

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 November 16, 2017.

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Highlights and Recognitions

Rutland High School Softball Team Recognized for Playoff Run

After finishing second in Region 4-AAA, the Rutland High School softball team swept back-to-back best-of-three series to be in the Georgia High School Association Class AAA playoffs. This included a two-game sweep in Baxley at Appling County.

That earned the Hurricanes a trip to the Elite Eight in Columbus, Ga., where their season came to an end. The team's head coach was Amanda Maddox and assistant coaches were Rebecca English and Jody Heath. The team was led by seniors Ashleigh Huckeba, Maggie Shipp and Christa Ward.

District Educators Chosen for State Advisory Council

State Superintendent Richard Woods selects educators from across the state to be part of his Teacher Advisory Council. These teachers meet twice a year to serve as liaisons between the state education department and classroom educators to talk about issues such as discipline, training, parent involvement and more.

This year, the Bibb County School District was fortunate enough to have three representatives on this state panel: Westside High School's Ana Hernandez and Dominique Nichols, as well as District Science Coordinator Brian Butler.

Actions Taken

Board Approves Lease Renewal for Copiers

On Thursday, November 16, Board members approved a second lease term with DLL Finance for the Multi-Function Copiers within the District. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Gives Purchase Order Authorization for Kitchen Equipment

On Thursday, November 16, Board members authorized the Executive Director of School Nutrition to process a purchase order to any one of the five vendors listed within IFB 18-22 for small ware kitchen items, as needed, throughout the District. The vendors include Atlanta Fixture, Classic Foodservice, Grainger, Manning Brothers, and Sam Tell. For more information, [click here](#).

Also Thursday, Board members authorized the Executive Director of School Nutrition to process a purchase order to Atlanta Fixture and Citisco Boelter for various large equipment items, as needed, throughout the District. For more information, [click here](#).

MOU Amended to Prevent Change to Name of Sports Complex

On Thursday, November 16, Board members voted to rescind the Board's approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) presented at the September 21 meeting and to approve an amended MOU in its place. The MOU, between Macon-Bibb Consolidated Government and the Bibb County School District, is for the construction of a multi-purpose sports complex at Matilda Hartley Elementary, the conveyance of Tom Fontaine Ball park to the Board of Education, and the purchase of Ed DeFore Sports Complex subject to an agreed upon purchase price. On October 17, the Macon-Bibb County Commission approved a resolution to amend the MOU to include language "that the name of Ed DeFore Sports Complex shall not be changed." For more information, [click here](#).

ACE Receives ESPLOST Funds for Interactive Panels

On Thursday, November 16, Board members authorized the Superintendent to issue a purchase order on behalf of the Academy for Classical Education (ACE) to Progressive Communications for the purchase of five 75-inch interactive panels. The purchase will be funded by the 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST). For more information, [click here](#).

Personnel Items Approved

On Thursday, November 16, Board members approved various personnel items. To view all personnel items, [click here](#).

Information

District Sees Growth in Number of Students Reading on Grade Level

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Tanzy Kilcrease presented information on the District's Literacy Plan to Board members on Thursday, November 16. One of the Superintendent's focus areas is to increase the number of students reading on grade level.

The District's focus on literacy has led to improvements in the number of students reading on grade level in the key years of third and fifth grades, according to Georgia Milestones data. In 2015, 38.1 percent of third-graders were reading on grade level, but in 2017 more than 65 percent of third-graders were reading on grade level. In 2015, 29.1 percent of fifth-graders were reading on grade level; in 2017, the number of fifth-graders reading on grade level had increased to 70 percent.

The presentation by Dr. Kilcrease included information about the District's efforts to strengthen literacy development across content areas, to provide literacy interventions for struggling readers and writers, to build leadership capacity for literacy, to collaborate with community partners to build literacy, and more. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

District Experiences Decrease in Disciplinary Incidents

Assistant Superintendent of Student Affairs Jamie Cassady provided Board members with an update on District discipline data for the first quarter of the 2017-2018 school year on Thursday, November 16. Overall, the District has seen a decrease of 67 percent in the number of Out of

School Suspension (OSS) referrals for the first quarter of the school year compared to the first quarter of last school year. This decrease could be attributed to the District's focus on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), hiring behavioral interventionists to work with schools, and hiring additional In-School Suspension (ISS) teachers and support staff. The additional positions were included as priorities in the District's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. To review the presentation by Mr. Cassady, [click here](#).

SAM Professional Development Puts Focus on Instructional Leadership

On Thursday, November 16, Board members heard from Mark Shellinger, the Director of the National SAM Innovation Project. 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 are 25 SAM teams. For more information about the National SAM Innovation Project, [click here](#).

Upward Bound Grant to Support Students at Westside High

On Thursday, November 16, Board members received information about a partnership between Westside High School and the Middle Georgia Council for Academic Excellence to provide additional support to students in the areas of math and science. The Middle Georgia Council for Academic Excellence is partnering with Westside High to serve a cohort of 60 students for the next 5 academic years. The goal of the Upward Bound Math and Science Grant is to increase secondary school graduation and college completion rates for program participants. Additionally, the grant will encourage students to pursue career paths in math, science and engineering. For more information, [click here](#).

Transportation Department Planning to Purchase New Vehicles

On Thursday, November 16, Board members received notification of the Transportation Department's plans to present an action item for new vehicle purchases at the next Board meeting. Several older vehicles will be repurposed and assigned to other departments within the District. Others will be identified as surplus and presented to the Board at a later date for disposal. For more information, [click here](#).

Report of 2016-2017 Teacher Assessment Data Presented

The Human Resources Department provided Board members with a report of teacher assessment on performance standards and mean growth percentile data for 2016-2017. To view the report, [click here](#).