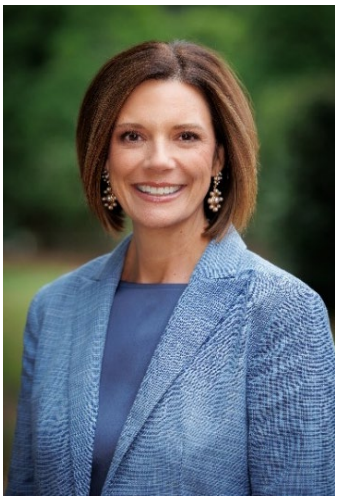
Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Richard Rogers
Board Members
Dr. Rick Unruh, Chair
Dave Crockett, Vice Chair
Angel Brown
Mark Ivory
Clyde Jackson, Jr.
Lori Johnson
Jon Nichols

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 13, 2026
Release #2026/27 – 017
Contact: Jennifer C. Jones, Director of Community & School Affairs, (478) 988-6390, Jennifer.C.Jones@hcbe.net

Houston County Board of Education Names Key Positions at the November Board Meeting

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommendation for several key positions at the monthly meeting held on November 10, 2026. Mrs. Alyson Keenom was named the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning. She will begin the transition to this new role in January as she works alongside Dr. Elgin Mayfield prior to his retirement in May. Dr. Catherine Gardner was named Assistant Superintendent of School Operations. She will begin this new role in January as Mrs. Keenom joins the Teaching & Learning Department. The Board also named Dr. Amy Barbour, current Director of School Operations, as the Director of Human Resources following the retirement of current Director, Will Ray, in March 2027.



Mrs. Alyson Keenom has been with the Houston County School District since 2004, serving most recently as the Assistant Superintendent of School Operations. Prior to that role, she served as a Director of School Operations. She is a graduate of the Houston County School District and began her teaching career at Houston County High School as a math teacher. After nine years of teaching in the classroom, she was selected as Assistant Principal of Instruction at Houston County High and was in this role for six years. Mrs. Keenom served as the Principal at Bonaire Middle School for five years before joining the district.

"I am honored and excited for this opportunity and grateful to Dr. Rogers and the Board of Education," shared Keenom. "It is a privilege to work alongside such dedicated educators, and I look forward to continuing to build strong relationships, support quality teaching and learning, and keep the academic success and well-being of every student at the heart of all we do. Together, we will continue building on the tradition of excellence that makes Houston County so special."

Keenom earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education from Valdosta State University. She obtained a master's and specialist degree from Georgia College and State University and is currently pursuing a doctorate at Columbus State University. She and her husband, Chris, have two children.

MORE



Dr. Catherine Gardner began her career in the Houston County School District as a language arts teacher at Perry Middle School and Mossy Creek Middle School. In 2013, she was selected as the Assistant Principal of Instruction at Northside Middle School. In 2017, she was named the Principal of Bonaire Elementary School. Gardner has been in her current role as Director of Human Resources since January 2024.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the Houston County School District in this new capacity,” said Gardner. “What I value most about our district is the genuine care for our students and families, our strong sense of community, and the commitment to excellence that guides our work. I look forward to building on the great work already taking place across our district and continuing to support our schools in meeting the needs of the students and families we serve.”

Gardner attended the University of Georgia where she received a bachelor’s degree in middle grades education. She also holds a master’s degree in reading education from Georgia Southern, a specialist in educational leadership from Georgia College and State University, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Mercer University. Gardner is married to Casey, and they have two children.



Dr. Amy Barbour currenly serves as a director of School Operations. Prior to that, she served as the Principal of Veterans High School since 2018. Before that she served as the Assistant Principal of Instruction at Veterans High since 2010. She began her career as a high school English teacher in North Carolina and Alaska before coming to Houston County High School in 2004. She served as an Assistant Principal at Houston County High before joining the Veterans High leadership team.

“I am honored to step into this role and continue serving a district that has been such an important part of my career,” said Barbour. “Throughout my time in education, I have seen firsthand the difference dedicated educators and staff members make in the lives of students. I look forward to supporting the people who serve our schools each day, strengthening the work of our district, and helping ensure our employees have the support they need to make a lasting impact on students and families.”

Barbour received a bachelor's degree in English with secondary education certification from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She earned a master’s degree and a specialist degree in School Administration and Leadership from Georgia College and State University. In addition, she has a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Leadership from Columbus State University. She is married to Colonel Stephen Barbour, and they have two children.

For additional information about the Houston County School District, visit www.hcbe.net.

# # #