



BEN WIGGINS
GAEL PRESIDENT ELECT

Greetings from GASSP!

It is hard to believe many of us are beginning our third week of school already. I hope each of you had a relaxing summer and were able to recharge your batteries that were surely spent on the 2016-17 year. The older I get, the faster the month of July seems to move.

How can GASSP help you during the 2017-18 school year? We are here to advocate for you on important educational issues at both the state and federal level. We send representatives to Washington D.C. each summer to meet with representatives of Congress to ensure they are hearing from practicing administrators from Georgia.

GASSP also holds meetings for each district. Most districts hold a fall and a spring meeting which is a great opportunity for administrators to meet for dinner and participate in professional learning. Some meetings have guest speakers while others use these meetings as opportunities for practicing administrators to share the struggles and successes of their individual schools.

GASSP holds an incredible fall conference each fall in Savannah. This year's conference will be held November 11-13 at the Savannah Marriot Riverfront Hotel. This is a wonderful opportunity where dozens of practicing administrators share secrets and tips on what is working in their individual schools to ensure success of students. Please make plans to join us in Savannah.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or your district representative with any question, concern or suggestion you may have. We are here to serve you as you lead the middle or high school in your community.

Ben Wiggins

Ben Wiggins is President Elect for GAEL. He is just completing his term as president of GASSP.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

GASSP FALL CONFERENCE
November 11-13, 2017 - Savannah, GA

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CONFERENCE
January 17, 2018 - Macon, GA

Dr. Tommy Welch, principal of Meadowcreek High School, named one of three finalists for National Principal of the Year



DR. TOMMY WELCH
NASSP POY FINALIST

In his six years as principal at Meadowcreek High School (MHS), Tommy Welch took one of Georgia's largest and lowest performing, yet most diverse urban school and raised the graduation rate from 47 to 73 percent. One teacher described Welch as embodying Muhammad Ali's idea that "impossible is nothing!" and this is apparent in initiatives he has implemented, including the introduction of more STEM courses, project-based learning, on-campus internships with business partners and state politicians, and transforming the school into five smaller college- and career-theme learning centers. MHS has Georgia's first full-service bank in a school, as well as a maker space designed in collaboration with Georgia Tech. The guiding principles that motivate his school improvement efforts are collaborate, inspire, and own—Welch uses these to empower students, staff, and the community to accomplish their goals and succeed.

"Each of these extraordinary school leaders has synchronized all the small improvements through the school to make sure they are building toward a large improvement," stated NASSP Executive Director JoAnn Bartoletti. "The strides they have made in school improvement are evident in the engagement and success of their students and we honor them for these accomplishments."

The three finalists will be recognized at the 2017 NASSP Principals Institute. The institute will be held in Washington, D.C. September 24–27, 2017, and will involve a series of professional development activities and meetings with congressional members.



Visit gassp.org for details and link to special hotel pricing



GASSP Pre Conference Golf

Saturday Morning November 10, 2017

Savannah Harbor Golf Course

Rate \$79 includes cart and range balls

Contact Art Wheaton for tee times.

awheaton1950@gmail.com



DR. JIM FINCH
GASSP VICE PRESIDENT ELECT

NASSP National Conference 2017

Philadelphia, PA

June 2017 marked the first time PreK-12 principals attended professional learning together at the inaugural National Principals Conference (NPC). Over 4000 principals nationwide from the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) combined to attend this conference July 9-11 in Philadelphia, PA. The theme for the conference centered on college and career ready standards, implementation of the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA), and advocacy for principals in PreK-12 schools. The major takeaways from the conference were increasing post-secondary opportunities, meeting standards for students at every

grade level to be college and career ready, examining and collaborating statewide ESSA plans, and advocating for federal dollars (i.e. Title I and IIA funding) and legislation supportive of public education to members of Congress. Unfortunately, the concept of the K-12 National Principals Conference was short lived as NAESP chose to return to their tradition K-5 principals conference. The next NASSP conference will be held in Chicago, IL July 11-13, 2018.

