**Transcript**

May 30, 2025, 12:30PM

 **Bailey, Bryttney** started transcription

 **andripilgrim@gmail.com** 0:03
Good morning.
How are you?

 **Scott Johnson** 0:05
Hey, we're good.

 **Richards, Sarah** 0:08
Good morning.

 **andripilgrim@gmail.com** 0:10
Morning.

 **Richards, Sarah** 0:11
Andrew.
Here comes everybody.
Good morning.

 **Billy Hickman** 0:25
Good morning. Morning. How y'all?

 **Scott Johnson** 0:27
Hey, good morning, Bill.

 **andripilgrim@gmail.com** 0:27
Good morning.

 **Billy Hickman** 0:28
Morning all the smiling faces this morning.

 **Scott Johnson** 0:31
Heh heh.

 **Billy Hickman** 0:32
I think there's a song about that smile that faces.

 **Scott Johnson** 0:38
Was Friday in the last day of May so.

 **Richards, Sarah** 0:38
It's Friday.

 **andripilgrim@gmail.com** 0:41
Mm hmm.

 **Richards, Sarah** 0:45
So do we have a quorum yet? I think I saw.

 **Scott Johnson** 0:50
We've got a quorum, but if.

 **Billy Hickman** 0:52
Yeah.
Yeah, we got our leader.

 **Richards, Sarah** 0:54
Chairman Irwin.

 **Billy Hickman** 0:58
I don't see Chairman Irvin on it.

 **Erwin, Chris** 1:00
Hey, good morning, everyone.

 **Richards, Sarah** 1:00
That's all.

 **Scott Johnson** 1:03
Hey, good morning. Hey, Chris.

 **Richards, Sarah** 1:03
Good morning.

 **andripilgrim@gmail.com** 1:05
Correct.

 **Billy Hickman** 1:06
Good morning. Morning.

 **Richards, Sarah** 1:07
It looks like this is Stan coming on by phone right here. Think that's him?

 **Scott Johnson** 1:10
OK.

 **Richards, Sarah** 1:16
And then we'll probably just get started.

 **Scott Johnson** 1:20
Yay. All right.
Stand with.

 **Richards, Sarah** 1:23
Christmas spirit.

 **+17\*\*\*\*\*\*\*07** 1:24
Yes, I am.

 **Scott Johnson** 1:25
Us.
Hey, good.
Good morning, everyone.
Hi, very good.

 **+17\*\*\*\*\*\*\*07** 1:29
Good morning.

 **Scott Johnson** 1:29
So we have all our all our committee members here and and those who additionally who have joined us.
Thanks for being here, it's.
Seven. What? What?
It's 8832.
732 where I am 'cause, I'm in New Orleans, but.
But but we are.
We're ready to go and glad, glad everyone here.
It's a little bit since we've been together on this call, but for good reason, so.
Anyway, to begin, I just want to.
Say we've.
On our well from our first item on our agenda is is a update on the you know we.
Committed to create rules and committee rules, or executive may rules and procedures for just kind of a guideline for how we'll do business moving forward. And and I asked Stan to work with.
Irene and myself to to ensure.
We we we work through these just so we have a good foundation of how we're gonna, how we're gonna move forward and expect to operate. And I think it's time it was timely certainly that we did that. So and I know I believe and Irene I'll let you.
Come on it and and and thank you, Stan, for for that. But we've we've we've kind of reached.
A place where we're where you're ready to where we've all agreed to.
Took on a draft or to or a a really a final draft to present to the, to the Executive Committee on our next call.
Irene, you wanna comment on that?
And I know you're gonna send something out on in detail.

