

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 September 21, 2017.

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Highlights and Recognitions

Teachers of the Year Recognized

The District recognized the 2017-2018 Teachers of the Year at its Board of Education meeting on Thursday, September 21.

Stacy Whitehead, Alexander II Magnet School
Doris S. Pennyman, Bernd Elementary School
Lena P. Morris, Brookdale Elementary School
Ramona Patterson, Bruce Elementary School
Candace J. Black, Burdell-Hunt Magnet School
Jenee DeChant, Carter Elementary School
Rosalyn Massey, Hartley Elementary School
Christy Moorman, Heard Elementary School
Michelle Chamblee, Heritage Elementary School
Douglas Stewart, Ingram-Pye Elementary School
Felicia Batts, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School
Felicia S. Huston, Lane Elementary School
Sherry A. Minor, Porter Elementary School
Linda M. Richardson, Riley Elementary School
Kalyn Shreve, Skyview Elementary School
Andrea S. Lewis, Southfield Elementary School
Anne Oxford, Springdale Elementary School
Julie Caldwell, Taylor Elementary School
Laria Walker, Union Elementary School
Annie Horton, Veterans Elementary School
Pamela D. Hanse, Vineville Academy of the Arts
Sharon D. Walton, Williams Elementary School
Shavetta Morgan-Thomas, Appling Middle School
Dannita Stanley, Ballard-Hudson Middle School
Barbara A. Brown, Howard Middle School
Tony Washington, Miller Magnet Middle School
Natalie R. Puckett, Rutland Middle School
Ginger L. Gilpin, Weaver Middle School
Octavia K. Holloway, Central High School
Julie Allen, Howard High School
Rogderick Worthy, Northeast High School
Kimberly Hernandez, Rutland High School

Christina Ransey, Southwest High School
Apeksha Mehta, Westside High School
Dericca D. Gail, SOAR Academy
Jessica M. Ramsay, Elam Alexander Academy
Paige Welch, Hutchings College & Career Academy
Sandy Smith, Northwoods Academy
Laurie Griffin, Westside High School – Media Specialist of the Year

Finalists for Bibb County Teacher of the Year included Douglas Stewart, Ingram-Pye Elementary; Felicia Batts, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary; Octavia Holloway, Central High; Julia Allen, Howard High; and Paige Welch, Hutchings College and Career Academy. The Teacher of the Year and runner-up were announced at Convocation in July. Ms. Welch was named runner-up for Teacher of the Year, and Mrs. Batts was named 2018 Bibb County Teacher of the Year.

Also, the District wishes to thank partners for helping to celebrate Teachers of the Year. Partners include: MidSouth Community Federal Credit Union; Kroger Company; AXA Equitable; Spectra at the Macon Centreplex; Sheridan Construction; Middle Georgia RESA; American Pride Bank; Forrest B. Johnson and Associates; Lanford, Smith and Kapiloff, Attorneys at Law; Solomon, Deaton and Buice Insurance, LLC; Dry Falls Outfitters; Kinetix; Museum of Arts and Sciences; Pure Barre; Raffield Tire Master; Signature Salon; Buffalo Wild Wings; The Casserole Shop; Jimmy John's; The Moonhanger Group; Ocmulgee Brew Pub; Spud Dogs; Tommy's Bakery and Café; Duresville AME Church; Forest Hills United Methodist Church; Martha Bowman Memorial United Methodist Church; Vineville United Methodist Church; and White Springs Baptist Church.

Actions Taken

Make-up Days, Resolution to Amend SWSS Contract Approved

On Thursday, September 21, Board members approved a request to amend the 2017-2018 academic calendar to include Friday, October 6, 2017 and Wednesday, December 20, 2017 as make-up days. To view the action item, [click here](#).

Due to the impact of Hurricane Irma, the District was forced to cancel all classes for the week of September 11-15, 2017. The District's Strategic Waiver School System (SWSS) partnership contract does not currently include flexibility from O.C.G.A. § 20-2-168 or State Board of Education (SBOE) Rule 160-5-1-.02. SWSS districts that did not include the O.C.G.A. 20-2-168 waiver in their SWSS contract are held to the rule of four emergency days provided in state statute, plus relief for each school day during a declared State of Emergency. As a result, the District must now make up for instructional time that was lost during the week of September 11-15.

The issues listed below were considered in the decision-making process for make-up days.

