

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 16, 2017.

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Highlights and Recognitions

County Spelling Bee Winners Recognized

Each year, the Bibb Association of Educators hosts the Bibb County Spelling Bee to crown a winner among the top spellers from each school. This year, Miller Middle School's Jordan Harrell spelled "nuisance" as his final word to win the Bibb County Spelling Bee, with the Academy for Classical Education's Aman Boricha-Masand finishing as first runner-up and Howard Middle's Patrice Owotunde as second runner-up. Jordan and Aman now advance to the District 6 Bee at Fort Valley State University on February 25.

Two District Employees Honored for Special Education Efforts

The Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) seeks to honor individuals in each region with annual Special Education Impact awards. Recipients demonstrate outstanding ability, performance and commitment to the education of students with disabilities.

Taylor Elementary School Principal Dr. Susan Simpson was recognized by GLRS for her dedication and support of special education students and the District's Program for Exceptional Children (PEC) Department. Ella Carswell of the PEC Department was recognized by GLRS for her work as PEC coach at Southwest High School, where she has developed a community stakeholder group as well as a path to graduation for special education students.

Robotics Teams Honored for Success

As Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines have grown in importance in recent years, school districts and other organizations have sought to engage students in these areas. One such endeavor is in robotics, and the Bibb County School District has had several school teams excel recently.

The following students make up the Alexander II Magnet School team known as the Robosteins: Henry Blankenship, Wilson Brown, Donovan Davenport, Christopher Davis, Jaylen Jordan, Jackson Kinross, Daja Pettigrew, Jarvis Robinson, Malia Tarver, Sanyia Tookes, Loukas Wilcox and Joshua Williams. These students took home the core value trophy from a recent regional First Lego League robotics competition and advanced to the super regional level, where they placed fifth out of 31 teams.

The following students make up the Vineville Academy RoboPandas: Daniel Biek, Andrew Edwards, Gustavo Castaneda-Gomez, Kyle Hicks, Maya Jones, Mary-Katherine Lewis, Dontavious Lofton, Isaiah Ford-Patterson, Janelle Sealy, Skye Selby, Kamaree Taylor, Prince

Sacred Thomas and Kaitlyn Wallace. They advanced to the state First Lego League Championship earlier this month after qualifying through regional competition.

The following students make up the Weaver Middle School STEMinoles: Dominick Faircloth, Selena Harper, Elexas Harper, Dorian Harris, Dana Harris, Debra High, Leo Honore, Andrew Howard, Jordan James, Zahnae McLean, Paul Ogon, Ahleer Patrick, Sydney Pauldo, Seth Russell, Christian Spencer, Eli Spradlin, Destin White, Eric Williams, Skylon Williams and Jesse Williams. These students were recognized with honorable mention at the regional First Lego League competition.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointments for 2017-2018 Approved

On Thursday, February 16, Board members approved the appointments of Bertha Caldwell as Director of Professional Learning, Donna Jackson as Executive Officer of Elementary Schools, Dr. Angela James as Principal of Bruce Elementary School, Dr. Suzan Watkins as Principal of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, and Sonya Coley as Principal of Riley Elementary School for 2017-2018. In addition, assistant principals and other administrative positions were approved for the 2017-2018 school year. To view all personnel items approved, [click here](#).

District Collaborating with Partners on School Bus Stop Arm System

On Thursday, February 16, Board members authorized the District to enter into a contract with Force Multiplier Solutions, the Bibb County Sheriff's Office, and the Bibb County Solicitor General for implementation of a school bus stop arm program.

In October, Board members were presented with information about plans for the Bibb County School District's Operations Division to collaborate with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office, the Office of the Solicitor General and Force Multiplier Solutions toward the implementation of a school bus stop arm program. The goal of the program is to increase student safety at bus stops during the loading and unloading process, to increase public awareness on the dangers of passing stopped school buses during the loading and unloading process and to identify and issue citations for violations.

Annually, the Bibb County School District participates in a national survey of vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses that are loading and unloading students. This survey is conducted each year in April and lasts for just one day. In 2014, 105 school bus drivers documented 122 violations. In 2015, 105 school bus drivers documented 130 violations.

The school bus stop arm program requires the use of several cameras mounted on the school bus. These cameras record events as they occur at each stop. The data will be reviewed by employees of Force Multiplier Solutions for possible violations. All identified violations will be processed and submitted to a local law enforcement entity for final review and approval. Once approved, a citation is issued. This entire system and process comes at no cost to the District.

The safety of Bibb County students is a shared responsibility. It requires a well-trained and safety conscious transportation staff in addition to a well-informed student population and community stakeholders. Force Multiplier Solutions will present a product and program that could help the District educate stakeholders and assist the Bibb County Sheriff's Office and the local court system in enforcing the laws as they pertain to the illegal passing of stopped school buses while students are loading and unloading.

Installation of the school bus stop arm program will begin this school year. Plans call for the District's entire fleet of buses to be equipped with the program. Citations, or ticketing, based on reviews from the program will begin in the 2017-2018 school year.

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

Heating and Air Contract Authorized for Middle School Gyms

On Thursday, February 16, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to Conditioned Air to install heating and air in gymnasiums at Ballard-Hudson, Weaver, Rutland, and Howard Middle Schools. For more information, [click here](#).

MWA Sewer Easement Request Approved

On Thursday, February 16, Board members approved a sewer easement request from the Macon Water Authority for property along Ell Street, near Ballard-Hudson Middle School. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

Board members approved one policy after a second reading on Thursday, February 16.

- Policy DCCA – Budget Deadlines and Schedules.

Also, Board members approved the first reading of two policies.

- Policy GBM – Professional Personnel.
- Policy BCB – Board Procedures.

Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To view the policies, [click here](#).

Board Handles New Business Items

On Thursday, February 16, Board members discussed various new business items, including legislative delegates and priorities for the year and topics for the Board retreat on March 10-11.

Also discussed among Board members was proposed Georgia House Bill 338. To view more information about HB 338, [click here](#).