

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 May 18, 2017.

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Highlights and Recognitions

Retirees Recognized for Years of Service

This month, the Board recognized those faculty and staff members who have reached the end of their full-time careers with the District and will be retiring at the end of this school year. These 35 employees with at least 25 years of service in Bibb County take with them more than 1,000 years of combined service time.

- Harriet Agen, Rutland Middle School, all 30 years in Bibb.
- Barbara Andrews, Transportation, all 26 years in Bibb.
- Jeffery Ashley, Weaver Middle School, 25 years in Bibb, 28 years total.
- Zachary Bateman Jr., Maintenance, 36 years in Bibb, 38 years total.
- Daphne Brown, Title I, all 30 years in Bibb.
- Marta Cabell, Howard Middle School, 32 years in Bibb, 35 years total.
- Deborah Cheshire, Northwoods Academy, all 29 years in Bibb.
- Steven Corkery, Psychological Services, 35 years in Bibb, 36 years total.
- Connie Cornelius, Bernd Elementary School, all 30 years in Bibb.
- Charlene Curry, Southwest High School, 31 years in Bibb, 33 years total.
- Pamela Deshazer, Heritage Elementary School, 28 years in Bibb, 30 years total.
- Deborah Eidam, Heritage Elementary School, 29 years in Bibb, 31 years total.
- Shirley Fussell, Superintendent's Office, all 32 years in Bibb.
- Judy Godfrey, Professional Learning, 26 years in Bibb, 34 years total.
- Antonio Goodrum, SOAR Academy, 26 years in Bibb, 29 years total.
- Brigitte Harris, Southwest High School, all 31 years in Bibb.
- Mary Hickey, Brookdale Elementary School, 28 years in Bibb, 30 years total.
- Wanda Hubbard, Heard Elementary School, all 26 years in Bibb.
- Wanda Hulett, Heard Elementary School, 31 years in Bibb, 32 years total.
- Christine Kpor, Southwest High School, all 33 years in Bibb.
- Julie Long, Rutland Middle School, all 30 years in Bibb.
- Keela Malone, Riley Elementary School, 30 years in Bibb, 31 years total.
- Ruby Manson, Rosa Taylor Elementary School, all 28 years in Bibb.
- Bernice Moore, Westside High School, all 26 years in Bibb.
- Bruce Mullen, Northeast High School, 27 years in Bibb, 31 years total.
- Cheryl Nobles, Rutland Middle School, 30 years in Bibb, 35 years total.
- Cindy Olson, McKibben Lane Elementary School, 29 years in Bibb, 31 years total.
- Bobbie Parker, Matilda Hartley Elementary School, 28 years in Bibb, 40 years total.
- Belinda Patrick, Matilda Hartley Elementary School, all 26 years in Bibb.
- Janis Peavy, Skyview Elementary School, 29 years in Bibb, 35 years total.

- James Pruett, Transportation, all 27 years in Bibb.
- Debra Shipp, Brookdale Elementary School, all 30 years in Bibb.
- Brenda Tard, Weaver Middle School, all 30 years in Bibb.
- Linda Thomas, Southfield Elementary School, 30 years in Bibb, 36 years total.
- Sandra Tuggle, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, all 30 years in Bibb.

Pair of Basketball Teams Honored for Playoff Success

This basketball season, Bibb County had two teams that pushed deep into the postseason after stellar regular season efforts.

The Central girls finished second in Region 4-AAA in the regular season before winning the region tournament and advancing to the GHSA Class AAA Elite Eight round. They came within a point of moving on to the state semifinals. The Westside boys won the regular season and tournament championships in Region 4-AAA and advanced to the GHSA Class AAA Elite Eight round. They lost in a double-overtime thriller on the road to barely miss advancing to the state semifinals.

Southwest Chess Team Recognized for Tournament Win

This year, the Rex Demers Memorial Chess Tournament was held in Atlanta for scholastic chess teams for the first time. The first-ever winners for this tournament were from Bibb's very own Southwest High School.

In addition to team honors, team member Vaughn Owens won an award for his individual efforts, notching a 2.5 out of a possible score of 4. The team was led by advisor Adam Pelletier and included Savon Davis, Javar Ellington, Kenterious Goolsby and Tyrese Rochester.

