

The Board Brief

This edition of *The Board Brief* is a summary of the information and recognitions presented and actions taken at the Board of Education's meetings on March 19 and 21, 2019.

=====

Highlights and Recognitions

Butler Named NSTA District Director

Brian Butler, the District's School Improvement Coordinator for Science, was recently named District V Director for the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). Mr. Butler will represent science educators in the states of Alabama, Florida and Georgia, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, in various meetings, conventions and conferences.

Mr. Butler has been a member of NSTA since 2007. He has presented at the NSTA National Conference and participated in three NSTA-sponsored National Congresses on Science Education events. During these events, issues affecting science across the nation are discussed and motions regarding the position of NSTA on these issues are decided upon. Additionally, Mr. Butler has served as President of the Georgia Science Teachers Association, an affiliated group of NSTA.

Two High School Basketball Teams Recognized

The Georgia High School Association basketball season recently came to a close. Several District basketball teams had successful seasons, but two reached heights that were especially noteworthy. The Northeast High School boys' basketball team won the Region 3-AA Championship with a 23-6 overall record. The Raiders, led by seniors Darius Dunn, Ty'Ree Gilbert, Kendall Green, Te-Yoan Hill, Isaiah Hilson and Reginald Williams, as well as head coach Kevin Grooms, then advanced to the Elite Eight of the GHSA Class AA Playoffs.

The Rutland High School girls' basketball team finished fourth in Region 4-AAA during the season but then advanced to the Elite Eight of the GHSA Class AAA Playoffs. The team was led by coach Johnny Dixon and seniors Bre-Asia Davis, Alissa Payton and Taliyah Slocumb.

Special Week Honors Georgia's School Boards

The Bibb County School District is joining in a statewide celebration this week to salute the efforts of local school board members. The week of March 18-22, 2019, has been proclaimed School Board Appreciation Week in Georgia. The weeklong observance, sponsored by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA), calls attention to the contributions of local boards of education.

As constitutional officers of Georgia, school board members are responsible for setting educational policies, employing school personnel, providing buildings and equipment, operating a transportation system and disbursing school funds. As community leaders, school board members serve as advocates for the children in local public schools and must study, evaluate and decide what actions are in the best interest of those students.

Actions Taken

Executive Director of Accounting Appointed; Personnel Actions Approved

On Thursday, March 21, Board members approved the appointment of Sharon Roberts as Executive Director of Accounting, as well as various personnel items. To view all personnel items approved, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

Board members reviewed various policies for first or second reading on Thursday, March 21. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To review the policies, [click here](#).

- Policy JB – Student Attendance (second reading)
- Policy JBB – Entrance Age (second reading)
- Policy JBCB – Nonresident Students (second reading)
- Policy JCDA – Student Code of Conduct (second reading)
- Policy DFK – Gifts and Bequests (first reading)
- Policy EE – Food Services Management (first reading)
- Policy IFBG – Internet Acceptable Use (first reading)
- Policy KG – Use of School Facilities (first reading)

District to Upgrade Read 180 Software Licenses

On Thursday, March 21, Board members authorized the District to upgrade its Read 180 program software licenses utilizing grant funds. For more information, [click here](#).

Since 2012, the District has been utilizing Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Read 180 intervention program. The program is designed for struggling readers who are reading 2 or more years below grade level in elementary through high school. It combines whole group and small group instruction along with individualized instruction using an adaptive computer application. During the seven years of implementation, students utilizing the program have made significant improvements in their reading skills.

Starting July 2019, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt will update its Flash-based intervention programs to HTML 5. The District's current Read 180 program is supported by Adobe Software. In order to continue using the Read 180 program without technical difficulties, the District will need to upgrade current Read 180 program software licenses.

Board Authorizes SOAR Academy YouthBuild Grant

On Thursday, March 21, Board members authorized the District to accept the YouthBuild Grant Award of \$1.1 million for education in the field of construction for SOAR Academy students. Also, Board members authorized the Board Treasurer and Superintendent to sign the U.S. Department of Labor Direct Deposit Sign-up Form to receive the grant funds.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration selected SOAR Academy to receive a \$1.1 million YouthBuild Grant. YouthBuild is an education and training program with a strong pre-apprenticeship component that helps at-risk youth complete high school

or GED programs. Youth have an opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials for in-demand occupations, and undergo training to build housing for low-income or homeless individuals and families in their communities. SOAR Academy was one of just two locations in Georgia chosen for the grant. The school received the maximum amount available, with more than \$85 million distributed nationwide.

For more information, [click here](#).

Renovation Contract Awarded for Hartley Elementary

On Thursday, March 21, Board members authorized the District to enter into contract with ICB Construction to provide construction services for renovations at Hartley Elementary School. Renovations will be paid for with 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) funds. For more information, [click here](#).

Furniture for New Northeast High Approved

On Thursday, March 21, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to Georgia Specialty Equipment for the purchase of replacement furniture for the new Northeast High School construction project. Georgia Specialty Equipment is an approved vendor for the district as well as a Statewide Contract holder. The furniture will be paid for with 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) funds. For more information, [click here](#).

Information

Board Begins FY 2019 Budget Discussions

On Tuesday, March 19, Chief Financial Officer Ron Collier presented Board members with a preview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 General Fund Budget. Numbers presented on Tuesday are merely estimates as the District begins planning for the next school year. To view the full presentation, [click here](#).

Various items are being considered in the development of the FY 2020 General Fund Budget. Mr. Collier presented these considerations to the Board for feedback and to gain a better picture of the Board's funding priorities for 2019-2020.

Budget Considerations

- Certified and classified staff salary increases
- Consolidation of Riley and Brookdale Elementary Schools
- Financial impact of ACE becoming a state charter school
- Additional office clerical and professional development support for schools (21 additional school-based clerks)
- Additional 5 contract days for Assistant Principals
- Salary adjustments to technology staff and high school band directors
- Addition of 2 Teaching and Learning Content Coordinators (Elementary ELA and Elementary Math)
- Addition of Truancy Coordinator to push Truancy Task Force down to school level

- First-year of tuition for TAPP teachers
- Continued declining student enrollment
- Continued increases in the cost of employee benefits
- State QBE Equalization Funding
- 178-day academic calendar to include additional professional development for staff

The next Board of Education work session to discuss the FY 2020 General Fund Budget will be Tuesday, April 16, at 6 p.m. The work session will take place in the Board Room at 484 Mulberry Street in Macon.