 **Irene Munn** 3:27
I'm happy to and and thank you Stan for giving me a call yesterday.
These are the procedures for the Executive Committee so that you guys will know when votes are required as well as appropriate oversight as it relates to aligning all of our work to the literacy plan and the you'll see at the next when we talk about our budget.
You'll see where that will actually come into play.
Just a few minutes so that your rules will acknowledge again when those votes are required for Executive committee oversight versus whether or not it's just advising the Department of Education, Reese's, the literacy coach, Cordonetting Group as it relates to the alignment to the literacy plan. So I.
Hope to get that out to you guys today and you guys will be able to review that. And Mr. Chairman, I think that you.
Your intention is for y'all to vote to approve these on June the 13th.
But yeah, we want y'all to review those and have it in front of you. And then if you have questions or comments or whatever, we'll talk about that and then let you literally we'll walk through those rules on June the 13th.

 **Scott Johnson** 4:42
Great. And and thank you for that.
Work Stan and Irene and I know Irene.
You're gonna get those out to us. So have plenty time to review those in advance. Any any comment?
Really good.

 **+17\*\*\*\*\*\*\*07** 4:58
Just. Well, just to yeah, I think we're in a good place moving forward.
I do want to compliment Irene for the work that she's done to kind of keep the ball rolling, but also I know that Sarah Richards has had a chance to look at this and and she's the hands on literacy coach.

 **Scott Johnson** 5:13
Yes.

 **+17\*\*\*\*\*\*\*07** 5:18
I think that it's it's good to have her review this and I think this will really guide us as we move forward.
And give us a lot of.
Thought just foundry more so but.
Direction. I think it'll it'll help us as we move forward with the work, the important work that we're doing.

 **Scott Johnson** 5:36
Yeah. Thank you for that standing.
Thanks for making us. Yes, they were reviewed along along with us along the way.
So thank you.
So all right.
Thank you, Irene.
And so and while we're at it, I know, Ari, you, you, you prepared a some documents on the on the.
On the FY26 budget, appropriations for for literacy initiatives and.
Do you wanna do you wanna go ahead and make some comments on that? And I know Jackie does as well.

 **Irene Munn** 6:11
Sure. So thank you.
Thank you, Scott.
So this document that you guys received was really the intent of this was to inform you as it relates to exactly what was put into the budget.
To to for literacy and also this document tells you where the money went as well.
What agency received those funds?
And then we also literally cut it cut and pasted from the bill.
As it relates to the Conference Committee legislative intent, it is very clear.
I hope you see from this document there is the Literacy Council has a role in looking at all of these literacy efforts and you'll see in the rules when you get those. When will a vote be required versus when will just kind of advise and consent?
Recommendations are needed, so again.
See the Department of Education got that 18,000,000.
The legislative intent.
You can read it very clearly that this is a resa based literacy coaches to support the Georgia Council on Literacy Coaching initiative.
So what's the Literacy Council's responsibility?
And as well as the executive committee is to ensure that that aligns with the state literacy plan.
So there's no doubt we'll be giving.
Appropriate reports to you on a regular basis as well.
As well as the Council and the working groups, that's just going to be a huge part of the work moving forward. The next amount of money was placed in the governor's office as student achievement budget and you can see all of those items there. We got a.
New Literacy coach coordinator position in the next item budget.
Excuse me.
The next agenda item is going to be the efforts going on with the Literacy Coach coordinator.
So I'm going to hold all those statements for Sarah to take.
And give you guys that information. You can see there, there's $2,000,000 there to support this literacy coach effort for research group.
So you'll probably be getting a whole lot more information as it relates to what those recommendations are and the rules and regulations for the executive Committee will that will be a vote required by the Executive Committee in order to determine who is the appropriate research group.
Moving on down the Governor's Office of Student Achievement.
Got over him right at $1,000,000 for personnel and operations.
Jackie's about to take over in just a few minutes to give you guys that overall budget of all of these items. But if you'll scroll up to get down to the legislative intent and then what is the appropriate Executive committee oversight?
Cut and paste it directly out of budget bill.
There's your legislative intent.
So it is personnel and operations for the Georgia Literacy Council.
As well as all of these other activities, one thing that I just want to call out, go back up just a little bit.
There's legislative intent language underneath the $1,000,000 in FY25.
Stop right there, please, on the $1,000,000 we had legislative intent language from FY25 as it relates to the Georgia Reeds Community Partnership, 500,000 of that million.
Was directed for Georgia.
Reads. You guys know all the things that we've got going on for what we call Georgia reads and the Georgia reads award and you'll see that again reflected in the budget that Jackie is about to provide. So with that, let me let me turn it over to Jack.
To give you some more in depth details as it relates to what we're going to ask you guys to approve two weeks from now.

