

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 August 17, 2017.

=====

Highlights and Recognitions

District Recognized for Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Bibb County School District with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 18th consecutive year for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or CAFR, for the Fiscal Year that ended June 30, 2016.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management, according to the GFOA.

Custodians Honored for Inspection Scores

Each Bibb County school undergoes biannual inspections, with an average score of 80 percent deemed as acceptable. Many of the school custodial staffs go above and beyond that, and the top teams were honored on Thursday, August 17.

For elementary schools, the winner was Lane Elementary School and head custodian Leora Tyler with a score of 99.7 percent, followed by Skyview and head custodian Stanley Alford with a 98.8, and Porter Elementary and head custodian Vanessa Rawlings in third with a 98.6.

For middle schools, the winner was SOAR Academy and head custodian Anquela Hollingsworth with a 96.9, followed by Howard Middle and head custodian Sean Coon with a 95.6, and Ballard-Hudson and head custodian Sam Blassingame with a 93.4.

For high schools, Rutland High School and head custodian Beverly Harris finished first with a 99.6, followed by Hutchings College and Career Academy and head custodian Lillie Moore with a 98.9, and Southwest High School and head custodian Richard Lockett with a 97.

Ingram-Pye Elementary School and Westside High School were recognized as the Most Improved Schools, Leora Tyler of Lane Elementary School was honored for Outstanding Employee Service, and Lane Principal Georglyn Stephens was honored for her support.

Three Students Chosen for Governor's Honors Program

This year, three students from Howard High School were selected for the Governor's Honors Program, which was held at Berry College. The program seeks to recognize the best and brightest students from across the state in a variety of disciplines.

Grant Alexander was chosen for Governor's Honors in the area of social studies, David Cyril David was chosen in the area of science and Sarah Mayfield was chosen for dance.

Students Honored for Quick Think Competition Success

The Quick Think Competition is held each year in second grade classrooms across the District. The competition, which is supported by the Macon Exchange Club, challenges students to think about and respond to safety situations in an effort to raise awareness.

These students first compete at the school level and then advance to the District-level competition. Heard Elementary School's Ariel-N'ikole Thomas finished in first place, followed by Bruce Elementary School's Carlayisa Barns in second, and Springdale Elementary School's Londyn Rodgers in third.

GAESP Selects Vineville Academy for Award

Every year, the Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals presents the School Bell Award to no more than 10 schools across the state. These schools are recognized for having outstanding programs in the area of curriculum and organizational leadership.

For the second consecutive year, Vineville Academy of the Arts was chosen as one of these schools for its youth orchestra. The youth orchestra program allows students the opportunity to learn how to play string instruments and related musical skills.

Bibb Student Places at FBLA Conference

As part of its annual National Leadership Conference, the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) organization provides students opportunities to compete in various business skills. These FBLA competitions include presentations, tests and reports.

Howard High School's Ethan Norfleet competed at this year's conference in the Microsoft Office Specialist Word Competition, which required mastery of the word processing program. He finished 10th nationally in his category.

District Students Win at FCCLA Competition

The national FCCLA organization holds STAR events each year to showcase students' leadership and career preparation abilities. These events recognize competitors in a variety of fields at the national level.

This year, the District had three teams recognized for their efforts. Southwest High School's Reanna Vorasup won a gold medal in career investigation, Rutland High School's Katelyn Yancey won a silver medal for National Programs in Action – Traffic Safety, and Hutchings College and Career Academy's Taylor Johnson-Butler, Naimah Davis and A'Zaria Oliver won a silver medal in culinary arts.

Summer Reading Program Participants, Artists Recognized

The Bibb County School District partnered with the Middle Georgia Regional Library to provide our students with a Summer Reading Program titled "Build a Better World." Students were encouraged to read 30 minutes a day during the summer.

Students kept a reading log to record the title of books read and the number of minutes they read. Throughout the summer, activities were hosted at the public libraries as well as Barnes and Noble. In addition, all students in the Summer Opportunity Program participated by logging all of the minutes they read during the summer programs.