Rutland High School Counselor Chosen for Regional Award

Rutland High School counselor Lisa Brown was recently chosen as the College Board's Counselor of the Year for the Southern Region, which encompasses 10 states. She works primarily with juniors and seniors at Rutland.

Students Win National Competition Awards From Various Organizations

The District has had numerous students from across the District win awards at various national competitions in their areas of study. Whether in DECA, FBLA or FCCLA, Bibb students are winning and preparing themselves for a bright future.

For DECA, from Rutland High School: Ajani Jeffreys, ninth place in professional selling. Also for DECA, from Westside High School: Sophia Franklin, Ciara Jackson, Kendrez Neal – Civic Consciousness Project, first place; and Faith Ogbeho, Richara Whipple – Public Relations, seventh place.

For FBLA, from Howard High School: Hunter Fleenor and Noah Horton – Management Information Systems, second place; Landon Johnson and Tate Testa, Management Information Systems, sixth place; Prem Patel and Chandler Yats, Sports and Entertainment Management, fourth place; Amrigna Mehta, Anju Patel, Payal Patel, 3-D Animation, third place; Cammy Grandison, Sales Presentation, fourth Place; and Ethan Norfleet, third place, MOS Testing.

For FCCLA, from Rutland High School: Kalyn Yancey, National Programs in Action, first place. Also for FCCLA, from Southwest High School: Reanna Vorasup, Career Investigation, first place. Also for FCCLA, from Hutchings College & Career Academy: Naimah Davis, Taylor Johnson and Azaria Oliver, 3-man cooking competition, Stars Event, first place.

District Honors CTAE Students of the Year

Recently, the CTAE Department recognized the CTAE Student of the Year from each school and named a Bibb County CTAE Student of the Year.

The school-level winners were as follows: from Central High School, JaiQuai Wright; from Howard High School, Hunter Fleenor; from Hutchings College and Career Academy, Jason Smith; from Northeast High School, Leyla Slappy; from Rutland High School, Landon White; from Southwest High School, Janice Jackson; and from Westside High School, Dexter Walker.

Congratulations to this year's Bibb County CTAE Student of the Year, Howard's Hunter Fleenor. Each of the CTAE Students of the Year will receive a scholarship to continue their education.

Nutrition Director Wins State, Regional Honors

School Nutrition Director Dr. Cleta Long, who will be retiring at the end of this school year, has been named the Georgia School Nutrition Association's Director of the Year. Additionally, she was named the School Nutrition Association's Southeast Regional Director of the Year.

Two Bibb Teachers Chosen for Excellence Awards

In addition to providing scholarships for students, the Education Together organization recently recognized educators from Middle Georgia for Teacher Excellence Awards.

Two of these teachers were from the Bibb County School District and received \$1,000 each to be used for classroom supplies. Those teachers were Michael Scott, fine arts and band director at Central High School, and Howard High School social studies teacher Dinah Redding.

Westside Teacher Selected for State Honor

Westside High School teacher Valeria Drummond is the work-based learning coordinator and DECA advisor at Westside. Within 3 years, Ms. Drummond has increased program enrollment and doubled DECA membership. Also, under her leadership the program was awarded industry certification and numerous DECA students have advanced to national DECA competition.

This spring, she was named the Georgia Marketing Education Association's New Teacher of the Year. This honor recognizes her early efforts to make a lasting impact on students.

Bibb Students Succeed at Media Festival

The Georgia Student Media Festival seeks to stimulate student interest in a variety of media production disciplines. Students from across the state compete for ratings and awards at the event, which was held in Liberty County this year.