 **Lundberg, Jackie** 10:02
Thank you, Aaron.
I'm gonna just share my screen.
Home.
So this is the proposed the draft budget for the FY26 and unlike Irene's document, this is only the things, the items that will go through the Council's budget.
That is attached to go. So so it's it's for the literacy initiative and it was put in the legislation that way, but it's attached to go system. So I'm not including recess and all that budget.
Which I think is is good because it's a good. It's a compliment to what Irene did, but it's just focused on the Council budget.
I did try to separate it into categories just to.
Just so you would know what the money is being used.
Is for and hopefully I think you guys are going to vote on the categories that we have, but basically it's broken out by personnel and fringe and that's for the literacy coach and the Literacy Coach, Coordinator, coaching coordinator for their salary and benefits.
And then we've got several things under communication, outreach, media branding, a lot of things around.
The we've got some ideas about GPB commercials.
That are coming up just different things that the digital signs, posters, anything that we have to do more supporting like Georgia Reed's day or anything literacy. And then we've got council support, which is pretty self-explanatory, addition, supplemental support for the Council and the like, Irene said.
The research group, the 2,000,000 is and I pulled it straight from.
The bill it's for competency for research group for competency based standards.
And evaluation.
Then supplies and resources and most of that is things around the Council meetings or anything that we have to do for the actual Council itself.
And we've got travel and that includes travel as well as you know, if we have to get facilities for the Council meetings or any of anything that's associated with traveling to Council meetings.
Universal Screener so this is one thing I wanted to point out because it's a little different than what.
Is in appropriations, and that is because.
1.995 million is in legislation because that is the maximum amount that.
If every K33 student was screened through this universal Screener, that's the amount that it would be. However, for this first year.
I gave a little bit of a savings there because I don't I believe with the timing of, you know when the bill, when the appropriations was signed versus when schools are generally preparing their contracts for the next year, I think it was just too close for a lot.
For comfort for a lot of districts.
And so I think you're going to see, you know, kind of a jump next year.
We we do know that there are several that are coming on, but you know.
To look at any kind of trending, you would really want to wait till next year.
And so that's what you'll see down at the bottom. I've got, I just labeled it as contingency because I wanted it to be very clear.
It's a. If we were able to use that, it's the leftover money from the universal Screener, and it would be a one time thing.
That is not something that would be promised or allocated in future years is just because we're realizing that first year.
Kinda lower cost.
Of the contract because of the amount of districts that will adopt.
Then we've got the Georgia Reeves Georgia Literacy Council website, hosting, design and maintenance.
That's right, at 64,000 operational and administrative that's I mean I spelled it out.
It's basically, you know, just your operations.
A laptop for the first year that went away.
Now it's just cell phones. Rent allocation for real estate for towers.
And then the Georgia Reeds community events and awards. I just group that all together and that's the 500,000 that Ireland that Irene was talking about.
So 250 of that will be for 10 community awards at 25,000 each and that's the same thing we did in FY25 and then 250 goes for all of the activities around Georgia Reed's.
Reading rallies and Georgia Reed's day and things like that.
Like I said, the very last thing is I just put contingency just because I was.
I wanted to make sure that everybody knew it was it can only.
Maybe a one time for this year, so not to expect that going forward?
So that's the bucket.
That's the FY 26 and that total should be exactly what's in appropriation.
The contingency.
I am leaving.
There is about 5 or 6% of the overall budget, which is actually pretty low of a contingency, but that's really going to be now. The E in is coming on its executive Director, interim executive director. There may be some things that he.
You know, might.
Need that we would pull from the contingency, but if we do pull from there then this will be updated and resent out to you guys so that you know what category it goes in.

