

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 16, 2017.

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Highlights and Recognitions

Three Bibb Schools Chosen as Title I Reward Schools

Each year the Georgia Department of Education recognizes select Title I schools for both performance and progress. This year, the Bibb County School District had three schools honored with the Reward School status.

Alexander II Math & Science Magnet School was honored as a Highest Performing Schools, meaning it scored among the top 5 percent of Title I schools statewide for the "all students" group on state assessments over a three-year period. Alexander II has been a Highest Performing School since the program began in 2012.

Heritage Elementary School and Howard Middle School were honored as Highest Progress Schools, meaning they scored among the top 10 percent of all Title I schools statewide in making the most improvement in the "all students" group over three years on statewide assessments.

District Students Qualify for National History Bee

The District had numerous students from various schools and grade levels compete in local and regional competitions for the National History Bee. Of that group, six qualified for the National History Bee itself, which will begin on June 2 in Atlanta. These students were Springdale Elementary's Sofia Ali, Nathan Haskell and Griffin Moore; Alexander II's Henry Blankenship and Onna Riley; and Miller Magnet Middle School's Wilson Bridges.

Howard Middle Teacher Receives Professional Development Award

Howard Middle School orchestra teacher Rachael Smith was presented with the Lucile Cornetet Award this year. The Lucile Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award is given by the Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation each year to allow outstanding educators the opportunity to attend professional activities in their respective fields. Ms. Smith will be using the award funds to attend the Blue Lake Suzuki Camp for violin teacher training.

"I try to attend professional development every year to help me become a better teacher. Every time I attend a class or workshop I learn more about my craft and I can hear the results of my learning through my students playing," she said.

Rutland Middle Teacher Selected as Grosvenor Fellow

Rutland Middle School teacher Shiona Drummer has been named a Grosvenor Teacher Fellow. The National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow Program seeks to provide classroom teachers with the opportunity to find new ways to bring geographic awareness to their classrooms. Through

the program, Ms. Drummer will be traveling to Greenland, Iceland and Arctic Svalbard this summer after a pre-expedition workshop in Washington, D.C., next week.

District Honors STAR Students and Teachers

Each year, students across Georgia are honored by the PAGE Foundation through the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition program. STAR students are seniors chosen for achieving the highest SAT score in their school, while also maintaining a high GPA in the classroom. Students then select a STAR teacher that has had an impact on them over the course of their academic career.

The following District students and teachers were honored as part of the STAR program this year: Westside High School's Jacob Mullis with teacher Jan Avila, Southwest High School's Jeremy Collins with teacher Rachid Chafyaay, Rutland High School's Anjali Patel with teacher Herna Keerthi, Northeast High School's Leyla Slappy with teacher Robert Winborne, Howard High School's Jenny Lee with teacher Melinda Powell, and Central High School's Sarah Baldree with teacher Joshua McCorkle.

Sarah Baldree of Central High was named the Bibb County STAR student at the Bibb County STAR Banquet last month, meaning she had the highest SAT score of any of the county's public or private school STAR students. She will attend the regional STAR Banquet this month.

Procurement Department Honored During National Procurement Month

The Procurement Department was honored with a proclamation for National Procurement Month. The department plays a vital role, helping to ensure the District provides parents, students and stakeholders with the best possible experience within schools and facilities. Beyond that, staff members in the department must adhere to all rules and regulations throughout the procurement process.

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 13-17, 2017, has been proclaimed School Board Appreciation Week in Georgia. The weeklong observance 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.

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) sponsors the celebration. The mission of GSBA is to ensure excellence in the governance of local school systems by providing leadership, advocacy and services, and by representing the collective resolve of Georgia's 180 elected boards of education. Please visit www.gsba.com for more information.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointments for 2017-2018 Approved

On Thursday, March 16, Board members approved the appointments below for 2017-2018.

