

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 March 15, 2018.

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Highlights and Recognitions

District Receives High Accreditation Score

This school year, the Bibb County School District was required to complete the AdvancED accreditation process, which includes on-site visits and other measures. This process must be completed every five years.

Recently, the District received official word of its accreditation from AdvancED. Additionally, the District's score of 342.79 out of a possible 400 after 233 stakeholder interviews and 13 school visits was one of the higher scores awarded as part of the revised process. To read more, [click here](#).

High School Basketball Teams Honored for Success

Several District basketball teams had successful seasons, but two reached heights in the Georgia High School Association playoffs that were especially noteworthy.

The Central High School boys' basketball team won the Region 4-AAA Championship with a 23-6 overall record. The Chargers then advanced to the Elite Eight of the GHSA Class AAA Playoffs.

The Westside High School boys' basketball team finished as runner-up in Region 4-AAA. The Seminoles then advanced to the Final Four of the GHSA Class AAA Playoffs, hosted by Armstrong Atlantic in Savannah.

Hutchings Notches Perfect Certification Score

Every five years, W.S. Hutchings College and Career Academy, along with other programs like it, must go through Georgia College and Career Academy certification. This process seeks to determine if these programs are meeting the goals of student achievement, dual credit opportunities and other assurances.

Hutchings went through this process in December 2017 and received a perfect score, having met every requirement of the certification review. To read more, [click here](#).

Springdale Student Headed to Japan for Convention

The Japan-America Society of Georgia recently selected four elementary school students for the 30th Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention. This event, held in Fukuoka, Japan, is part of an exchange program between Atlanta and Fukuoka, its sister city. Ryan Rodgers, a fifth-grader at Springdale Elementary, was selected as one of these four students and will be making the trip to Japan this July.

District Spelling Bee Winners Recognized

The Bibb County Spelling Bee is hosted by the Bibb Association of Educators each year and sponsored by the Masab Temple No. 11. The winner and runner-up of this competition goes on to compete at the Region 6 bee.

This year, Elijah Wood of Howard Middle School won first place at the Bibb County Bee and went on to place fifth at the region bee. Babar Dar of Heritage Elementary School won second place at the Bibb County Bee and went on to place third at the region bee, and Julia Byron of Alexander II Magnet School won third place at the Bibb County Bee and was an alternate for the region bee.

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 12-16, 2018, 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

Director of Athletics, Assistant Principals Approved

On Thursday, March 15, Board members approved new Assistant Principal and Dean of Students appointments for the 2018-2019 school year. Those appointments include:

Amber Hurley, Assistant Principal of Hartley Elementary School;
Dr. Berina English, Assistant Principal of Porter Elementary School;
Betty Anderson, Assistant Principal of Skyview Elementary School;
Amanda Marsh, Assistant Principal of Vineville Academy of the Arts;
Sally Moody, Assistant Principal of Appling Middle School;
Mary Fischer, Assistant Principal of Miller Magnet Middle School;
Dr. Constance Massey-Winds, Assistant Principal of Rutland Middle School;
Donna Walker-Thompson, Assistant Principal of Northeast High School;
Dr. John Duncan, Dean of Students for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School; and
Valeka Franklin, Dean of Students for Veterans Elementary School.

Additionally, Barney Hester was appointed Director of Athletics for the District. He currently serves as a Football Coach/Athletic Director at Howard High School.

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

District to Purchase Ed DeFore Sports Complex

On Thursday, March 15, Board members authorized the District to move forward with the purchase of Ed DeFore Sports Complex for the amount of \$3.8 million. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Social Studies Textbook Adoption

On Thursday, March 15, Board members authorized the District to purchase Social Studies textbooks. To view the textbooks and learning materials selected by the committee, [click here](#).

At the beginning of the social studies textbook adoption process, the Social Studies Coordinator requested sample materials from the vendors. Social Studies teachers, administrators, parents and community stakeholders were afforded the opportunity to review textbook materials and complete textbook feedback forms to determine if the materials would meet the academic needs of students.

Representatives from each elementary, middle and high school served on committees to further assess the top three to five selections to ensure an understanding of the learning resources and materials. Each grade level committee made the final selection.

District to Hire STEM Teacher in Residence

On Thursday, March 15, Board members authorized the District to advertise and hire a S.T.E.M Teacher in Residence for a period of two years in partnership with Robins Air Force Base. The purpose of the position and partnership is to increase the focus on S.T.E.M. certified and trained teachers with the intention of improving science education and experiences for Bibb students. For more information, [click here](#).

Board OKs E-Rate FY 2018 Hardware

On Thursday, March 15, Board members authorized the District to award RFP #18-35, E-Rate FY 2018 Hardware, to Bridgetek Solutions. This infrastructure hardware is E-Rate eligible in Category 2 at 85 percent E-Rate/15 percent local general technology funding. The infrastructure hardware purchase is contingent upon receipt of the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) funding commitment letter. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

Board members reviewed policies for first or second readings on Thursday, March 15. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To view the policies, [click here](#).

- Policy BCBK – Executive Session (second reading)
- Policy BCBI – Public Participation in Board Meetings (first reading)
- KMA – Trespassing (second reading)
- FGCB – Facilities Advertisements and Solicitations (first reading)
- FGDA – Facilities Projects Contracts Fair Employment Clause (first reading)
- DJED – Bids and Quotations (first reading)
- JCDAF – Use of Electronic Devices by Students (first reading)

Information

CCRPI Changes Presented to Board

On Thursday, March 15, Executive Officers Donna Jackson and Lindsey Allen provided Board members with an update on redesigned changes to the 2018 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI). To view the presentation, [click here](#). For more information about CCRPI, [click here](#).

District Enters into Partnership with Historic Macon

On Thursday, March 15, Board members received information about Historic Macon Foundation's work to partner with the Bibb County School District to offer a down payment assistance (DPA) program for eligible BCSD employees with matching dollar-for-dollar funds provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. To view the information memo, which outlines the DPA program and demonstrates how it can be an attractive employee recruitment and retention tool for BCSD, [click here](#).

District to Apply for 2018 GEAR UP Grant

On Thursday, March 15, Board members received information about the District's intent to apply for an upcoming grant opportunity, the 2018 GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) Grant Competition. For more information, [click here](#).

The primary goal of the GEAR UP Grant is to increase the high school graduation rate and enrollment in postsecondary education. This is a competitive seven-year grant, which provides early intervention and support services to cohort students beginning in middle school. As a partnership grant, GEAR UP will assist the District with increasing community partnerships while positively impacting the local economy.

Currently, the GEAR UP project serves a cohort of 2,900 students enrolled in high schools and Class of 2017 graduates attending a post-secondary institution. The 2018 GEAR UP Grant will have the same primary objectives as the current grant, and funding will be used to support the District's strategic goals.