

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 Committee and Board Meetings on February 12, 2018.

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Highlights and Recognitions

Middle School Robotics Teams Succeed at Competitions

The District recently had two middle school teams achieve success in competitions. The Appling Middle School Raiderbots received a first-place award for Robot Table Challenge in the STARBASE 2.0 First LEGO League Regional Competition, and a first-place award for Robot Design at Super Regionals. This team includes the following students, coached by Shavetta Morgan-Thomas: Edreka Coleman, Brian Dennis, JaQuayla Fields, VanShun Green, Nicholas Hodges, Jayla Johnson, Ashton Smith, Tyler Terry, Devin Thomas, Chloe Vicks and Eyaja Williams.

The Howard Middle School RoboHuskies received a first-place award for Robot Design in the STARBASE 2.0 First LEGO League Regional Competition, and a Champion's Award at Super Regionals. They also advanced to the state competition last month. The following students were coached on the team by Dr. Eric Fuller and Zachary Scalf: Daniel Biek, Aiden Campbell, Hayden Davis, Anthony Diaz, Landon Diaz, Andrew Edwards, Julian Moss, Sushrith Panda, James Rigby, Matthew Sullivan, Elijah Wood and Ethan Zebly.

AP Scholars Honored for Test Results

AP Scholars are students who achieved scores of 3 or higher on three or more tests. AP Scholars with Honor are students with an average score of at least 3.25 on all tests taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more tests. AP Scholars with Distinction are students with an average score of 3.5 or higher and scores of 3 or higher on five or more tests.

This year, several District high schools had such students recognized. From Central High School, with Principal Emanuel Frazier, these students were Chandler Clark, AP Scholar, and Tobias Kopp, AP Scholar with Honor. From Howard High School, with Principal Dr. Shannon Norfleet, these students were Shania Clayton, AP Scholar; David Cyril David, AP Scholar; Noah Horton, AP Scholar; Alexander Kosowski, AP Scholar; Anne Lauer, AP Scholar; Karly Mondaizie, AP Scholar; Premkumar Patel, AP Scholar; Jada Pemberton, AP Scholar; Graham Reynolds, AP Scholar; William Saxton, AP Scholar; Chandler Thames, AP Scholar; Grant Alexander, AP Scholar with Honor; Madison Jackson, AP Scholar with Honor; Finnegan McCue, AP Scholar with Honor; Dustin Testa, AP Scholar with Honor; Chandler Yats, AP Scholar with Honor; and Hannah Strudwick, AP Scholar with Distinction.

Rutland High School, with Principal Kent Sparks had Micca Pettis recognized as an AP Scholar, while Westside High School, with Principal Dr. Julia Daniely also had an AP Scholar in Robert Plummer.

Actions Taken

Three Principals, Assistant Principals Approved

On Monday, February 12, Board members approved the renewal of assistant principals for the 2018-2019 school year. Additionally, Board members approved the appointments of three new principals. Principal appointments include LaShonda Gilbert, Taylor Elementary; Keith Groeper, Rutland Middle; and Crystal Graham, Weaver Middle.

To view all personnel items approved, [click here](#).

Board Approves Revision to 2018-2019 Calendar; Make-Up Days Discussed

On Monday, February 12, Board members approved a revision to the academic calendar for 2018-2019 to include inclement weather make-up days. To view the revised academic calendar for 2018-2019, [click here](#).

Since the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, the District has canceled school for seven instructional days due to inclement weather. Five of those days in September were a result of Hurricane Irma. The District identified two make-up days during the first semester to make up the missed instructional time. Students missed two days in January 2018 due to snow and ice.

In order to prepare for the possibility of inclement weather in the future, the District has revised the 2018-2019 academic calendar to include two make-up days in the first semester and two make-up days in the second semester. These days will only be used as make-up days if there is a need to recover missed instructional time due to inclement weather.

Principals were asked for feedback on make-up days during the January VIP Meeting. The days selected as make-up days are a direct result of their feedback. During first semester, October 5 and November 19 have been identified as student make-up days. October 5 is currently a Professional Learning Day for teachers. Should October 5 be needed as a make-up day for students, then October 8 will serve as a Professional Learning make-up day for teachers. During the second semester, February 21-22 have been identified as make-up days.

Also Monday, Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones provided Board members with an update on the District's plan regarding make-up days following the cancellation of school on January 17-18 due to snow. Based on feedback from principals, instructional administrators and students, he determined that students would not make up the two days this semester. Schools will have to stay focused and make good use intervention time to remain on track with the pacing guides and to be ready for Georgia Milestones this spring, he said. Based on feedback from principals at the January VIP Meeting, certified personnel will make up 8 hours of professional learning time, either through additional professional development outside of work hours, or through independent study. Further details about the make-up time will be shared with employees via email and faculty meetings.

District to Amend SWSS Contract to Partner with Chief Turnaround Officer

On Monday, February 12, Board members approved a resolution authorizing an amendment to the District's Strategic Wavier School System (SWSS) partnership contract with the State Board of Education. The purpose of this amendment is to add language to the SWSS contract to allow the

District to partner with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) for the schools identified as turnaround eligible.

Eight schools in Bibb County are on the state's list of Turnaround-Eligible Schools. Those schools are Bruce Elementary, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, Riley Elementary, Southfield Elementary, Union Elementary, Veterans Elementary, Appling Middle and Ballard-Hudson Middle.

