

Text from speech at 11/14/06 BOE meeting presented by
Karen Ribble, Community Relations/Public Information

Good Evening:

There are two memberships that our school system takes advantage of for School Public Relations; National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) and Georgia School Public Relations Associations (GSPRA). Last week I was fortunate to attend the Georgia School Public Relations Association Annual Conference where Columbia County received several awards. In addition to the various publication awards, there is one award that is presented every year that **recognizes individuals other than those directly responsible for a public relations program, who have proven themselves to be leaders in using effective school/community relations to build support for public education in their community.** I think you would all agree that Mr. Price easily fits that description.

- As an associate superintendent, he began holding public forums to discuss rezoning options as a result of new school construction. He has opened eight elementary, four middle, and two high schools impacting well over 3000 families.
- Mr. Price was instrumental in bringing a SPLOST Campaign in 1997 visiting PTO meetings and community groups to show the benefit of a SPLOST campaign to education. Since 1997, SPLOST has provided over \$141,000,000 for retiring debt, purchasing new buses, refurbishing high school tech labs, providing classroom computers, and continuing new school construction.
- Our system communication plan includes not only the publications for internal and external communications but also includes various advisory committees that he meets with throughout the school year. This he started when he first took over the role of Superintendent. Many of the advisory committee recommendations have resulted in changes in policy and/or procedures.

Mr. Price works diligently to provide our community with the best educational system possible and has recognized the importance of partnering with parents, staff, and community leaders to achieve excellence in education.

The reason I am here today in this role is due to Mr. Price's leadership and his recognition of the importance for a public relations program.

I am honored to stand before you tonight to present Mr. Price the Georgia School Public Relations Association award for Outstanding Leadership in School/Community Relations.