

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 February 18, 2016.

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Highlights and Recognitions

Ingram-Pye Receives State Award for Community Garden

The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation recognized Ingram-Pye Elementary School with the second place Community Greening Award for its community garden. This state award recognizes the efforts of a group to improve, beautify and preserve the quality of life in a community. Nominated for the award by Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission, the Ingram-Pye Community Garden was a project initiated by a grant from the Arthur W. Perdue Foundation. A collaborative effort between United Way of Central Georgia, Leadership Macon's Class of 2014 and Bibb Schools made this dream a reality. To read more about the award, [click here](#).

Westside High Principal Named Principal of the Year Finalist

The Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals named Westside High Principal Dr. Julia Daniely as a finalist for Principal of the Year. Dr. Daniely has been the principal at Westside High School since 2012. Under her leadership, the school has seen the graduation rate increase from 46.1 percent in 2012 to 71.687 percent in 2015.

She promotes the success of all students through programs such as the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program, STEM Magnet Program, and Flexible High School Program. Dr. Daniely also started the Twilight Program to provide struggling students with alternative solutions for achieving academic success.

While she has been at Westside, the school received a competitive three-year School Improvement Grant Award in 2013; the National Beta School of Distinction Award in 2013 and 2014 for increasing membership by 100 percent each year; the SSTAGE Rising Award in 2015 for promising practices in developing the Response to Intervention (RtI) framework, process and procedures; and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) two-year Innovation Fund Grant in 2015 to enhance innovative practices for school improvement.

To read more, [click here](#).

Director of Special Education Receives 2016 Exemplary Service Award

Director of Special Education Jennifer Mellor was honored with the 2016 Exemplary Service Award for the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education while at the Georgia Association of Education Leaders Winter Conference.

Actions Taken

Burghard Director, Assistant Principals Approved for 2016-2017

On Thursday, February 18, Board members approved the appointment of Dr. Terese Martin as Director of Burghard Opportunity Center for 2016-2017. To view the list of personnel items approved by the Board, including assistant principals for 2016-2017, [click here](#).

Also in personnel action, Board members authorized a Reduction in Force (RIF) for the next school year. The RIF includes grant-funded positions where the grant is ending, such as the School Improvement Grants for Hartley Elementary and Westside High and the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling (ESSC) grant, as well as positions affected by the consolidation of Barden Elementary and Morgan Elementary. To view more information about the RIF, [click here](#).

Additionally, Board members received information about the District's Teacher Recruitment Fair, which will be held Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to noon at Howard High School, 6400 Forsyth Road. Participants are encouraged to wear professional attire and bring copies of their resume. Mini-interview sessions will be held on site and contingency contracts may be offered to successful candidates. To learn more about employment opportunities in the District, [click here](#).

District to Enter into Leasing Contract with Dell for CTAE Computers

On Thursday, February 18, Board members authorized the District to enter into a contractual leasing agreement with Dell Computers to enhance CTAE technology as required by the Perkins Grant. The funding will be provided by the CTAE Perkins Grant and the contract is for one year with the option of renewal for three years.

The Career, Technology and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Department currently has computer labs at each of the six high schools in the District. Equipment in the computer labs is funded by the Perkins Grant. A requirement of the grant is that the District must maintain acceptable equipment that is aligned with the industry standards for technology. Therefore, the District has elected to pilot a new leasing program with Dell Computers, utilizing the Georgia Statewide Contract for the equipment, maintenance, delivery and set up for each lab.

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

Board Approves Employee Leaves and Absences Policy

Board members approved Policy GARH, Employee Leaves and Absences, on Thursday, February 18. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on. To view the policy, [click here](#).

Small Portion of Heard Property to be Sold to Neighboring Church

Board members authorized the District on Thursday, February 18, to enter into negotiation with Liberty United Methodist Church House for the sale of property in the amount of \$9,600. The District owns approximately 18.13 acre tract of land located at 6515 Houston Road, of which Liberty United Methodist Church has expressed an interest in purchasing 0.48 acre. The Board of Education, acting on behalf of the District, has previously determined that the property is no longer necessary for school purposes and that it is in the best interest of the District to sell and dispose of the property. To view more information, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Purchase of Furniture for Bernd Elementary

On Thursday, February 18, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to Ernie Morris Enterprises to provide furniture for Bernd Elementary School at a total bid cost of \$107,639.65. To view more information, [click here](#).