In January, Dr. Eric Thomas, Chief Turnaround Officer for the state of Georgia, presented Board members with an update on Georgia's School Turnaround Focus. He highlighted the importance of partnerships and external resources as key elements of Georgia's turnaround work and provided Board members with an idea of how he hopes to help districts and schools improve student achievement and school culture.

As outlined in House Bill (HB) 338, the following are the details the proposed partnership between the District and the GaDOE Turnaround Office. The purpose of this partnership will be to collaboratively execute a transformation strategy to improve the academic outcomes of the following identified schools: Appling Middle School, Ballard-Hudson Middle School and Veterans Elementary School.

Under this partnership, the Bibb County Board of Education will continue its governance role. The partnership will be launched by a third-party provider that will lead school- and district-level needs assessments. The purpose of the needs assessments will be to identify areas of progress and celebration, and to recommend appropriate actions to guide transformation efforts that will impact short and long-term progress.

Within this partnership, the Chief Turnaround Officer will represent the Department of Education and the State Board of Education. This role will include:

- Supporting the development of school improvement plans with focused priorities;
- Providing a "coach" to support the implementation and execution of the plans;
- Coordinating resources from state agencies to ensure cohesiveness and alignment toward addressing the priorities identified in the plans;
- Offering support to the identified schools and the district in ensuring that they are:
 - Prioritized for receiving state and federal grants, and
 - Provided access to Georgia Department of Education resources;
- Supporting the execution of grant awards and deliverables for the identified schools and the district;
- Offering leadership development opportunities;
- Seeking external partners to support the identified schools and the district; and
- Identifying state and national networks, effective practices, and research to inform turnaround activities.

The success of the partnership will be measured by increases in the identified schools' College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores and other indicators of progress. If any of the identified schools under this partnership remain on the turnaround eligible list after three years (based on 2019-2020 CCRPI scores and other progress indicators), the Chief Turnaround Officer

will make a recommendation for further intervention as provided for in O.C.G.A. § 20-14-49. If a school has substantially implemented its school improvement plan and has exhibited ongoing cooperation and collaboration, the Chief Turnaround Officer may waive any additional intervention.

To enter into this partnership, the Board must seek an amendment of its SWSS contract with the State Board of Education to add the following language:

The State Board of Education shall implement the appropriate level(s) of intervention(s) for any school(s) subject to Code Section 20-14-41 and/or Code Sections 20-14-45 through 20-14-49.

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

Purchase Order for HVAC in Elementary Gyms Approved

On Monday, February 12, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to Hamlin Air Conditioning to perform HVAC installation work in the gyms at Carter Elementary, Heritage Elementary, Skyview Elementary, Springdale Elementary and Union Elementary Schools. This work is a part of the ongoing effort to provide HVAC in all of the elementary school gyms. For more information, [click here](#).

Purchase Orders Approved for Classroom Furniture

On Monday, February 12, Board members authorized the District to issue purchase orders to Commercial Furnishings and Georgia Specialty Equipment to provide classroom furniture for Howard High, Miller Middle, Rutland Middle, Rutland High, Ballard-Hudson Middle, Westside High and Weaver Middle Schools. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policy

Board members reviewed one policy for a first reading on Thursday, January 18. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To view the policy, [click here](#).

- Policy KMA – Trespassing

Information

Superintendent Provides Safety Update

Following an incident in January at Taylor Elementary School, the District conducted a review of safety and security procedures. Over the past month, conversations were held with principals, students, teachers and business members to hear from different stakeholder groups about safety and security options. Also, the District reviewed national statistics and data for schools with metal detectors.

The determination is the best method for our District at this time is to increase the number of random searches inside schools. These searches will include random metal detection and handheld wand searches at specific school levels. The District currently requires that schools conduct

monthly random drills of weather and lockdown procedures. Safety and security procedures will be treated similarly, with a regulation being prepared by the District's Department of Safety and Security.

Board Reviews Depth of Understanding

On Monday, February 12, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Tanzy Kilcrease provided Board members with a presentation on how the District is working to increase rigor. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Board Receives Update on Let's Talk

The District began using *Let's Talk!* in 2015 in an effort to increase two-way communication with stakeholders and to become a more reliable and responsive organization. The *Let's Talk!* buttons were added in strategic locations on the District's website and social media, and the program went live to the public on October 1, 2015.

Dialogues through *Let's Talk!* began with Central Office administrators and principals. This school year, the program was expanded to include school-level users in an effort to further improve communication between stakeholders and the District.

Board members received information on the number of dialogues received this school year, as well as a listing of new features released on the platform in January 2018. Key among the new features is one called "Hidden Customer." This provides stakeholders who wish to remain anonymous with an opportunity to still receive a response from the school district. The "anonymous" option is still available for stakeholders to select when sending a dialogue, but this option does not allow the district to respond to the stakeholder.

To view more information, [click here](#).

New Business

Additionally, on Monday, February 12, Board members brought forward several requests. Board member Daryl Morton requested discipline data be provided to Board members monthly. Board President Lester Miller requested an assessment of potentially offering a tax break to senior citizens in Bibb County as the District begins working on the next fiscal year budget.