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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**BOE Honors School Liaison Officer Sgt. Wood**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Porter Wood was honored at the Sept. 13, 2011, Board meeting for his service and dedication to schools. A Sergeant in the Warner Robins Police Department, he has served as the School Liaison Officer for going on 16 years. Sgt. Wood was given a certificate and 15 years-of-service pin as a token of appreciation.

Chairman Tom Walmer told the audience that an event on Aug. 25, 2011, prompted Sgt. Wood’s recognition. On that day, “the Warner Robins police responded to a residence in response to a call that a victim had been robbed at gunpoint including the theft of her car. When

the police attempted to stop a car matching the description of the stolen vehicle, the driver fled on foot. While the Warner Robins police and a Sheriff’s deputy were in pursuit of this suspect, Sgt. Wood realized the suspect was getting close to Northside Middle. Although actively involved in the chase, he was still thinking of the safety of our children. While literally on the run, he notified the school to go into lockdown. Although the suspect was armed, Sgt. Wood never hesitated in the line of duty. The suspect was eventually taken into custody.” Walmer noted that the ensuing investigation resulted in charging the suspect with several crimes, saying, “One more criminal is off our streets, and Sgt. Wood was a part of the team that made this possible.”

Maj. John Wagner, Patrol Commander, also commended Sgt. Wood. Walmer told Maj. Wagner, “We want to take this opportunity to thank you for the support the Warner Robins Police Department provides our schools and community every day to help ensure the safety of all concerned. We are thankful for the wonderful relationship we share with the Warner Robins PD!”

Walmer shared comments from two principals during the presentation. Northside Middle School Principal Jan Melnick stated “Sgt. Porter Wood is an asset to all of Houston County schools. Our county does not just need more SROs, we need more SROs like Porter Wood.”

**MORE**

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David Perdue Elementary Principal Shawn Carpenter described Sgt. Wood as “a dedicated professional in law enforcement and a positive influence on the children in our community. He believes in, supports, and is committed to the Houston County School System.”

After the event, Sgt. Wood wrote in a message, “I have the best of two worlds, working as a police officer with the Warner Robins Police Department and with the best school system in the nation. I brag every time I attend training with SROs from other agencies or speak with them at ball games about the great working relationship law enforcement has with Houston County schools.”

Sgt. Wood is pictured with Superintendent Dr. Robin Hines (left) and Chairman Walmer.

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