- The District recognized the need to afford students as much instructional time as possible.
- The District is leveraging its Pay for Performance Plan to drive high-quality implementation of key initiatives and processes around instruction, attendance, technology usage, and teacher/student performance.

- District high schools are now awarding half-credits each semester, meaning lost instructional time this semester impacts credits for this semester.
- The Fall Break (October 9-13) is too close in proximity for many staff-change plans.
- The Winter Break (February 2018) is being set aside in the event of future school cancellation(s).
- There are currently five days of break in the month of November, as opposed to eight days in December.
- Historical data indicate that student attendance drops when there are less than three days per week.
- All instructional staff are slated to work on Professional Learning Days (October 6 and January 3) and the District is willing to sacrifice one of these days, but not both.

Additionally, Board members approved a resolution authorizing the District to submit an amendment to its SWSS partnership contract with the SBOE in order to add the following waivers: School Day/Year for Students and Employees O.C.G.A. 20-2-168 and SB Rule 160-5-1.02. To view more information about this resolution and request for amendment, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Continuation of GEAR UP Grant

Board members on Thursday, September 21, authorized the District to accept the Fiscal Year 2018 GEAR UP Grant Award to continue the implementation of programs and services designed to increase the number of students who graduate from high school prepared to enroll and succeed in postsecondary education. The District was awarded the 7-year federal partnership Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Grant in 2011.

Create Your Future (CYF), the District's GEAR UP program, is supported by partnerships with local community organizations. The GEAR UP ~ CYF project serves a cohort of students presently enrolled as seniors in the District's high schools and 2017 District graduates enrolled in a post-secondary institution. GEAR UP ~ Create Your Future supports the Superintendent's Strategic Goals by establishing and/or enhancing programs that will provide support to eligible students to assist with obtaining a secondary school diploma and preparation to succeed in postsecondary education. Partners include the Boys & Girls Club of Central Georgia, Communities in Schools of Middle Georgia, Fort Valley State University, Mercer University, Museum of Aviation, Spectrum RED, Deep Well Data Services, The Mentors Project of Bibb County and Wesleyan College.

MOUs with Bibb County Approved for Sports Complex, Debris Storage

On Thursday, September 21, Board members approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Macon-Bibb County Consolidated Government related to the construction of a multi-purpose sports complex at Hartley Elementary School, the conveyance of the land on which Tom Fontaine Ballpark is located to the District, and Ed DeFore Sports Complex.

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](#).

As to Ed DeFore Sports Complex, the Board has authorized the Superintendent to move forward with negotiations with Macon-Bibb related to the possible purchase of the Ed DeFore Sports Complex by the District.

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

Also on Thursday, Board members approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Macon-Bibb County Consolidated Government for Bibb County to use property owned by the District to store uprooted trees, limbs and debris from the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. For more information, [click here](#).

Personnel Items Approved

On Thursday, September 21, Board members approved various personnel items. To view all personnel items, [click here](#).

Information

AdvancED Team Visiting District in October

On Thursday, September 21, Board members received an information memorandum on the timeline for AdvancED's visit to the Bibb County School District next month. AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of Pre-K–12 schools and school systems to ensure all learners realize their full potential. Every 5 years, the Bibb County School District hosts an AdvancED team that has the authority to recommend an accreditation designation for the District. The District's next on-site review is October 1-4, 2017. To view the timeline and agenda for AdvancED's visit, [click here](#).

District Organizational Chart Updated

On Thursday, September 21, Board members received an information memorandum indicating that the District's Organizational Chart has been updated for 2017-2018. To view the organizational chart, [click here](#).

Data Provides Overview of District Ethnicity Totals

On Thursday, September 21, Board members received an information memorandum with data pertaining to the ethnicity of students and staff in the Bibb County School District. Data collected includes all schools with the exception of ACE. The information contained in this report was collected from Infinite Campus and indicates the ethnicity chosen during the registration process by parents or guardians for students and by staff on employee information documents. To view the data, [click here](#).

Renovations Planned for Weaver Middle

On Thursday, September 21, Board members received an information memorandum related to the District's renovation plans for Weaver Middle School. The estimated budget for the renovation project is \$5,500,000. The scope of work for the renovation includes replacing mechanical

systems, new energy management system, new ceilings, new floor coverings, new painting for interior and exterior, new classroom case work, restroom modernization, door replacements, new lighting, improved site water distribution, and parking lot improvements. Construction of this project will be phased to accommodate school activities and to maximize the use of available summer time when the school is vacated.