

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 20, 2019**

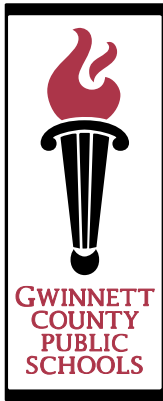
*News Media Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020*

## **Gwinnett School Resource Officer wins Peace Officers Association of Georgia's Officer of the Year Award for Valor**

Last October, **Gwinnett School Resource Officer Nicolette McLeod-Pinnock** responded to an urgent classroom situation at Trickum Middle School, taking a student into custody after he had stabbed a teacher and grabbed another student while still holding the knife. Officer McLeod-Pinnock's quick action and appropriate response de-escalated the situation and allowed her to disarm the student. And today, she was honored for that response by her peers, winning the **Peace Officers Association of Georgia's (POAG) Officer of the Year Award for Valor**. Officer McLeod-Pinnock received the award during the group's annual conference awards luncheon, held today in Savannah.

**Gwinnett County Schools Police Chief Wayne Rikard** says this is a great honor as the POAG receives nominations from across the state. He said, "I am so proud of Officer McLeod-Pinnock and appreciate the fact that others recognize her courage and service to Gwinnett's students and teachers. Our officers are some of the best trained out there and she is a great representative and certainly deserving. She handled the situation at Trickum in a very professional manner and it should be comforting to parents and all of us in the Gwinnett community that we have officers like her working in our schools."

POAG's Officer of the Year Award for Valor recognizes valor, acts of heroism, or outstanding deeds which resulted in the protection of life and/or property. Officer McLeod-Pinnock is the first Gwinnett SRO to receive this honor.



### **GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Dr. Mary Kay Murphy**  
2019 Chairman  
District III

**Louise Radloff**  
2019 Vice Chairman  
District V

**Carole C. Boyce**  
District I

**Steven B. Knudsen**  
District II

**Everton Blair, Jr.**  
District IV

**J. Alvin Wilbanks**  
CEO/Superintendent

**THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.*

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW  
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978  
678-301-6000  
[www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us](http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us)

It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

**2010 and 2014 Winner of**

