

## **February 2008 HOA Meeting Recap with Allatoona High Principal**

The first part of the meeting was hosted by the new Principal of Allatoona High School, Scott Bursmith. Mr. Bursmith brought along his Assistant Principal for Athletics and Operations, Ben Morrell, to add commentary on specific programs to be available and what time frame. To hit the high points, Mr. Bursmith announced that Allatoona will have an A/B schedule instead of the 4x4 Harrison uses. This means students will take 8 classes for a complete school year alternating MWF and TTH meeting times instead of 4 classes every day for a single semester.

The school will have cutting edge technology. The campus will be all Wi-Fi ready with an all fiber-optic network for data transmission and will be the only school in Cobb County to have the "Blackboard" (<http://www.blackboard.com>) technology, allowing students to do much of their work online. Classrooms will have telephones, pull-down screens and ceiling-mounted projection systems.

The school will have a world-class music program. Mr. Bursmith has hired Ms. Ginny Markham to be Band Director. She is currently Assistant Band Director at Kell High School in Marietta and has been for the last two years, was Assistant Band Director at Lassiter High for six years, and was a Drum Major at the University of Georgia. Mr. Bursmith has also hired Mr. Jim Palmer as Orchestra Director and Fine Arts Chairman. Mr. Palmer comes to us from Chattahoochee High School (Alpharetta) where he is currently Orchestra Director and chair of the fine arts department.

The school will also have a full-blown athletics program in its first year. Gary Varner will be the head coach of the Varsity Football Team. Mr. Varner comes to us as offensive coordinator from the Roswell Hornets. Other coach hirings are in the works and programs are being built for the Fall Opening. Mr. Bursmith left us with the thoughts that Allatoona is the school kids in Cobb County will be begging to go to and people will be begging to buy homes in Camden Pointe to get in there. We all support him in this goal!