

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 October 19, 2017.

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Highlights and Recognitions

REACH Scholars Sign Pledges

The District hosted a REACH Signing Ceremony for four students from Appling Middle, Ballard-Hudson Middle, and Northeast High School on Thursday, October 19. The event is one of several taking place throughout the state this month for REACH Georgia Scholars.

The Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship Program was launched by Gov. Nathan Deal in 2012 and is a needs-based mentorship and scholarship program designed to encourage students, starting in middle school, to persist in their educational pursuits. Students are provided with the academic, social and financial support needed to graduate from high school, attend college, achieve post-secondary success and be prepared for the 21st century workforce.

During the ceremony, students and their families signed contracts to uphold program requirements much like athletic signing day ceremonies. The 2017-2018 cohort of REACH Scholars includes Layla Black, Ballard-Hudson Middle School; Ruth Patterson, Ballard-Hudson Middle School; Jayla Holloway, Appling Middle School; and Shamiya Gladden, Northeast High School.

Westside Student Participates in Congress of Future Medical Leaders

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders provides students with an opportunity to visit a college campus and participate in activities related to the field they'd like to pursue. This year, the Congress was held at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Westside High School senior Faith Smith was one of the students chosen for this honor, and she has received an Award of Excellence for completing the program. This year's group participated in lectures by doctors and Nobel Peace Prize winners, and even watched a real surgery on live stream.

Four Bibb Schools Named Operational in PBIS

When implemented with fidelity, the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system can change the culture and productivity at schools dramatically. Four District schools – Elam Alexander at Burke, Elam Alexander at Northeast, Howard Middle School and Rutland High School – have followed through with PBIS so well that they were recognized as Operational Schools for the 2016-17 school year. In addition to recognition for properly implementing PBIS, this designation allows these schools to serve as demonstration sites for districts across the state.

Two District Students Named to State Superintendent's Council

More than 1,500 students applied to be part of State School Superintendent Richard Woods' Student Advisory Council this year. From that pool, 142 were chosen to meet throughout the

school year with the superintendent to discuss issues affecting public education and complete service projects in their communities. The Bibb County School District was fortunate enough to have two students selected – Howard Middle School’s Brinda Patel and the Academy for Classical Education’s Benjamin Trofemuk. Benjamin was selected for the second consecutive year.

Actions Taken

Student-Run Credit Union to Open in January

On Thursday, October 19, Board members approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MidSouth Community Federal Credit Union, the William S. Hutchings College and Career Academy Governance Board of Directors, and the Bibb County Board of Education related to plans to operate a student-run credit union, which will be located at the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex. For more information, [click here](#).

The goal of the partnership, which was approved by Board members on March 16, 2017, is to open a branch location on site at Hutchings College and Career Academy in January 2018 as part of the Banking and Finance pathway. This will consist of a full-service branch primarily operated by students. MidSouth Community Federal Credit Union will provide the daily operational oversight, partner in selecting and hiring students, and train all student employees. MidSouth Community Federal Credit Union will provide one full-time, on-site employee.

Additionally, MidSouth Community Federal Credit Union will offer financial literacy curriculum and classes to all students in Bibb County. This will provide students with the necessary skills to be successful in today’s emerging society.

Board OKs Grant Funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

On Thursday, October 19, Board members authorized the District to accept and approve Fiscal Year 2018 funds for the continuation of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants at Riley, Ingram-Pye, Southfield and Veteran Elementary Schools. The funding supports after-school programs that provide academic enrichment opportunities. Bibb’s students are offered homework assistance, a nutritious snack and a broad array of enrichment opportunities. In addition, families are provided opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children’s education. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Architectural Services for Weaver Construction

On Thursday, October 19, Board members authorized the District to enter into a contract with SP Design Group to provide the design services for the renovation of Weaver Middle School. For more information, [click here](#).

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.

Board Approves of Training Plan for FY 2018

On Thursday, October 19, Board members approved the Fiscal Year 2018 Local Board Training Plan for submission to the Georgia Department of Education. The Georgia State Board of Education requires local boards of education to adopt a board training plan for its members annually. The training programs must be conducted by providers approved by the State Board of Education and meet the training requirements for veteran board members. For more information, [click here](#).

