

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 July 20, 2017.

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Highlights and Recognitions

District Recognized for SAT Efforts

The Bibb County School District has made a commitment to preparing students for the SAT college entrance exam by ensuring students have access to test prep materials and resources and to the SAT itself by administering the SAT during the school day. In this effort, the District has focused on enrolling junior and senior students in Khan Academy, a personalized learning resource that offers instructional videos and practice exercises for the SAT.

This concerted effort has led to over 80 percent of juniors and seniors linking to this valuable preparation service. This was the highest percentage in all of Georgia and the third highest in the Southeastern states. The College Board has taken note of this and recognized the District with the "Georgia's College Board Linking Award." It reads, "Georgia's College Board Linking Award, presented to Bibb County School District in recognition of your partnership and commitment to student access and achievement."

Springdale Quiz Bowl Team Wins National Competition

A group of students from Springdale Elementary School recently traveled to compete at the Quiz Bowl competition at the National Junior Beta Club Convention in Orlando. At the national event, the students won the national championship for their division. The team included Sofia Ali, Bennett Barkley, Nathan Haskell and Griffin Moore along with coach Susan Mason and sponsors Anne Oxford, Jennifer Johnston and Fran Jackson.

Westside Teacher Wins GACTE Award

Westside High School teacher Valeria Drummond was recognized earlier this year as the Georgia Marketing Education Association's New Teacher of the Year. That honor allowed her to be considered for the same award through the Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education. She was selected as the statewide winner over top new educators in a variety of disciplines.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointments Approved

On Thursday, July 20, Board members approved the appointment of Chenra Dupree as Assistant Principal of Central High School and Valeka Franklin as Dean of Southwest High School for 2017-2018. To view all personnel items, [click here](#).

Solution Tree to Continue Providing Professional Development

On Thursday, July 20, Board members approved a contract renewal with Solution Tree Inc. to implement Professional Learning Communities in Priority and Focus Schools for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information, [click here](#).

Board OKs FY 2018 Five-Year Perkins IV Local Plan for CTAE

The Board voted Thursday, July 20, to approve a Five-Year Perkins IV Local Plan for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) and One-Year Funding Application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. All local school systems are required to submit this application annually for federal Perkins funds to support CTAE programs during the following school year. The Georgia Department of Education requires that the local Board of Education approve the application. For more information, [click here](#).

Board OKs Contracts for Speech and Language Therapy

On Thursday, July 20, Board members authorized the District to enter into contract agreements with Academic Staffing, AMN Healthcare, Cobb Pediatric, EBS Healthcare, Presence Learning, PrimCare, Soliant and StaffRehab for speech and language therapy services for the 2017-18 school year. For more information, [click here](#).

SIG Allocations for Southwest, Northeast Approved

On Thursday, July 20, Board members approved the School Improvement Grant for Cohort 4 (Southwest) and School Improvement Grant for Cohort 5 (Northeast) for the 2017-2018 school year. For this school year, Southwest High School has been awarded \$393,822.00 in SIG Sustainability Funds. Northeast High School has been awarded \$1,166,396.00 in SIG Continuation funds for year two. For more information, [click here](#).

SAM Professional Development Process Extended for 2017-2018

Board members on Thursday, July 20, approved a contract renewal with the National SAM Innovation Project for the 2017-18 school year. SAM is a professional development process that concentrates on changing a principal's focus from school management tasks to instructional leadership – activities directly connected to improving teaching and learning.

During the 2016-2017 school year, there were a total of 15 SAM teams in the District. For the 2017-2018 school year there will be 25 SAM teams. The process will help the principal be reflective about how to best work with teachers to improve teaching and learning. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Demonstrates Support of The Leader in Me Program

On Thursday, July 20, Board members approved a resolution of support for The Leader in Me program, as well as an agreement with Franklin Covey Client Sales and One Macon's Business Education Partnership (BEP) supporting The Leader in Me's implementation in Bibb schools. The District currently has four elementary schools – Bernd, Burdell-Hunt, Carter, and Hartley – that have implemented The Leader in Me program. For the 2017-2018 school year, the District will add four additional elementary schools – Ingram-Pye, Southfield, Porter, and Vineville. The

District will receive funds from the Bibb County Leader in Me Fund established by the BEP to cover the cost of the implementation at the four additional schools in 2017-2018.

For more information, [click here](#). To view the resolution, [click here](#).

Board OKs School House Health Agreement with Medical Center

On Thursday, July 20, Board members authorized the District to renew an updated contract with the Medical Center Navicent Health for nursing services in 2017-2018. The District's partnership with the Medical Center for nursing services has been in place since 1994, and will expand this school year to include nursing services for all elementary schools in the District. This increase in services will provide additional coverage in the middle and high schools, as well.

Allowing Navicent Health to be responsible for this additional nursing coverage is a more efficient and cost-effective method of providing medical services as they are more experienced in the hiring of medical professionals. The expansion of the Navicent Health contract to provide additional nursing services will save the District \$117,725. For more information, [click here](#).