Here are the top participants from each school:

- Alexander II Magnet - Elizabeth Adebambo
- Bernd Elementary - Haley Adams
- Brookdale - Yazmen Martin
- Bruce - Mecaria Brown
- Burdell-Hunt Magnet - Malcolm Fultz
- Carter - Joycelyn Faulks
- Hartley - Anilya Jackson
- Heard - Rebecca Ogden
- Heritage - Heaven Caesar
- Ingram-Pye - Taleah McCrea
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Darren Jackson
- Lane - Jasmine Booker
- Porter - RayAnna McCranie
- Riley - Tyrique Chester
- Skyview - Andrew Hyun
- Southfield - Abigail Steedley
- Springdale - Chandler Williams
- Taylor - Kennedy Justice
- Union - Essence Ming
- Veterans - Kooper Morris
- Vineville Academy - Oliver Jennings
- Williams - Darrell English
- Appling - Lamaya Thompson
- Ballard-Hudson - Octavius Ammons
- Howard Middle - Patrice Awotunde
- Miller Magnet - Henry Jennings
- Rutland Middle - Tykeria West
- Weaver - Rakhi Patel
- Central - Andre Colbert
- Howard High - Cindora Tillman
- Northeast - Annalyn Hayes
- Rutland High - Jalen Chaney
- Southwest - Channing Byrd
- Westside - Cheyenne Parker

As part of the Summer Reading Program, students participated in a poster contest. At the elementary school level, there was a tie between Heard Elementary School's Samantha Sipe, who is now at Rutland Middle, and Taylor Elementary's Asa Johnson. At the middle and high school level, the winner was Howard High School's Thania Jahja.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointment Approved

On Thursday, August 17, Board members approved the appointment of Dr. Barbara Peck as Assistant Principal of Rutland Middle School. To view all personnel items, [click here](#).

Board Approves May 2018 Graduation Schedule

On Thursday, August 17, Board members approved the graduation schedule for May 2018. The spring commencement ceremonies will be held at the times listed below.

Thursday, May 24

7 p.m. Westside High School

Friday, May 25

5 p.m. Southwest High School

8 p.m. Central High School

Saturday, May 26

9 a.m. Howard High School

12 p.m. Northeast High School

3 p.m. Rutland High School

Transcript Request Process Moves Online

On Thursday, August 17, Board members authorized the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Parchment for online records and transcript processing. Parchment is an online service that can easily be accessed via a web link. Stakeholders can order academic records and transcripts by accessing the web link. Parchment will verify the requestor and accept payment electronically. The cost of the service is passed to the requestor and not to the District. Parchment charges \$2.75 per copy. The District will add an additional surcharge to continue to cover the cost of handling. The total for a transcript or record will be \$6.

The District will still handle records, just on the back end. Parchment will send the requests to District staff, who will upload the records for delivery. Currently enrolled students will still be able to access and order transcripts during their senior year.

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

Board Approves Easement for Multi-Purpose Sports Complex at Hartley

On Thursday, August 17, Board members approved a resolution granting an easement and/or license to the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation to build a multi-purpose sports complex at Hartley Elementary School on Anthony Road.

On June 15, Board members approved moving forward with an agreement between Macon-Bibb County and the District to build a multi-purpose sports complex adjacent to Hartley Elementary. The agreement allowed for conveyance of the land on which Tom Fontaine Ballpark is located to be transferred to the District in order for Macon-Bibb County and United Way of Central Georgia

to move forward with building a multi-sports purpose complex associated with the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation. For more from the June 15 meeting, [click here](#).

The follow-up at this month's meeting granted permission to the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation to enter upon the property to begin the construction. For more information, [click here](#).

Northeast/Appling Land Resolution, Capital Outlay Applications Approved

On Thursday, August 17, Board members approved a resolution identifying the need for additional property for the Northeast High/Appling Middle project.

Board Policy FGD states the first step for property acquisition is for the Board to adopt a resolution identifying the need for more property. For more information on the land acquisition resolution and the process outlined in Policy FGD, [click here](#).

Also on Thursday, the Board approved the application for capital outlay funds from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) for the construction of the new Northeast High/Appling Middle facility. The replacement of Northeast High and Appling Middle school is included in the District's approved long-term facilities plan, and in order to receive state funds for the project the Board has to approve and submit an application requesting eligible funds.