 **Irene Munn** 15:58
And Jackie, just as a quick reminder, this is this document has changed what all of you guys received.

 **Lundberg, Jackie** 16:06
Yes.

 **Irene Munn** 16:07
Is is not what you see here and obviously we will send that out to all of you guys.
The at the end of this meeting, this this was adjusted based on conversations we had with budget offices to bring more clarity with exactly what you received two days ago.

 **Lundberg, Jackie** 16:19
Good.

 **Scott Johnson** 16:27
Got it.
Right. Thank you, Irene and Jackie for for good, good, good documents, good, good preparation for us to to have a a good handle on what's on what the budget is.

 **Lundberg, Jackie** 16:30
Any questions?

 **Scott Johnson** 16:43
Any questions for Irene or Jackie on this?
At this time.
From our council members.
Executive committee members.

 **+17\*\*\*\*\*\*\*07** 16:58
None for me.

 **Scott Johnson** 17:00
OK.

 **Billy Hickman** 17:02
No problem.

 **Scott Johnson** 17:02
Not hearing any questions. All right, good.
Or Andre Chris. Good.

 **andripilgrim@gmail.com** 17:10
I appreciate all your work.

 **Billy Hickman** 17:10
Yeah, I'm good.
I'm good.

 **Scott Johnson** 17:13
Yes.

 **Erwin, Chris** 17:13
Good. I'm good.

 **Scott Johnson** 17:16
OK, great.

 **Erwin, Chris** 17:16
To.

 **Scott Johnson** 17:18
All right.
Well, thank you.
Thank you for preparing us, preparing us well and and your reporting and bringing up bringing bringing all those appropriations together. And so we can go, we can, we can review them this morning.
In this document, Sarah, you've been you've been working diligently. It seems like every time I talk to you, you're you're working on this, the literacy coach coordinator.
Project.
Obviously.
You have been lining up folks to to get this.
Get this accomplished because it's it's coming and in in that budget. So give us a give us an update on on, on your work there and what's what's happening.

 **Richards, Sarah** 18:10
Yes, thank you, Chairman, and thank you legislators for this role.
I'm very excited for this to come to our office and I think it's we're going to end up with someone excellent.
We've already started the process of interviewing for this job, so I did send to you this timeline of what we're doing as a process and we are.
Sticking with this as far as these interview dates and all that right now.
So we did do our initial round of interviews.
We did virtual interviews to start and we invited. Well, we screened all the resumes first.
With, you know, with different criteria looked over, chose them.
Invited seven people to interview virtually, and we have a a great team. Andrew's actually part of our interview team, but also Amy Dente, Lindy Morgan.
And Kathy Matthews. Debbie Alexander from Risa.
I'm trying to. I feel like I'm forgetting one person, but we have 5 people.
In her we have a team so.

 **Scott Johnson** 19:22
An All Star team for sure.

 **Richards, Sarah** 19:23
They're yeah, a great, a great group. That's been extremely helpful in this process.
So they are.
You know, I'm sending them along the way, like beforehand the questions and the rubrics and things.
So we can make sure we're all in agreement.
And so we invited seven people. We had six people interview.
One person decided they're retiring instead and they were great and we decided as a team to narrow that down to four people to come in person. And so they will be coming on Monday so.
This is the schedule we have.
So basically.
Monday, we'll have our four people come in.
We ask them to also do a performance task prior that they're basically like a short slide presentation that they're going to be presenting as like a 10 minute little presentation as part of their interview to show.
Just what?
Their ideas are as far as this role, and they also need to submit a little written sample and some data.
So we're being very rigorous about making sure we have the right person for this and our committee will see them Monday and then make a decision and then.
We are going to bring our recommendation, our top candidate, back to you all on the 13th so that you are able to meet that person and you know, give it the OK and make sure everybody's comfortable. But I think I think we're going to have some great.
I'm not concerned because we have a few really great candidates.
So I think whichever one ends up being is going to be somebody strong.
And then finally just this, we all.
Next, in the 13th meeting, we'll need to talk about the Coordination committee.
So I put this as a reminder.
I have been drafting some ideas of recommendations and talking to all of our different agencies involved about who might be the best representatives as far as this. So prior to the June 13th meeting and once we have our coordinator generally we think we know who is going to.
Be.
I will send you that along with the recommendations for this, and then we can discuss that prior to that June 13th meeting and make sure we all are good with who we want to be on that, that team 'cause, I think that will be really important to this.
Work, so that's the update.
Does anybody have any questions about that?