The following students made superior ratings on their projects in district competition and advanced to the state level:

- From Bernd Elementary School, Jاليا Sinclair, Superior; and Kourtney Deshazer, Merit.
- From Burdell-Hunt Magnet School, Kenady Snead, Superior; Curtissia Reese and Tamia Spivey, Superior and Best in Show; and Kiya Williams, Superior.
- From Heard Elementary School, Connor Darity, Merit; and Raquel Weaver, Superior.
- From Heritage Elementary School, Kendyl Bryant, Superior.
- From Howard High School, Hunter Fleenor and Tanner Francis, Superior and Best of Show; Juliann Pham and Claire Tessendorf, Superior; Aaryanna Mercer, Superior; Anne Lauer, Superior; Tytiana Bentley and Chidalu Ogbuka, Superior; and Dustin Van and Tate Testa, Merit.
- From Lane Elementary School, Jasmine Booker and Dashyiah Spivey, Merit; Jourdan Brooks, Superior; Mikylah Driskell and Nevaeh Balkcom, Superior; Londy Ramirez and Nataly Davis, Superior; and MyKasia Watts and Avaree Crockett, Superior.
- From Porter Elementary School, Brandie Allen and Loretta Clubb's Classes, Superior; Brenna Gore and Chloe Lavender, Merit; Jada DeLoach, Nevaeh Wright and Bailey Zuniga, Superior; Jordan Dumas, Estefhanie Cabrera-Penaloza, Jeremy Mullis, Pragn Patel, Yamaya Council, Jenesis Blanco-Mejia, Reese Cavender, Gavin Snow, Jayden Little and Taylor Johnson, Superior; Melinda Goggans and Loretta Clubb's Class, Merit; and Jada Law and Josie Cannon, Superior.
- From Vineville Academy of the Arts, Oliver Jennings, Superior and Best of Show; and Daniel Biek, Superior and Best of Show.
- From Williams Elementary School, JaDarius Williams and Mikela Willaims, Merit.

Team RoboBibb Honored for World Championship Appearance

Team RoboBibb is a robotics team open to students across the District that competes in the FIRST Robotics Challenge. This year, the team won the state competition and advanced to the world championship in Houston, Texas. There, Team RoboBibb moved on to the quarterfinals, putting the team among the nation's best.

The team was led by advisors Carole Myers, Vanessa Pabalan, Diane Byington and Wylene Dickey, as well as chaperone Al Raines. Team members who attended state and national competition included: from Central High School, Lea Walker and Nicholas Walker; from Howard High School, Hunter Fleenor, Tanner Francis, Chloe Garland, Ben Hornung, David Hudgins, Landon Johnson, Jay Patel, Thomas Perez, Keely Testa and Tate Testa; and from Rutland High School, Jacob Flippen and Carol Pyon.

Students Honored for Math Competition Success

Math team competitions provide students with the opportunity to sharpen and display their skills in mathematics. These students compete in team and individual divisions at their grade level to show their speed and accuracy in completing mathematical tasks.

The following students won individual competitions and speed rounds: Fourth grade - Delaney Holliman, Springdale Elementary; fifth grade - Kiya Williams, Burdell-Hunt Magnet; sixth grade - Kylah Knight, Appling Middle; seventh grade - Leo Zhang, Howard Middle; and eighth grade - Sami Momin, Miller Magnet Middle School. In the speed round, students Asher Balmes and Ethan Roberson-Gavett from Vineville Academy of the Arts came out victorious.

The following schools came out on top in the team competition. For fourth and fifth grade, the Springdale Elementary School team of Sofia Ali, M.J. Brand, Nate Campbell, Hayden Davis, Delaney Holliman and Victor Nguyen won. For sixth grade, the Rutland Middle School team of Ashton Donaldson, Xander Marberry, Caleb Miller, E'Miya Thomas and Caitlyn Thompson won. For seventh grade, the Howard Middle School team of Landon Juang, Iran Marin, Brinda Patel, Jalen Smith, Jason Wang and Leo Zhang won. Brinda Patel and Leo Zhang also won in the speed round.

For eighth grade, the Appling Middle School team of Ta'Zheara Butts, Alivia Johnson, Joseph Richardson, Jailynn Smith, Amari Stubbs and Zniya White won.

The following students were the top winners of the Math24 Competition: in fourth grade, Kiya Taylor of Brookdale Elementary School; and in fifth grade, Dallas Mundy of Alexander II Magnet School.

Rutland ROTC Drill Team Honored for Victory

The Marine Corps Junior ROTC Color Guard from Rutland High School, composed of Tymia Lockett, Tia Montford, Breana Austin, Kaitlin Brock, Brittany Hill and Anya Hunter, won first place out of 35 competitors at the National High School Drill Team Competition in Daytona Beach, Fla., earlier this month. Tymia served as commander of the color guard, with Tia, Breana, and Kaitlin competing alongside her. The group's instructors are Chief Warrant Officer Robert Dewitt and 1st Sgt. Juan Parks.