HVAC Systems to be Updated at Ingram-Pye and Hartley

On Thursday, July 20, Board members authorized the District to issue purchase orders to allow two different companies to provide HVAC renovations and modifications at Ingram-Pye and Hartley Elementary Schools. The Board authorized Greene & Associates to perform the renovations and modification work at Ingram-Pye Elementary School and Waters Mechanical to perform the renovations and modification work at Hartley Elementary School. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

Board members reviewed two policies for a first reading on Thursday, July 20.

- Policy GBBD – Professional Certification
- Policy JBCCA – Student Assignment of Schools

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

Board Approves Purchase Orders for Classroom Furniture

On Thursday, July 20, Board members authorized the District to issue purchase orders to Commercial Furnishings and Georgia Specialty Equipment to provide classroom furniture. As part of the 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) referendum, the Board approved the replacement of furniture throughout the District. Schools receiving new furniture from these purchase orders include Alexander II, Brookdale, Brookdale, Bruce, Burdell-Hunt, and Howard Middle Schools. For more information, [click here](#).

Advanced Disposal to Handle Garbage Collection for FY2018

Board members on Thursday, July 20, approved a contract with Advanced Disposal for garbage collection services and all recycling services for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Purchase of Dairy Products

On Thursday, July 20, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to Mayfield Dairy Farms LLC for milk and other dairy items for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information, [click here](#).

Information

Students Demonstrate Growth on Latest Milestones

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) released school and district level results for the administration of the 2017 Georgia Milestones Assessment System on Thursday, July 20. In the third year of its administration, students in Bibb County showed growth across grade levels.

In English Language Arts (ELA), students showed increases in grades 3, 5, 6 and 8 and both tested high school courses. Along with ELA scores, the District is able to track trends in Lexile levels to determine the percent of students reading on grade level. Results show the percent of students reading on or above grade level increased in the same grade levels that demonstrated improvements in ELA scores. The greatest improvements were seen in fifth grade, where the number of students reading on or above grade level increased by 17 percent, and in eighth grade, where the number of students reading on or above grade level increased by about 12 percent. In third grade, a critical year for ensuring students are reading on grade level, the number of students reading on grade level increased by more than 10 percent.

Students demonstrated growth in Math at all elementary and middle school grade levels. At the high school level, growth rates in Math subject areas are difficult to track because of frequent changes to the state's Math curriculum and testing requirements.

“Our teachers and students are to be commended for the growth demonstrated over the past year. Our focus on academic improvements and interventions in core content areas has been intentional, and the results of that effort are reflected in these scores. There is still a great deal of work to be done, but with the help of community partners such as the United Way of Central Georgia, and with our continued focus on reading supports and keeping students in school every day, we are well on our way to achieving victory,” Superintendent Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr. said.

To view a copy of Milestones scores for 2017 in comparison to 2016, [click here](#).

Board Gets First Look at Design for Northeast/Appling

On Thursday, July 20, a representative of WM2A provided Board members with a first look at the proposed design for the new Northeast High/Appling Middle School Complex. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

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. The

complex will be built on Upper River Road on the site of the current Northeast High School. Sheridan and Stafford were selected to lead construction for the project.

SWSS Waiver Certification Used to Support Teachers

On Thursday, July 20, Board members learned more about the District's efforts to fill teaching vacancies. In an effort to fill vacancies and increase the applicant pool, the District may waive certification under the District's Strategic Waiver School System (SWSS) platform. The SWSS waiver would be utilized for those applicants with a college degree who are not eligible for certification through traditional avenues with the GAPSC, nor do they meet requirements for TAPP.

The District's strategic waiver will be offered to candidates for employment who do not meet the minimum requirements to enter the GA TAPP Program or those who do not qualify for a GA PSC waiver. Candidates will be granted the SWSS waiver for a period of one year and will be placed on a remediation plan, which will be monitored quarterly by the principal and Coordinator of Talent Management. They will be paid on a provisional salary (similar to TAPP candidates). The intent of utilizing the waiver is to support teachers in preparing and taking the appropriate GACE assessments to become eligible for certification through GAPSC.

As of Thursday's Committee Meeting, the District had 18 teaching vacancies for 2017-2018. For more information, [click here](#).

Hutchings Signs Annual MOU with CGTC

In accordance with its state charter requirements, each eligible college and career academy shall submit an updated Memorandum of Understanding between the school district, technical college and college and career academy each school year. To view the MOU between Hutchings College and Career Academy, the Bibb County School District and Central Georgia Technical College, [click here](#).

2018 Bibb County Teacher of the Year to be Named at Convocation

The 2018 Bibb County Teacher of the Year will be named at Convocation on Tuesday, July 25. Finalists for 2018 Bibb County Teacher of the Year are Central High's Octavia Holloway, Howard High's Julia Allen, Hutchings College and Career Academy's Paige Welch, Ingram-Pye Elementary's Douglas Stewart, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary's Felicia Batts.

In order to be considered for Bibb County Teacher of the Year, each school's Teacher of the Year was required to submit application packets by the end of the 2016-2017 school year. The Teacher of the Year Committee scored applications based on a rubric to determine the top five finalists for Bibb County Teacher of the Year and finalists were announced in June. Finalists were interviewed in July, scored based on a rubric, and the winner will be named at Convocation.