

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 November 15, 2018.

=====

Highlights and Recognitions

District Schools Recognized as Distinguished Title I Schools

Several Bibb County schools were recognized as being Title I Distinguished Schools for scoring in the top 5 percent of the state in the 2017 College and Career Ready Performance Index: Alexander II Math and Science Magnet School, Heritage Elementary School, Skyview Elementary School and Springdale Elementary School. These schools will be in consideration for national awards.

Nutrition Department Honored with Golden Radish Award

For nutrition departments across the state, farm-to-school efforts have become a key focus. To honor those efforts, the state Departments of Agriculture, Public Health, Education and Georgia Organics as well as the Department of Early Care and Learning and the Georgia Cooperative Extension have come together to recognize districts with Golden Radish awards.

These awards are given at various levels to recognize unique initiatives within schools and Districts. The Bibb County School District Nutrition Department was recently honored with a bronze-level Golden Radish for initiatives including a "Day of Planting," hydroponic gardens and National Milk Day events.

Springdale Eagle Recyclers Club Receives State Award

The Keep Georgia Beautiful Awards seek to recognize schools and groups across the state who are committed to improving their communities by protecting the environment. For 2018, the Eagle Recyclers Club at Springdale Elementary School was recognized with a first-place award at the state level for Waste Reduction and Recycling among youth and school groups. The club now advances to the national-level competition.

Actions Taken

Board Approves Request for New Elementary School

On Thursday, November 15, Board members took the next step in building a new elementary school in Bibb County. Board members authorized the President and Superintendent to sign and then submit an Educational Facility Site Evaluation and Approval Form to the Georgia Department of Education requesting approval for the site of a new elementary school. The new elementary school will be built on the site of the current Riley Elementary, located at 3522 Greenbriar Road.

On January 18, 2018, Board members approved information as presented for the District's long-term (2018-2022) facility plan. It is required by law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-260) for each school district to develop and maintain a long-range facilities plan (Five-Year Plan) that documents enrollment projections, school organization, classroom inventory and condition of each school facility within a district.

One of the major items included in the District's long-term facility plan is the proposed school organization. The proposed organization is comprised of the schools, along with their grade configuration, that will remain, be removed or added to the District's organization over the term of the long-term plan. The proposed organization includes the demolition of the existing Riley Elementary facility, with a new elementary facility constructed on the same site. Also in the proposed organization, Brookdale Elementary located at 3600 Brookdale Avenue, would be repurposed or sold. Students from Brookdale would attend the new school in Riley's place.

The Superintendent's recommendation in January stated the decisions about Riley and Brookdale would be considered during the 2018-2019 school year, and the decision would be based on student enrollment. Currently, the District's student enrollment has decreased to just below 24,000 students.

Two public hearings were held prior to the January 2018 meeting in order to receive feedback from stakeholders. The first public hearing was held at Brookdale Elementary School on January 4, 2018. The second public hearing was held at the Central Office on January 18, 2018.

According to the proposed timeline presented to Board members on November 15, Riley Elementary School will close at the end of the 2018-2019 school year in order for demolition of the old school and construction of the new school to begin. In the interim, students from Riley will attend Brookdale Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year. Once construction of the new elementary school at 3522 Greenbriar Road is complete in July 2020, students from Brookdale and Riley will attend this new school.

Construction of the new elementary school will be paid for with Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) funds.

Following this latest approval by the Board, the District will send letters home with students at Brookdale and Riley Elementary Schools on Friday, outlining the information for parents. Principals will meet with the schools' faculty and staff on Friday, as well.

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

District to Build Auditoriums at Rutland, Westside

On Thursday, November 15, Board members authorized the District to enter into contract with Robertson Loia Roof Architects & Engineers to provide the design services for auditorium projects at Rutland and Westside High Schools. The construction of these two additional auditoriums will provide each high school in the District with access to its own auditorium. Construction is expected to be complete by January 2020. The project will be paid for with Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) funds. For more information, [click here](#).

Board OKs Sale of Former Bellevue Elementary

On Thursday, November 15, Board members adopted a resolution authorizing the Board President and Superintendent to sell district surplus property. The property is the former Bellevue Elementary School, located at 4090 Napier Avenue. New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church has offered \$110,000 for the purchase of the facility. For more information, [click here](#).

Concession Building to be Added at Ed DeFore Sports Complex

On Thursday, November 15, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to International City Builders (ICB) to construct a concession facility at the soccer field at Ed DeFore Sports Complex. The soccer field at Ed DeFore Sports Complex has never had permanent restrooms or concessions available for use by district soccer teams. The project will be paid for with Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) funds. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes ESPLOST Expenditure for ACE

On Thursday, November 15, Board members authorized the purchase 150 Dell laptops for the Academy of Classical Education (ACE). The purchases will be paid for with Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) funds. To date, about \$1.4 million in ESPLOST funds have been allocated to purchases for ACE. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

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

- Policy BCBK – Executive Session (second reading)
- Policy DJE – Purchasing (second reading)
- Policy DJED – Bids and Quotations (second reading)
- Policy DJEAA – Board Approval (second reading)
- Policy DJEAC – Purchasing or Credit Card Use (second reading)
- Policy CGPE – Administrative Personnel Non-School Employment (first reading)
- Policy CI – Administrative Intern Program (first reading)
- Policy KHD – Gifts to Staff (first reading)
- Policy MFB – Student Teaching Internships (first reading)

Personnel Items Approved

On Thursday, November 15, Board members approved personnel items for the month. To view personnel items, [click here](#).

Information

Update on District Efforts to Improve Student Literacy

On Thursday, November 15, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Tanzy Kilcrease provided Board members with an update in the District's efforts to improve student

literacy. The work is guided by a District Literacy Plan, which is monitored collaboratively by a group of teachers, administrators, instructional coaches, Media Specialists, Central Office personnel, literacy providers and community members.

Goals outlined in the District Literacy Plan include:

- Strengthening Literacy Development Across the Content Areas;
- Providing Literacy Interventions for Struggling Readers and Writers;
- Creating School Policies, Structures and Cultures for Supporting Literacy;
- Building Leadership Capacity for Literacy;
- Supporting Teachers to Improve Instruction; and
- Establishing Expectations for Evidence-Based Practices.

To view the presentation on the District Literacy Plan, [click here](#).

Howard Middle Students Question District's Mission Statement

Howard Middle School students studying the development of personal mission statements sent Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones a message upon discovering the District's current mission statement is written in future tense and not in present tense. The District's current mission statement is: "The Bibb County School District will develop a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society."

Based on their study of personal mission statements, students argued the District's mission statement should be written in present tense to read. According to the students, the mission should read "The Bibb County School District develops a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society." Dr. Jones visited the class of eighth-grade students at Howard Middle to thank them for their message and promised to present the information to the Board for review.

To watch the message from Howard Middle students to the Superintendent, [click here](#).