 **Billy Hickman** 21:59
Sounds great.

 **Richards, Sarah** 22:02
Thank you.

 **Scott Johnson** 22:03
Sounds like good work going on there and thank you, Andrea. And and Sarah and and and those others of you who may be listening in but but but?
You know, have what have been working on this. Thank you.
Sounds like you're you're pretty confident. We're gonna have. We're gonna have a great conversation coordinator. Come on board. And I know we look forward to at the June 30th meeting.
13th meeting.
The presentation of of your of your final candidate.
Any questions there?
Andrew, anything you want to say on on that?

 **andripilgrim@gmail.com** 22:48
Sarah's just an excellent.

 **Scott Johnson** 22:48
Regarding.

 **andripilgrim@gmail.com** 22:50
Sarah's just done an excellent job. Everything has been.
So well done.
So put together.
Ahead of time.
And I look, I love.
She's done.
She's done just what I wanted, that there the task that they have to present to us on Monday. There's there's one that is. Ask them to show how they've moved the needle in reading.
And present that. I appreciate that.
And then there's one that asked them to show how they'll.
Pull the team together that they meet with the coordinating team and I think both those will be excellent to see how that person works with others and what they've done in the past.
So I think that'll be a great way to see who'll be best for the position.

 **Scott Johnson** 23:44
Right.

 **Richards, Sarah** 23:44
Thank you, Andrew.

 **Scott Johnson** 23:47
Alright, well good.
Any other questions or comments from the Council committee members?
OK.
Well, that's that's our agenda items.
I should have said, when we talking about the budget to to particularly say thank you.
Chairman Irwin and thank you, Chairman Hickman for your work, because we wouldn't be talking about.
What? What we can do with a budget, if it weren't for the good work that, that you all led in the in the journal Assembly. So thank you.
So much for that support. I think. I feel like we we're moving forward, we got good.

 **+17\*\*\*\*\*\*\*07** 24:28
N.

 **Scott Johnson** 24:30
We've got great support from from our state leaders and and thank you all so much. And Speaking of leaders, we've got a new interim executive director.
I don't think he was able to join us this morning.
I know he initially told me earlier this week he planned to join us on the call this morning, but I don't think Ian Carraway.
The new interim executive director that's been appointed.
For for the Governor's office student team, one is able to join us, but we are excited to have him on board and I know he'll be working with us closely and and.
On beginning June 1st.
So that's tomorrow.
And and so we'll, we, we welcome him in his absence.
Any any closing comments?
Obviously I know we from the Council members we got.
We mentioned our our next meeting, which will be on June 30, thirteenth, same time, 8:30 AM and the full Council meeting is coming up.
Fast July 22nd and at Dalton State University, Dalton State College and we're we're university.
I guess it's proper properly and I know they're excited to have us and we're excited to to be in Dallas.
So any any comments from Miss Dale?
I know you're with us.
That you would you like to say anything?
I uh.
I don't hear you.
So you're you're welcome to.

 **Billy Hickman** 26:10
Yeah, she. Yeah, she's muted.

 **Scott Johnson** 26:12
The.
OK, alright.

 **Dayle Burns** 26:13
I I can y'all hear me now.

 **Billy Hickman** 26:14
There you go.
Yeah.

 **Scott Johnson** 26:17
Oh, now we can hear you, yes.

 **Dayle Burns** 26:18
Can you hear y'all?

 **+17\*\*\*\*\*\*\*07** 26:19
We're there.

 **Dayle Burns** 26:20
No, this was a great meeting.
Thank you, Scott for your leadership.
Thank you everybody. I'm so proud.

