

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 April 20, 2017.

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Highlights and Recognitions

PEC Honors Top Co-Teach Teams

As part of the District's Program for Exceptional Children, some teachers work in Co-Teach Teams to better support special education students. To help honor the teams that exemplified the best teaching practices and philosophy throughout the District, the PEC Department narrowed down the top Co-Teach Teams in the District. The top three teams were recognized on Thursday, April 20, and will attend the IDEAS conference this summer.

The top three teams were as follows: from Westside High School, Demetria Lee and Joycelyn Jones; from Springdale Elementary School, AJ Johnson and Lisa Webster; and from Weaver Middle School, Kelly Tucker and Willy Byrd.

The Springdale team of AJ Johnson and Lisa Webster received the top honor at the meeting. They will represent the District at the National Council for Exceptional Children next spring.

Science Fair Winners Recognized

Students across the nation prepare science fair projects and presentations each year in an effort to learn about the world around them. This year, about a dozen District students advanced to state competition after being recognized at the Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Central High School students recognized included Nicole Hill, Virginia McArthur and William Andrew Barnes. Also, Nicole was recognized as the winner of the I-SWEEP International Sustainability Award.

From the middle school level, the following students were recognized: Tabitha Cantrell of Howard Middle; Kahlil Harvey, Amaris Ross, Zaniyah Scott and Jayden Williams of Miller Middle; and Joshua Moore, Charles Evan McCord and Walter Lee Strickland of Rutland Middle School. At the elementary level, there were two Best in Show winners: Julia Byron of Alexander II Magnet School and Hannah Smith of Vineville Academy of the Arts.

Quiz Bowl Teams Recognized

Quiz Bowl offers students the opportunity to show off their academic prowess in a competitive environment. A variety of disciplines and content areas are tested, ranging from literature to math. Recently, the District held its quiz bowl competition for both the elementary and middle school levels.

Springdale was the winner of the elementary school competition, with team members including Sofia Ali, Bennett Barkley, Nathan Haskell, Sarah Hawkins, Aidan Longacre, Ian Lucas and Griffin Moore, led by coach Susan Mason. Miller won the middle school competition, with team members Christie Anyakudo, Precious Anyakudo, Wilson Bridges, Kayleigh Brooks, Isabella Ewing, Kahlil Harvey, Henry Jennings, Sami Momin, Chisom Nwokeocha, Skylar Poole, Cameron Rogers, Joshua Seepersaud, Xavianna Syphrett, Akeba Taylor and Adonis Thomas, led by coach Keisha Carter.

District Honors Young Georgia Authors

The Young Georgia Authors contest seeks to honor students for their original literary works. Winners are selected by the District at every grade level and then advance to the Middle Georgia RESA competition, which then feeds into the state contest. District-level winners are listed below.

- Kindergarten – Alanah Hughley, Burdell-Hunt, “Animals and Their Babies”
- First grade – A’Shiyah Jackson, Taylor, “The Tiger Escapes”
- Second grade – Kennedi Justice, Taylor, “The Best Vacation Ever”
- Third grade – Laela Freeland, McKibben Lane, “The Princess That Never Smiled”
- Fourth grade – Henry Blankenship, Alexander II, “Detective”
- Fifth grade – Layla Floyd, Alexander II, “A Call for Peace”
- Sixth grade – Safi Merani, Weaver, “On the Beach”
- Seventh grade – Arlonda Mitchell, Miller, “Wait, Child”
- Eighth grade – Zoe Pham, Rutland Middle, “Magnolias”
- Ninth grade – Lily Nguyen Bui, Howard High, “A Voice From Within”
- 10th grade – Jordan Rozier, Howard High, “Pour Out Your Soft Drinks”
- 11th grade – Hannah Strudwick, Howard High, “Sole Searching”
- 12th grade – Danashia Thomas, Southwest, “Snowflakes in America”

District Students Advance in History Day Competition

National History Day is an academic competition in which students conduct extensive research on a historical topic of their choice based on the year’s theme. Through their research, students must compile analysis and conclusions about the historical significance of the event they have chosen into one of five categories: papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. Students compete in National History Day on local, state and national levels.

The students listed below placed high enough at the regional National History Day competition to advance to the state competition.

- From Ballard-Hudson Middle School, Daquan Thomas, junior exhibits.
- From Central High School, Gabrielle Booker, Lindsey Hubbard and Mykel King, senior group websites.
- From Howard High School, Alyssa Daughdrill, Harley Patterson and Kameron Hicks, senior papers; Jordan Rozier, Garrett Patterson and Jekell Smith, senior websites; Charles Burney, Alex Diaz and Reagan Tomberlin, senior group websites; Landon Norman, senior performances; Aaryanna Mercer, senior documentaries; Kasey Cote, Casey Parker and Leah Duval, senior individual exhibits; and Bradley Smith, Colin Blackwell, Carlie

Harriger, Saumil Patel, Darren Gao, Muhammad Shafiq, Alyn Ovell and Bhumi Patel, senior group exhibits.

- From Howard Middle School, Kai Thomas and Macie Francis, junior group websites; Brinda Patel, Lisa Patel and Chandler Daniel, junior group performances; and Destiny Mercer, Carlo Cooper, Gillian Harvin and Chloe Pratt, junior group documentaries.
- From Miller Middle School, Jocelyn Rowley and Viviana Medina-Gonzalez, junior group websites.
- From Rutland Middle School, Jenny Pyon, junior individual documentaries; and Madison Bryant and Morgan Carter, junior group documentaries.