The remaining funding for the project will come from the 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) capital improvement program approved by voters on November 3, 2015. For more information on the capital outlay application, [click here](#).

Board OKs ESPLOST Budget Amendment for Transportation/Campus Police Project

On Thursday, August 17, Board members approved a recommended budget increase of \$1,844,000 for the Transportation/Campus Police project. This increases the funding of the project, which is part of the 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) capital improvement program approved by Bibb County voters on November 3, 2015. For more information, [click here](#).

Annual MOU with Head Start Approved

On Thursday, August 17, Board members authorized the Superintendent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) Head Start to continue its educational programs at District facilities for the 2017-2018 school year. The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) requires that the District support the Head Start program by providing services and supports to preschool children with disabilities. To meet these requirements, the MOU outlines each entity's role and responsibilities. For more, [click here](#).

Board Approves Resolution

On Thursday, August 17, Board members approved a resolution as part of new business.

Board Reviews Policies

Board members reviewed two policies for a second reading on Thursday, August 17.

- Policy GBBB – Professional Certification

- Policy JBCCA – Student Assignment of Schools

Board members reviewed one policy for a first reading.

- Policy BCBK – Executive Session

Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To view the policies, [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 in July. 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.

To view a PowerPoint from Thursday's Board meeting, [click here](#). To view a copy of Milestones scores for 2017 in comparison to 2016, [click here](#).

Summer Opportunity Program Successful in Providing Enrichment for Students

The District offered several Summer Opportunity Programs for students this summer. One program targeted students who did not demonstrate mastery on the Georgia Milestones Test in grades 3, 5, and 8. The District was able to provide reinforcement of learned skills and remedial assistance for students who needed extra academic support. The programs were held at Ingram-Pye Elementary, Southfield Elementary, Veterans Elementary, Miller Middle School and Weaver Middle School. The District also provided three Summer Opportunity Programs for high school students to repair and recover high school credits and to receive initial credits. The high school programs were held at Central High School, Southwest High School and Westside High School.

The elementary and middle school students demonstrated significant growth on the Reading Inventory, an assessment that measures students' reading abilities. Elementary scores indicated an average Lexile growth of 78 Lexile points, and middle school scores indicated an average Lexile growth of 26 Lexile points. Students also demonstrated significant growth on the Bibb County Math Post Assessment. Fifth grade scores indicated a 29.8 percent growth, and the eighth grade scores indicated a 48.3 percent growth. Students were able to receive targeted instruction through the research-based intervention programs System 44 and READ 180.

High school students were able to recover and repair high school credits. Some students also took advantage of the opportunity to acquire initial credits. There were 374 credits awarded to students from Central High School, Howard High School, Northeast High School and Rutland High School. These students attended the District program at Central High School. There were 144 credits awarded to Southwest High School students who attended the program at Southwest. There were 148 credits awarded to Westside High School students who attended the program at Westside.

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

District Seeking to Increase Supports for Struggling Students

The District is undertaking a multi-year effort to expand and strengthen best-practice supports and increase the equity of services for struggling learners. As part of the process, Board members received an overview of the project during the meeting on Thursday, August 17.

The goal of this effort is to expand and strengthen the effectiveness of services for struggling learners. This includes students with disabilities, as well as other students who may be struggling – such as struggling readers, English language learners, students living in poverty, and others. Furthermore, the goal is to do that in a sustainable way – meaning that services should also be practical given the District's budget, equitable to students and staff, and transparent.

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

Let's Talk! Serves as Additional Communications Tool for District

On Thursday, August 17, Board members received an update on the District's use of the communications platform *Let's Talk!* First introduced at a Board Retreat on September 22, 2015, the District implemented *Let's Talk!* in an effort to increase two-way communication with stakeholders and to become a more reliable and responsive organization.

The *Let's Talk!* buttons were added in strategic locations on the District's website and social media, and the program went live to the public on October 1, 2015. Since 2015, the District has received about 3,500 dialogues from various stakeholders. The District's average feedback score on dialogues is 8.0 on a scale of 10, with an average dialogue completion time of 1.4 days.

To view a PowerPoint presentation about *Let's Talk!* and some of the statistics on the District's use of the program, [click here](#). For an overview of dialogues for 2016-2017, [click here](#).