Dr. Jim Finch

Principal, Mary Persons High School

2017/2018 NASSP/GASSP Assistant Principal of the Year Award Program

NASSP/GASSP Assistant Principal of the Year program annually recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. These Assistant Principals are acknowledged by their peers for the exemplary contributions they have made to the profession. We will select both Middle and High School AP's. For more information and application go to our website www.gassp.org

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

GASSP Fall Conference
November 12-13, 2017, Savannah Marriott

Theme: The Connected Leader

We encourage proposals that focus on making connections in the school, the district, the community and your professional organizations.

Conference Format: The format for all presentations is a Ted Talk.

All presentations will be delivered to all attendees. The length of each presentation will be approximately 12 minutes.

For a glimpse of what this looks like, visit [ted.com](http://www.ted.com). We are asking that all presenters deliver "TED" type talks. Supporting material (slides and videos) are welcomed and encouraged when appropriate with your talk. Here's a good example of what an excellent 12 minute talk looks like from author Simon Sinek.

(http://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_why_good_leaders_make_you_feel_safe)

Audience: The GASSP Fall Conference will be attended by principals, assistant principals, aspiring administrators, teacher-leaders, instructional coaches, teachers, and district-level personnel.

To submit a proposal to present:

Applications are available at www.gassp.org. Return it via email to Sheila Kahrs (skahrs91@gmail.com), Associate Director of GASSP. The deadline for submissions is September 4, 2017. We will reply to all proposals by September 15, 2017.

What we're asking you to do:

Fill out the presenter proposal. If selected, complete the items below.
Upon invitation to present, we will request the following:

By October 9, 2017:

Confirmation that you have accepted the invitation and your commitment to presenting at the conference in Savannah on November 12-13, 2017. Short biography (200 words or fewer). Final Title of Your Talk. Brief summary of your talk (for use in conference program; 100 words or fewer). Contact information where our attendees can get in touch with you to learn more. Links to any information that you would like to share with the attendees.

By October 23, 2017:

Deliver all slides and videos (your presentation materials) to skahrs91@gmail.com. Register for the conference. (www.gassp.org). We ask that all presenters be registered attendees for the conference based on their category (GASSP Member, Non-Member, Vendor). Any students invited to attend will be offered a complimentary registration. For clarity's sake: the presenter is responsible for accommodations, transportation, and all expenses. We thank you for being willing to serve Georgia's principals by presenting and for giving of your time to do so.



Please join the GASSP network of administrators on Twitter by accessing our Twitter account [@gassp](https://twitter.com/gassp). Great networking and Sunday night Twitter chats that are great professional development opportunities.

**Principal's Panel
Summer GAEL 2017**

Four distinguished principals from a variety of backgrounds and locations sat on a principal's panel at Summer GAEL. Phillip Brown from North Oconee High School and Dara Bennett from Pierce County High School have very different perspectives and experiences in regards to Move-On When Ready and how it benefits their schools. While Move-On When Ready is a positive experience for most students, the continuous movement to and from campus has changed the culture to an open campus type forum in communities who have college institutions nearby.



STEPHANIE TERRELL

Linda Boyd from Twin Rivers Middle School and Tiffany Taylor of Carver Road Middle School shared their thoughts on Project Based Learning and how students thrived in this atmosphere. There was a desire to see more career pathway programs offered at the Middle School level and increase teacher preparedness for students of many backgrounds heading in a variety of directions.

Both High School and Middle School principals were able to share what they were doing in terms of Professional Learning Communities and teacher development. Key ideas include individual need based development and planning focuses for the group. The ideas shared were beneficial to principals in the room. Those present to hear from these GASSP were from a variety of locations and levels, including some elementary principals and central office staff members.

Stephanie Terrell
Principal, Colquitt High School

Congratulations to Stephanie Johnson, 2016 NASSP Finalist for National Principal of the Year, she has been appointed to the position of Deputy Superintendent for School Improvement at the Georgia DOE.



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The Breakout Schools Award is designed to identify, recognize, and showcase Georgia middle schools that are high achieving or dramatically improving student achievement. **Applications are due to GASSP by September 15, 2017.** Winners will be notified by October 13, 2017 as well as receive one complimentary registration to the GASSP Fall Conference in Savannah where our Distinguished School winners will be announced. To nominate a school, complete the application available at gassp.org and submit to GASSP by September 15, 2017. Winning schools will receive up to \$1,000 for their school. Please note: Previous winners must wait three years/cycles before applying again.

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