Chamber, MEDC Thank Board for Partnership

Guests from the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC) presented Board members with a certificate of appreciation on Thursday, April 20. The certificate, presented by Chamber President and CEO Mike Dyer and MEDC Senior Vice President Pat Topping, recognizes the Board of Education and Bibb County School District for their valuable partnership over the years.

Actions Taken

Board OKs ESPLOST Budget Amendment for Northeast/Appling Project

On Thursday, April 20, Board members approved a proposed 2016 ESPLOST Budget adjustment to allow for an increase in budget for the Northeast High/Appling Middle replacement project. Due to the budget amendment for the replacement project, the contract with architect WM2A for the project required additional modifications.

The Northeast/Appling 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. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2018.

The original work and budget estimates for proposed 2016 ESPLOST projects were developed starting in 2013. Once potential projects were identified, preliminary budgets were set and the ESPLOST referendum was developed during a series of meetings, which included input from the community and Board members.

The Northeast High/Appling Middle replacement project budget was set at \$45 million based on the identified needs during the development of the five-year facilities plan. The original budget was calculated on projected instructional units using Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) formulas and construction costs on similar projects at the time. Based on this, the original budget for the Northeast High/Appling Middle replacement project was set at \$45 million.

Through the work of the design team over the past 8 months, the program needs for each school has been determined by meeting with leadership teams and stakeholders from each school and Central Office staff. Based on the new information, a budget adjustment for the Northeast High/Appling Middle replacement project was proposed at \$49 million – a \$4 million increase

from the original budget. Factors driving the increase in the project's budget include programmatic needs for each school, a need for more instructional units and square footage, and local/minority participation.

To cover the costs of these increases, the 2016 ESPLOST Budget will be adjusted by reducing the budgeted amount for New Elementary No. 4 from \$19 million to \$15 million. The recommendation to reduce this line item was based on the current condition of existing elementary schools and declining enrollment for the District.

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

Board Authorizes Purchase of New Science Textbooks

On Thursday, April 20, Board members authorized the District to purchase new science textbooks at a cost of \$1,638,927.60. The new textbooks will be ordered this summer for use beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

On June 9, 2016, the State Board of Education approved the K-12 Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for Science. The K-12 Science GSE will be implemented during the 2017-2018 school year. The Bibb County School District followed the suggested guidelines from the state outlined in Georgia Education Rules 160-4-4.10 for the K-12 Science Adoption, including seeking input and feedback from teachers and stakeholders.

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

District Renewing Contract with Dell for Microsoft Licensing Services

On Thursday, April 20, the Board authorized the District to enter into a renewal with affiliate Dell for \$180,401.46 for continued services for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This annual renewal allows the District Microsoft licenses for BCSD servers, desktops, laptops and devices. This provides the District with licensing for the following software – eMail, IM, Sharepoint, MS Office for faculty and staff, Windows OS, Data Center applications, Office 365 applications, and MS Office Pro Plus. For more information, [click here](#).

Central Kitchen Renovations, Modifications Approved

On Thursday, April 20, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order for \$977,220.81 to Citisco Equipment Co. to perform kitchen equipment renovations and modification work related to RFP 17-14. This work is needed to increase the efficiency and accuracy of the Central Kitchen operation and to keep up with the advancing technology. Additionally, the age and wear factors are causing frequent and very costly repairs to the existing equipment. For more information, [click here](#).

AT&T Renewal Approved by Board

On Thursday, April 20, the Board authorized the District to enter into the second year of a renewal agreement for AT&T to provide continuation of local and long distance telecommunication services for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policy

Board members reviewed a policy for a first reading on Thursday, April 20.

- Policy JRA – Student Data Privacy Complaints

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

Ferrellgas to Provide Propane Fuel for Bus Operations

On Thursday, April 20, Board members approved Ferrellgas as the District's supplier of propane fuel for school bus operation. For more information, [click here](#).

Information

Truancy Task Force Continues Work

Board members received an update on the work of the District's Truancy Task Force on Thursday, April 20. The purpose of the Truancy Task Force is to impact student attendance by providing parents with assistance from local agencies or citations/warnings when needed.

The task force consists of representatives from the following entities: Assistant Solicitor State Court; Department of Juvenile Justice; Department of Family and Children Services; Bibb County Sheriff's Office; Communities in Schools of Central Georgia; Community Developmental System; River Edge Behavioral Health; Bibb County Board of Education; and the Bibb County School District, including Campus Police, the District's Director of Psychological Services, and District School Social Workers.

The Truancy Task Force increased its meetings from once a month to twice a month for the 2016-2017 school year. So far this school year, the Truancy Task Force has heard 148 cases. As a result of the task force's work, the number of students missing 10 or more days has decreased from 5,526 at this time last year to 4,722 this year, for a difference of 804.

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

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. The Summer Opportunity Program will be held at Ingram-Pye Elementary and Southfield Elementary for third and fifth grade students, and at Miller Magnet Middle School for eighth grade students. Additionally, high school students will have opportunities for credit repair or credit recovery through a High School Summer Opportunity Program held June 12-July 13 at Central High School.

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

Update on Georgia Milestones Testing

Board members received an update Thursday, April 20, on the District’s administration of the 2017 Georgia Milestones Assessments. Elementary and middle school students began taking assessments April 10 and will finish testing April 25. High school students will participate in testing April 24-May 10. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Board Presented with Results of Annual BCSD Stakeholder Survey

On Thursday, April 20, Board members received the results of the annual BCSD Stakeholder Survey. The online survey was open March 6-13, and stakeholders were invited to share their opinions about the current state of the District. To view the survey results, [click here](#).