

President's Letter

Jeff Hubbard, GAE President

Dear fellow GAE members,

Look around you. Are you happy with the way things are? I'm not. And you shouldn't be.

You shouldn't be happy when money for public education is cut while class sizes grow. You shouldn't be content with being furloughed or losing your job or watching your talented colleagues lose theirs. Most of all, it should never be okay to sit there as our students are forced to sacrifice opportunities, resources, and ultimately their futures.

It's not okay with me. I know it's not okay with you.

So what can do to change things? *Plenty.*

In the four years that I've served as your president, I've been so proud of what we've built together. In the beginning, I spoke of the importance of all of us getting "back to basics" in our approach to working together as an organization. That's a challenge you met.

While we have faced so many obstacles—from vouchers to budget cuts—we've met them together. As *one* Association.

We have been determined.
We have been courageous.
We have been united.

But there is much more work to be done. We cannot rest. We cannot hide. We must combine hope with action. I truly believe that we can alter the course of public education in Georgia. We can take public education back from those who would divide it, siphon from it, and destroy it.

You must believe that your actions can make a real difference in public education and on behalf of your students. More than anything, I hope you realize



just how powerful you are in the fight to save public education. After all, what would a public be without public schools?

The power to change starts with your vote.

In this issue of the magazine, we've included the GAE endorsed and recommended candidates. These are candidates that your Fund for Public Education (FPE) Committee believes will fight for public education, for the rights and needs of public education students, and for you.

I believe in the mission of our Association. We are here to protect, strengthen, and nurture. When we work together and for each other, we build a stronger, more viable public education system in Georgia. Your vote and your voice are needed. Your students are depending on you. Your colleagues need you to stand with them.

Before I end my last letter to you, there's one more important thing I need to say: Thank you. Thank you for your support and your belief in our Association over the last four years. I cannot begin to thank you enough for allowing me to make this journey with you.

It's amazing how fast four years can pass. I've learned this along the way: You must make each moment count.

"We have to choose. Will we be silent? Or will we be united for change?"