Nathan Ballantine welcomed the Arts Learning Task Force members to North Gwinnett High School.

**10:15 am Tour of Arts Programs and Facilities at North Gwinnett High School**

Debi West, Art Teacher and Department Chair, led the Arts Learning Task Force members on a tour of the arts facilities and classes at North Gwinnett High School, including chorus, orchestra, dance, theatre, band, visual art, and music tech.

**11:20 am Guest Speaker: David Dubose, Fine Arts Coordinator, Gwinnett County Schools**

David Dubose, Fine Arts Coordinator at Gwinnett County Schools discussed the arts learning programs in Gwinnett County Schools, including details about access to arts learning at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The Gwinnett system has 180,000 students; 146,000 are served by arts learning programs. Access to arts learning is driven by Superintendent and school board leadership, as well as principals and teachers invested in the work of helping students achieve at high levels. Programs throughout the system include discipline-based arts instruction and arts integration. There are also two STEAM schools in the system. The system provides support and mentoring for arts teachers in Gwinnett schools.

**11:45 am Guest Speakers: Reyna O'Leary, Dance Teacher, and Shawna Reed, Biology Teacher, North Gwinnett High School**

Reyna O'Leary, Director of Dance at North Gwinnett High School, discussed the dance program at NGHS, including collaborations with the school orchestra and school athletes.

Shawna Reed, Biology Teacher at NGHS, discussed her collaboration with Debi West and a language arts teacher to teach a combined course in biology, visual art, and language arts.

**12:15 pm Lunch Break**

## **12:45 pm Discussion**

The Arts Learning Task Force discussed themes related to what they observed on their tour and what they heard from the guest speakers. Discussion themes included:

- How other systems can replicate the leadership, funding, and support for arts learning in Gwinnett
- How other systems can replicate the collaboration of different subjects with the arts
- The support of Gwinnett parents for arts learning in all schools
- Peer professional development for arts instructors
- The STEAM approach
- The importance of school and district leadership
- The importance of teaching artists
- Partners in education, including businesses and parents
- The importance of providing resources for arts instructors

Discussion of potential recommendations included:

- Requiring a fine arts credit for high school graduation
- Replicating the structure of lead arts teachers within the system
- Providing professional development for arts instructors
- Providing lesson plans for arts instructors
- Training for school leaders on how to integrate arts learning with other subjects
- Incorporating teaching artists as part of arts learning
- The need for a fine arts coordinator at the state department of education
- Providing resources to connect state standards with the arts

## **1:45 pm Closing Information**

## **2:00 pm Adjourn**