Students Succeed at Technology Fair

Students across the District recently competed in the Technology Fair in disciplines ranging from digital game design to video production to robotics. These competitions will prepare students for in-demand career fields, and some of those careers may be so advanced, they don't even exist yet.

The following students were first place winners:

- Academy for Classical Education – Meryam Sayed, Robotics third and fourth grade; Cameron Howd, 3D Modeling ninth and 10th grade; Simron Bhikot, Video Production seventh and eighth grade; and Jacob Mack and Sam Forsyth, Video Production ninth and 10th grade.
- Appling Middle School – Matthew Jackson, 3D Modeling seventh and eighth grade; and Alivia Johnson and Jailynn Smith, Robotics seventh and eighth grade.
- Bernd Elementary School – Breyant King, Audio Production third and fourth grade.
- Burdell-Hunt Magnet School – Kennedy Snead, Audio Production fifth and sixth grade.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School – Jayden Brown and Aarion Stephen, Digital Game Design fifth and sixth grade.
- Heard Elementary School – Raquel Weaver, Video Production third and fourth grade; and Drew Justice, Digital Game Design third and fourth grade.
- Heritage Elementary School – Donald Williams, 3D Modeling third and fourth grade; and Babar Dar, Project Programming third and fourth grade.
- Hutchings College and Career Academy – Ikyla Jones and Jamicah Moore, Video Production 11th and 12th grade; and Brandon Israel, Animation ninth and 10th grade.

- Northeast High School – Romas Dunn, Audio Production 11th and 12th grade; Yalandria Derricho and Kaytress Curry, Productivity Design 11th and 12th grade; and Andrew Hightower and Andrew Hennessy, Robotics ninth and 10th grade.
- Southfield Elementary School – Jawaun Coleman, Productivity Design fifth and sixth grade.
- Springdale Elementary School – Griffin Moore, 3D Modeling fifth and sixth grade.
- Union Elementary School – Joel James, Productivity Design third and fourth grade.
- Veterans Elementary School – Shalome Covington, Digital Photo Production third and fourth grade.
- Vineville Academy of the Arts – Ulric Bellaire, III, Video Production fifth and sixth grade; Daniel Biek, Animation fifth and sixth grade; Oliver Jennings, Animation third and fourth grade; and Maya Jones, Digital Photo Production fifth and sixth grade.
- Weaver Middle School – Mona James, Productivity Design seventh and eighth grade.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointments for 2017-2018 Approved

On Thursday, May 18, Board members approved the appointments below for 2017-2018.

- Amanda McBride, Assistant Principal of Carter Elementary School
- Julie Bradley, Assistant Principal of Howard Middle School
- Chanda Williams, Assistant Principal of Howard Middle School
- Donna Cline, Assistant Principal of Howard High School
- Willie Batts, Assistant Principal of SOAR Academy

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

Bernd Elementary HVAC to be Upgraded

On Thursday, May 18, Board members authorized the District to move forward with Pruett Air Conditioning to perform Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment renovations and modification at Bernd Elementary. Funding from the 2015 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) will be used. For more information, [click here](#).

Surplus Vehicles to be Sold Through GovDeals

On Thursday, May 18, Board members approved the surplus and sale of 13 vehicles per Board Policy DFM and authorized the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent to sign the resolution. These vehicles will be advertised on GovDeals. For more information, [click here](#).

Appling Middle Phased Out in Favor of New Middle School Facility

On Thursday, May 18, Board members approved a resolution to phase out Appling Middle School on Shurling Drive. A new Appling Middle and Northeast High will be built on Upper River Road utilizing funding from the 2015 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST).

The original Appling Middle School was constructed in 1958, and has been renovated and upgraded several times over the life of the school. The typical life cycle for educational facilities is about 50 years. Once a facility has exceeded this length of service, it becomes difficult to continue modifications and upgrades to keep the facility performing at a level needed to serve the students and staff.