- Rose Powell, Executive Director of Technology
- Jamille Miller-Brown, Executive Officer of Secondary Schools
- Walsetta Miller, Principal of Alexander II Magnet School
- Dr. Constance Massey-Winds, Principal of Springdale Elementary School
- Dr. Telli Hughes, Assistant Principal of Bruce Elementary School
- Kizzie Lott, Assistant Principal of Southwest High School

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

District Partnering with MidSouth to Open Student-Run Credit Union

On Thursday, March 16, Board members authorized the District to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with MidSouth Federal Credit Union to establish a full-service branch student-run credit union on the campus of Hutchings College and Career Academy at the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex. This partnership will provide professional guidance for the Banking and Finance pathway, create real-world experience for students planning to enter the financial industry, better the communities in which the banks serve and increase the level of financial literacy within the Bibb County community.

The partnership will include:

- Mentoring students, faculty and staff regarding credit union products, services and processes;
- Credit Union staff participating in the educational process by speaking to students regarding banking principles, leadership and marketing;
- Providing guidance for curriculum development of the pathway; and
- Giving students the tools needed to be successful when managing their finances.

The ultimate goal of the partnership is to open a branch location on-site at Hutchings College and Career Academy in fall 2017. This will consist of a full-service branch primarily operated by students. MidSouth will provide the daily operational oversight, partner in hiring students, train student employees, and provide one full-time on-site employee. Also, MidSouth will offer financial literacy curriculum and classes to all students in Bibb County to help provide them with the necessary skills to be successful in today's emerging society.

To read more, [click here](#).

Construction Contract Approved for Operations Center Addition

On Thursday, March 16, Board members approved a contract with International City Builders for construction of the Campus Police/Transportation facility addition to the Operations Center on Cavalier Drive. Board members authorized the District to enter into contract negotiations with International City Builders for construction of the Campus Police/Transportation facility during a

Called Board Meeting on March 14. The project will be funded by the 2016 ESPLOST (Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax), a one percent sales tax approved by voters in November 2015. To read more information, [click here](#).

PEP Grant Meant to Improve Student Fitness

On Thursday, March 16, Board members approved the District's use of the Carol White PEP Grant to improve students' physical fitness and understanding of nutrition, and overall quality of life. Programs such as Power Up For 30, Shape America, Individualized Fitness Grams and various cardiovascular tests will be implemented through the grant. These assessments are intended to improve students' cardiovascular fitness level, decrease their risk of heart-related diseases and diabetes, and lower obesity rates. The grant is worth \$1,623,503, which will be dispersed over three years. To read more, [click here](#).

Transportation Purchasing New School Buses

Board members on Thursday, March 16, authorized the purchase of six Blue Bird school buses from Yancey Bus Sales and Services at a cost not to exceed \$533,572. The purchase will be funded by the 2010 ESPLOST (Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax), a one percent sales tax approved by voters in November 2009. To read more information, [click here](#).

Georgia Power Utility Easement Approved

Board members on Thursday, March 16, approved a utility easement requested by Georgia Power Co. at the Martin-Whitley Educational Complex on Riverside Drive. Georgia Power Co. has deemed it necessary to relocate and install new power distribution equipment related to pending improvements at the Interstate 75/Interstate 16 interchange, which requires a utility easement along the southern corner of the property owned by the District. To read more, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

Board members approved two policies after a second reading on Thursday, March 16.

- 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](#).

Information

Board Reviews Promotion and Retention of Elementary, Middle School Students

In July 2003 all local Board of Educations adopted criteria for the development of a placement and promotion policy consistent with the Georgia Academic Placement and Promotion Policy. Since January, elementary and middle schools have been hosting meetings with parents to make sure they are aware of this policy.

According to policy, no third grade student shall be promoted to the fourth grade if the student does not receive a grade level reading determination of “On/Above Grade Level” on the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessments and meet promotion standards and criteria. No fifth or eighth grade student shall be promoted to the sixth or ninth grade if the student does not receive a grade level reading determination of “On/Above Grade Level” on the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessment and attain an achievement level of “Developing Learner,” “Proficient Learner” or “Distinguished Learner” on the mathematics section of the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessment and meet promotion standards and criteria.

There will be a Bibb County Summer Opportunity Program for students in third, fifth and eighth grades who are not successful on the Georgia Milestones test. It will be held June 5-29.

To view the presentation, which includes detailed information about promotion and retention, visit www.bcsdk12.net or [click here](#).