 **Scott Johnson** 26:30
Well, we're.

 **Dayle Burns** 26:30
I'm I'm very thankful.

 **Scott Johnson** 26:33
Thank you for those words.

 **Billy Hickman** 26:33
It is.

 **Scott Johnson** 26:36
Go ahead, Billy.

 **Billy Hickman** 26:38
It just seems so methodical and so laid out and I'm very impressed with the the layout of everything today Sir, and thank you for doing that.
It's it's pretty cool stuff from coming from from the chairman, Irwin's background and my background.
It really makes a lot of sense to us because that's what we do as a living.

 **Erwin, Chris** 26:58
And chairman I Ditto that.

 **Scott Johnson** 26:58
Well.

 **Erwin, Chris** 27:00
Great presentations, great information.
Got it to us in a timely manner to look at to make this meeting official.
I mean efficient.
And so thank you for the opportunity here. Chairman of, you know, working with this Council to, I'll tell you, I'm impressed that the the movement we've been able to make this year.

 **Scott Johnson** 27:23
Yeah.

 **Erwin, Chris** 27:23
And some of the advancements that were taken and the people that are in getting.
Involved in this group are making a big difference.

 **Billy Hickman** 27:31
Let me.

 **Scott Johnson** 27:32
Thank you.
Thank you all for those words.
We're we're all working together to make George proud and make Georgia Reed.
So with that if.

 **Dayle Burns** 27:43
Scott Scott.

 **Scott Johnson** 27:45
Yes, yes, Miss Dale, go ahead.

 **Dayle Burns** 27:46
This is this is Dale. I just wanted.
I just wanted to tell you all real quick.
I'm excited.
I'm gonna have a meeting with the spouses.
Of the Republican caucus, their caucus meeting about ways they can support literacy in their communities, and Irene's been helping me with it.
Doctor Timi is gonna come and talk about.

 **Billy Hickman** 28:09
Oh.

 **Dayle Burns** 28:13
Vision and hearing and Chris Irwin's gonna come and tell a personal story about that, and Andrea doesn't know it yet, but she's gonna come and help with things they can do in their own Public Library.
She's worked on a list with Julie Walker.
I just wanted to tell y'all I'm hoping to see a lot of fruit from it and that we can expand it to.
All the spouses.
In January, there are a lot of people that want to help.
They just don't know what to do, so I just wanted to tell y'all that.

 **Billy Hickman** 28:54
Oh, what a great idea.

 **Scott Johnson** 28:55
No.

 **Billy Hickman** 28:56
What a excellent idea.

 **Scott Johnson** 28:59
Thank you so much.
I'll tell you what, there's good work going on in so many quarters, isn't there?
Thank you so so much for doing that and for sharing that this morning, Dale.

 **Richards, Sarah** 29:09
I love that, Miss Dale.
I just need to say that and I love that you all are partnering with the libraries for that too.
That's going to be excellent.

 **Scott Johnson** 29:21
Very good.
Well, 759 and I think we're finished with our business. If none of the other members of the Council have have anything to comment, we will, we'll.
Finalize this meeting and adjourn it and thank you so much everyone for joining us this morning.

 **Billy Hickman** 29:42
Thank you.
Goodbye. Thank you all.

 **Richards, Sarah** 29:43
Thank you all. Have a great weekend.

 **andripilgrim@gmail.com** 29:44
Thank you.

 **+17\*\*\*\*\*\*\*07** 29:44
Appreciate it everybody.

 **Billy Hickman** 29:45
Right. Have a great weekend. Bye bye.

 **Scott Johnson** 29:47
Thank you.

 **+17\*\*\*\*\*\*\*07** 29:47
Have a great weekend.

 **Bailey, Bryttney** stopped transcription