The Board of Education has decided that a new facility will be provided for Appling Middle School students in the near future. To request the available state capital outlay funds for the construction of the new facility for Appling Middle, the existing middle school facility must be phased out of the Georgia Department of Education Local Facilities Plan. For more information, [click here](#).

Board OKs Renewal of Edgenuity, School City Assessment Platform for FY 2018

On Thursday, May 18, Board members approved the contract for renewal of Edgenuity for the 2017-2018 school year. Bibb County School District's high schools have used Edgenuity, an online, blended learning experience, for several years to provide students with opportunities to recover credits; to offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses that may not be offered at particular schools; and to provide instructional supports. For more information, [click here](#).

Also on Thursday, Board members approved the contract for renewal of assessment platform School City for the 2017-2018 school year. In July 2015, the Board authorized the District to enter into contract negotiations with School City for a formative assessment platform for fiscal year 2015-2016. Since 2015, the District has implemented a formative assessment process to provide teachers with data to drive instructional practices. Having access to the formative assessment data has assisted schools in determining students' mastery of standards prior to the spring administration of standardized tests. For more information, [click here](#).

Food Items Approved for FY 2018, Summer Meals Program

On Thursday, May 18, Board members approved food products bid awards for the following: ACC Distributors; Gordon Foods; Williams Institutional Foods; Coca-Cola Items; Sutherland Foodservice. These vendors will provide food products for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information, [click here](#).

Also on Thursday, Board members approved the purchase of a single direct shipment from ES Foods for the purpose of the Summer Meals Program. The School Nutrition Summer Meals Program provides meals to children ages 2-18 at more than 100 sites in Bibb County, serving approximately 150,000 meals during the 28-day program. In the past, meals were prepared at the Central Kitchen; however, due to renovations School Nutrition opted to purchase pre-packed meals from an outside vendor. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Grant Agreement for Connections for Classrooms Round 3

On Thursday, May 18, Board members authorized the Superintendent to sign and submit the Connections for Classrooms Round 3 Grant Award Agreement with the Governor's Office of Student Achievement in the amount of matched FY 2016 E-rate funds totaling \$263,750.27. For more information, [click here](#).

Connections for Classrooms is a grant program joining multiple state agencies around the common goal of ensuring Georgia schools and classrooms have the high-speed broadband access required for digital and blended learning. The program is part of a broader statewide effort to expand classroom high-speed broadband access in response to Gov. Nathan Deal's Digital Learning Task Force recommendations, as well as the Georgia Department of Education's efforts to enable personalized learning for Georgia students.

Board Reviews Policies

Board members reviewed a policy for a first reading on Thursday, May 18.

- Policy IDBA – Sex Education

Also, Board members reviewed a policy for a second reading.

- 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](#).

Board Approves Cox Renewal, Internal Broadband Services

On Thursday, May 18, Board members authorized the District to enter into the fourth year of a renewal agreement with Cox Communications for 2017-2018 to provide WAN Internet connectivity for all District sites, as well as redundancy at the District's offsite COLO (Collocation Facility). For more information, [click here](#).

Also on Thursday, Board members approved awarding managed internal broadband services to Progressive Communications. For more information, [click here](#).

District to Test Virtual Desktop Infrastructure

On Thursday, May 18, Board members approved the purchase of the Nutanix/Lenovo Server with 4 nodes and 200 devices with 200 consecutive 5-year VM license. For more information about the purchase, [click here](#).

The District is reviewing its strategic direction for Infrastructure Platforms, and as such, the District's Technology Services Department began a proof of concept in May 2016 to validate and evaluate the virtual desktop concept with student wireless devices (Chromebooks). This new technology provides for the most efficient management and functionality of student wireless devices through the wireless network. The Nutanix server was installed and configured to provide a clean image each time a student logs in to the device.

The primary objective of this proof of concept effort is to validate the enabling and align features and functionality to the District's VDI (Virtual Desktop Infrastructure) for student devices environment. Nutanix will be used as an infrastructure platform to host the District's Test VDI environment validating the operational efficiencies, scalability, availability and functionality of the Nutanix platform.

This new technology will provide elementary schools with a safe, newly imaged device that is managed wirelessly. The Technology Services Department will continue to monitor and evaluate the pros and cons of implementing this new technology in the middle and high schools.