Authorized Users Updated on Regions Bank ESPLOST Account

On Thursday, February 18, Board members approved the removal of former authorized users from the 2011 Georgia Fund 1 Resolution for the Regions Bank ESPLOST account. Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr., Ron Collier and Vicki Hulett were added as authorized users. For more information, [click here](#).

Information

Nurses Focus on Asthma Treatment as Part of District Effort to Improve Attendance

Assistant Superintendent of Student Affairs Jamie Cassady presented Board members with a video highlighting the District's efforts to combat absenteeism related to asthma. Attendance is one of the Superintendent's four focus areas this school year and School House Health Program nurses in the District are working to educate parents and students about the use of nebulizers and Albuterol at schools. Stacy Carr, School House Health Program Coordinator for the District, said 14 million days are missed nationally each year by school-age children due to asthma-related absences. To view a video presentation about how school nurses are helping students with asthma, [click here](#).

Parents to Receive Information on Promotion of Third, Fifth and Eighth Grade Students

In July 2003 all local Board of Educations adopted criteria for the development of a placement and promotion policy consistent with the Georgia Academic Placement and Promotion Policy. No third grade student shall be promoted to the fourth grade if the student does not receive a grade level reading determination of "On/Above Grade Level" on the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessments and meet promotion standards and criteria. No fifth or eighth grade student shall be promoted to the sixth or ninth grade if the student does not receive a grade level reading determination of "On/Above Grade Level" on the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessment and attain an achievement level of "Developing Learner," "Proficient Learner" or "Distinguished Learner" on the mathematics section of the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessment and meet promotion standards and criteria.

In an effort to ensure consistency with the message communicated to Bibb County parents, all schools will present a consistent presentation regarding the promotion criteria for third, fifth and eighth grade students. Schools will conduct at least three meetings to accommodate parents and families. Also, the District will host two community meetings providing additional opportunities for parents to hear information regarding the requirements. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Board Presented with Results of Annual BCSD Stakeholder Survey

On Thursday, February 18, Board members received the results of the annual BCSD Stakeholder Survey. The online survey was open January 8-22, 2016, and stakeholders were invited to share their opinions about the current state of the District. To view the survey results, [click here](#).

Construction Nearing Completion at Veterans, Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex

On Thursday, February 18, Executive Director of Capital Programs Jason Daniel provided Board members with an update on the status of construction at Veterans Elementary School and Hutchings College and Career Academy at the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Veterans Elementary, currently under construction at the former site of Morgan Elementary School, will open this summer at 4901 Faubus Avenue. It will house students from Barden Elementary and Morgan Elementary. Board members are expected to tour the site next month.

Construction of Hutchings College and Career Academy at the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex is expected to be completed later this spring. Staff and students will move into the facility this summer, allowing students to finish out this school year at the current site at 2011 Riverside Drive. The new Hutchings facility at the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex is located at 1780 Anthony Road. The site is also home to the Central Georgia Technical College gymnasium.

Board Receives Monthly Update on Charter Programs

On Thursday, February 18, Board members received updates on Bibb County charter schools and petitions.

Academy for Classical Education (ACE): To view the report of monthly updates from ACE, [click here](#).

Bloomfield Preparatory Academy: In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2064, the Bibb County School District is committed to authorizing high-quality charter schools that meet the academic needs of the District. The Bibb County Board of Education voted to deny Bloomfield Preparatory Academy's petition for local authorization at its meeting on January 21, 2016. Subsequently, no later than February 26, a formal letter of decision will be sent from the District to the school's Board Chairperson, Debra Thomas, and the Georgia Department of Education's Charter School Division (Lou Erste) via U.S. mail and electronic mail, acknowledging the same. Included in the formal letter will be specific weaknesses that influenced the recommendation, along with suggestions for the school to consider in the event any future petition is submitted for authorization.

DREAM Academy: DREAM Academy has formally withdrawn its petition from consideration after learning that the use of the W.S. Hutchings facility at 2011 Riverside Drive would not be a viable option to locate the school. Thus, a formal letter will be sent from the Bibb County School District to the school's Co-Founder, Karla Redding-Andrews, and the Georgia Department of Education's Charter School Division (Lou Erste) via U.S. mail and electronic mail, acknowledging the same. Accordingly, the Board of Education need not take any official action on this petition.

Macon Charter Academy (MCA): Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones Jr. updated Board members on MCA's plan of action submitted to the Georgia Department of Education and the Bibb County School District this month. MCA will be required to provide the District and state with monthly updates regarding its status. Consideration for removing the school from probation status may be reviewed this summer. To view the report of monthly updates from MCA, [click here](#).