Furniture Purchases for Elementary Schools Approved

On Thursday, October 21, the Board authorized the District to issue purchase orders to Georgia Specialty Equipment and Commercial Furnishings to provide classroom furniture for Union, Heritage, Skyview, Southfield, Springdale, Taylor, Vineville, Hartley, and Lane Elementary Schools. This purchase order will be funded by the 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST). The installation schedule will start during Winter Break 2018 and is estimated to be complete by the end of the school year. For more information, [click here](#) and [here](#).

ESPLOST Purchases for ACE Approved

On Thursday, October 21, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order on behalf of the Academy for Classical Education (ACE) to Macon Communications to purchase 40 two-way UHF radios. Also, the Board authorized the District to issue a purchase order on behalf of ACE to H.E. Hodge Co. to purchase a 3-Post, Double Court Volleyball System. These purchases will be funded by the 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST). For more information, [click here](#) and [here](#).

Personnel Items Approved

On Thursday, October 19, Board members approved various personnel items. To view all personnel items, [click here](#).

Information

AdvancED Team Visits District for On-Site Review

The AdvancED Engagement Review Team conducted the Bibb County School District's on-site review October 1-4, 2017. 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 that all learners realize their full potential.

Effective July 1, 2017, AdvancED launched a new continuous improvement system for all institutions. This system focuses on new School/System Quality Factors in addition to new AdvancED Performance Standards. AdvancED has established clear expectations, which require that institutions:

- Meet the AdvancED Standards and accreditation policies;

- Demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review; and
- Engage in continuous improvement.

During their visit to Bibb County School District, the AdvancED team interviewed stakeholders, visited schools and reviewed District data. At the conclusion of the visit, the Lead Evaluator informed Superintendent Dr. Curits Jones Jr. that the District can expect an official report in 30-45 days. The District thanks the Board members, students, staff, parents, and community members for their participation in the District's AdvancED Engagement Review.

Board Receives Information on Five-Year Facilities Process

The District is currently in the process of renewing the long-term facilities plan. On Thursday, October 19, Board members were provided an information memorandum to share data that will be instrumental in the development of the District's long-term facilities plan. The information includes data related to student enrollment, building utilization, facility age, facility condition and operational data. A Board Work Session is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, to discuss the long-term facilities plan for the District.

The timeline for the process of renewing the long-term facilities plan is below.

- August 18, 2017: Classroom inventory completed for the District. - COMPLETE
- October 1, 2017: Cost estimates completed for the recommended renovation, modifications and additions for each facility. - COMPLETE
- October 19-31, 2017: Develop a facility organization strategy developing any recommendation related to new schools, additions, zoning or consolidation.
- November 9, 2017: Conduct a work session with Board members to review a draft version of the local facilities plan. Make revisions based on feedback from Board and Superintendent.
- December 2017: Request the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) survey team to visit the District, review proposed plan, and validate as required by Georgia Law.
- December 2017: Local Board votes to adopt validated local facilities plan. This will occur in January if the December schedule does not allow for time.
- January 2018: Submit plan to GaDOE for final approval.

To read a blog by Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones Jr. on the subject, [click here](#). To view the information item presented to Board members, [click here](#).

Schools Learning More About Leader in Me Program

The Bibb County School District currently has eight elementary schools implementing the Leader in Me Program. Those schools are: Sonny Carter and Burdell-Hunt in Year 3; Hartley and Bernd in Year 2; and Ingram-Pye, Porter, Southfield and Vineville Academy in Year 1.

Ingram-Pye, Porter, Southfield and Vineville have finished their "7 Habits" Training for staff. The next round of training, Launching Leadership, was pushed back to January due to Hurricane Irma. This training introduces the staff to the leadership context of the "7 Habits" and equips them to teach the leadership principles to students.

In order for the eight Leader in Me principals to learn more about the program, they have been invited to visit A.B. Combs Magnet Elementary School, the first Leader in Me school in the country. They will attend the school's Leadership Day on November 9. A.B. Combs Magnet is located in Raleigh, N.C., and began its journey with the Leader in Me in 1999.

The next District Leader in Me event will be Thursday, November 2. It is a joint Business Education Partnership/Leader in Me announcement with special guest Sean Covey. The announcement will take place at Vineville Academy at 9:30 a.m.