Information

District Shares Accountability Report with State Board of Education

On Thursday, May 18, Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones Jr. shared with Board members a presentation of the District's Accountability Report to the State Board of Education, which he presented earlier this month in Atlanta. As part of the District's Strategic Waivers School System (SWSS) flexibility waiver, the Superintendent was required to provide a report on District efforts to "Beat the Odds." For more information and to view the presentation, [click here](#).

Update on Georgia Milestones Testing Process

Board members received an update on Thursday, May 18, on the process of administering the Georgia Milestones Assessment System in the District. Recently, the high schools participated in end-of-course testing as part of the Georgia Milestones. Students in third, fifth and eighth grade who did not pass the reading and/or math assessments also participated in re-tests. For more information, [click here](#).

District Providing Support Through Instructional Rounds

On Thursday, May 18, Board members received an overview of the District's Instructional Rounds process. There are two primary learning goals for the instructional rounds process: to build skills among District and school leaders by coming to a common understanding of effective practice and how to support it; and to support instructional improvement at school by sharing what the team learns and by building skills at the local level.

For more information and to view the presentation, [click here](#).

Attendance and Truancy Update

Board members received an update on the work of the District's attendance efforts and the Truancy Task Force on Thursday, May 18. 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.

For more information and to view the presentation, [click here](#).

Tindall Partners to Support Mentoring, Tutoring Program at Ballard-Hudson

On Thursday, May 18, Board members received information about a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the District and Tindall Partners III, L.P. to support a proposed mentoring/tutorial program for identified students. There is no financial impact to the District with the MOA.

Tindall Partners III, L.P. is submitting an application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for funding to develop the third of fourth phases of redevelopment of the former Tindall Heights public housing development. The four re-development phases include 270 multi-family units in a mix of mid-rise, townhomes and garden style apartments.

The first phase, Tindall Seniors Towers, was awarded an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits in 2015 and construction is under way. The second phase, Tindall Fields I received an allocation of tax credits in 2016 and construction is scheduled to start in fall 2017. This current phase is known as Tindall Fields II and will contain 65 units in 29 separate duplex and triplex garden style and townhouse buildings. The 65 units will be comprised of 45 two-bedroom units and 20 three-bedroom units.

The role of Tindall Partners III, L.P. in the proposed MOA is to facilitate a tutoring arrangement between Mercer University and Bibb County School District, and increase awareness of the program with the residents at Tindall with middle school-aged children (Ballard-Hudson Middle). Also, Tindall Partners III, L.P. will provide a community building at the development to host a monthly financial literacy program for the families, at no cost to the participants.

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

Board Members Tour School Facilities

On Thursday, May 18, Board members received an information update following a tour of schools earlier this month. On Tuesday, May 9, Board members visited seven schools for the purpose of reviewing building utilization and operation.

During the Board Retreat on March 10, there was a discussion on enrollment and building utilization within the District. This discussion item resulted in the Board's request to visit low-enrollment elementary schools in the District. The schools that were selected to be visited included the following: Williams Elementary, Ingram-Pye Elementary, Hartley Elementary, Riley Elementary, Brookdale Elementary, Heritage Elementary and Springdale Elementary.

Williams, Ingram-Pye, Hartley, Riley and Brookdale Elementary were selected based on an enrollment of 450 students or less and a declining population. Heritage and Springdale were selected to review a concept to add sixth, seventh and eighth grades at these schools to help retain students within the District.

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

CTAE Awarded Funding for Agriculture Teachers

Board members received information on Thursday, May 18, about the District's agriculture program. The Georgia Department of Education – Agriculture Division provides yearly grants for

school systems to provide teachers with extended day and year. For Fiscal Year 2018, the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Department was awarded an additional 40 days grant as a part of the goal to obtain STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) certification at Rutland Middle, Rutland High and Northeast High schools.

A primary component of Agriculture Science is teaching the students how to raise and exhibit livestock and maintaining a community garden and greenhouse. Currently, the two agriculture teachers maintain a yearly greenhouse and community garden project; however, during the summer months, their duties and responsibilities are handled without compensation. In order to build continuity within the program and competitiveness, it would be advantageous to move agriculture teachers to a 12-month contract.

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