Make-Up Day Attendance Similar to Regular Daily Attendance

The Board of Education approved the District's recommendation to make up two of the five instructional days missed due to Hurricane Irma during the Board meeting on Thursday, September 21. The first make-up day was Friday, October 6. Board members were provided with an information memorandum highlighting the attendance data for October 6. Attendance for students was 94.47 percent compared to 95.8 percent the previous day. There was no significant change in teacher attendance on October 6.

The second make-up day will be December 20, 2017. To view the revised academic calendar for 2017-2018, [click here](#).

District Working with DMG on Supports for Struggling Students

Assistant Superintendent of Student Affairs Jamie Cassady updated Board members on the District's project with District Management Group (DMG) on expanding and strengthening best-practice supports for struggling students. The project goals include developing an understanding of current practice related to special education, remediation, and intervention in the District; exploring alignment of current practice with best practice research in order to raise achievement of students who struggle, with and without special needs; and aligning staff practices with best practices and effectively managing staffing in order to create sustained change in schools and classrooms. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Procurement Department Reaching Out to Public

The Bibb County School District Procurement Department will host a vendor information session on Friday, October 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The session will be held at the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex, 1780 Anthony Road. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Business representatives and community members are invited to learn more about working with the District, including how to understand and submit responses to construction bids, viewing a mock solicitation process, and learning about the vendor registration process. Employees will be on hand to assist with vendor registration, and interested business members should bring a W9 and eVerify information to complete the process.

Board Receives Notification of Fuel Purchase

Per policy DJED, Board members received notification on Thursday, October 19, that the dollar amount will exceed \$100,000 with one or more of the District's fuel suppliers. The Fiscal Year 2018 approved fuel budget is \$1,200,000. To date, the District has expended \$99,509.59 on gasoline and diesel fuel. This represents approximately 13 percent of the total fuel budget. An

additional \$70,225.54 or 5 percent of the total fuel budget has been spent on propane fuel. Ferrellgas LP was approved by the Board as the supplier of propane fuel for buses on April 20, 2017, via RFQ 17-19 Propane Fuel. For more information, [click here](#).

Superintendent to Present at NSBA Pre-Conference

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) will hold its annual conference April 7-9, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas. The conference will feature several keynote speakers, experiential learning visits and more than 200 workshops in the areas of advocacy, governance and leadership, student achievement, and technology.

Additionally, NSBA will hold pre-conference workshops on April 6, 2018 to provide additional training opportunities for board members and superintendents. The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) has been selected to conduct a pre-conference workshop and two breakout sessions during the general conference. GSBA asked Bibb Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones Jr. to serve as a co-presenter for the pre-conference workshop and breakout sessions.

GSBA Releases New Standards for Board Recognition Program

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) recently released its new standards for the Board Recognition Program. The improved Board Recognition Program requires a higher level of commitment from local school boards and individual board members, and aligns to board governance standards. For more information, [click here](#).

The new GSBA Board Recognition Program operates the same as the previous three-tier process using Quality, Distinguished, and Exemplary levels. Much of the criteria for the three tiers of the program have remained the same. New components were added for FY 2018 to align the program with board governance standards. The new components are board member ethics and fiscal responsibility. Additionally, boards will be required to submit documentation to support the application for each level.

Because the Board Recognition Program was revised with additional criteria, GSBA will only allow boards to apply at the last level achieved in 2016. For the Bibb County Board of Education, this would be Distinguished Board status.

Bibb County to Utilize Land for Debris Storage for About Six Months

Board members approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Macon-Bibb County Consolidated Government on Thursday, September 21, for Bibb County to use property on Northside Drive owned by the District to store uprooted trees, limbs and debris from the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. For more information on the approval of the MOU, [click here](#).

At that meeting, the Board requested the District get information from Bibb County on an estimated timeframe for use of the property and assurances that the property be restored to its pre-debris condition. Spencer Hawkins, Director of the Macon-Bibb Emergency Management Agency, indicated the timeframe for use of the property would be approximately six months. Additionally, Mr. Hawkins assured the District that Bibb County would restore the property to its condition prior to its use for debris storage and provide any updates during this process as needed.