

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 April 21, 2016.

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Highlights and Recognitions

Young Georgia Authors Winners Recognized

The Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition is an annual contest sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education. It encourages students to develop their writing skills while celebrating the successful writings of all students. Any type of writing may be submitted, and one winning entry per grade level is submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The District recognized Bibb County's winning entries:

- "Museum Visit" by Chloe McDonnell, kindergarten, Academy of Classical Education;
- "My Favorite Season" by Kaden Brezial, first grade, Williams Elementary;
- "The Cheetah Didn't Have a Tail" by Erin Peacock, second grade, Heard Elementary;
- "Jake the Penny" by Matthew H. Lee, third grade, Academy of Classical Education;
- "Hello, It's Me" by Layla Floyd, fourth grade, Alexander II Magnet School;
- "The Haunted Soul" by Angel Holloman, fifth grade, Porter Elementary School;
- "Dawn of a New Kingdom" by Avery Richardson, sixth grade, Academy of Classical Education;
- "Dandelion" by Zoe Pham, seventh grade, Rutland Middle School;
- "Survival" by Kiearia Cox, eighth grade, Howard Middle School;
- "The Lying Devil" by Clayton Cole Bryant, ninth grade, Academy of Classical Education;
- "Made of Red Bricks" by Etta James, tenth grade, Westside High School;
- "Summer Evening" by Will Macfie, eleventh grade, Central High School; and
- "Life Through the Lens of Literature" by Grace Nguyen, twelfth grade, Central High School.

Students Place at State Technology Fair

After excelling at the District's 2016 Student Technology Summit held at Westside High School in January 2016, many of Bibb County's students advanced to the Georgia Educational Technology Fair at Middle Georgia State University on March 5.

Students who placed at the statewide fair included:

- Sophia Tang, Springdale Elementary, placed second in Non-Multimedia Applications 5, 6;
- Henry Jennings, Vineville Academy of the Arts, placed third in Animation 5,6;
- Jathnell Anthony Wint III and Eduardo Leos, Westside High School, took second place in Robotics, 11, 12; and
- Etta James, Westside High, took third place in Non-Multimedia Applications, 9, 10.

District Students Qualify to Compete in National History Bee

Students who either finished in the top eight in their grade level for regional competition or qualified for the National History Bee were recognized. Ten students were chosen from each elementary and middle school to take an online history test. Students with qualifying scores were invited to attend the regional bee. At the regional bee in Jackson, students competed with their grade level in four rounds of questioning.

Students recognized included:

- Wilson Bridges, fifth grade, Alexander II Magnet School;
- Sami Momin, seventh grade, Miller Magnet Middle School;
- Cooper Massey, seventh grade, Howard Middle School;
- Jacob Thomley, seventh grade, Howard Middle School;
- Thania Jahja, eighth grade, Howard Middle School;
- Jahkob Thomas, eighth grade, Howard Middle School; and
- Harley Patterson, eighth grade, Howard Middle School.

District Honors Math Team Competition Winners

Each year, District middle school students compete as individuals and as teams in the District's Math Team Competitions. Each student takes an individual assessment of 40 multiple-choice questions. Then the team competes in a 10-question problem-solving assessment. The scores are combined for the winning team.

First place winners were:

- Sixth-grade: Howard Middle School, represented by students Morgan Irby, Brinda Patel and Leo Zhang with Coach Kathleen Wilder. Brinda Patel and Leo Zhang were also the winners of the Speed Round. Individual winner: Landon Juang, Howard Middle School.
- Seventh-grade: Howard Middle School, represented by students Landon Juang and Keandre Scott, with Coach Kathleen Wilder. Individual winner: Sami Momin, Miller Magnet Middle School.
- Eighth-grade: Rutland Middle School, represented by students Evan O'Quinn, Timia Raines, Paige Riser with Coaches Stephanie Bergeron and Linda Truman. Individual winner: Paige Riser, Rutland Middle School.

District Recognizes First Place Quiz Bowl Team

Vineville Academy of the Arts won the Bibb County Quiz Bowl Championship. The team included students Ulric Bellaire, Carmen Duncan, Kahlil Harvey, Henry Jennings, Elizabeth Nava, Joseph Rodgers, Tyra Smith and Maggie Walker.

Quiz Bowl is an opportunity for students to showcase their academic knowledge. The elementary Quiz Bowl Team is made of fourth and fifth grade students. All elementary schools compete in two practice rounds and the semi-finals competition. The five winning teams in the semi-finals compete for a chance at the championship match.

Northeast High Student Honored as FFA State Star Finalist

Northeast High School senior Rachel Solomon has been named one of 12 FFA State Star finalists. She will be recognized at a statewide FFA convention on April 28.

The state degree is the third rung of the FFA degree ladder, which students climb by developing and growing their Supervised Agricultural Experience program. The four rungs of the FFA degree ladder are the greenhand degree, chapter degree, state degree and American degree. Students climb each rung of the ladder by improving and expanding their SAE. To earn the state FFA degree, a student must earn both the greenhand and chapter degrees, serve as an active FFA member and enroll in an agricultural education class above the 9th grade level for a minimum of two years, earn and productively invest at least \$1,000 or work in excess of 300 hours beyond scheduled class time, participate in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level, participate in a minimum of 25 hours of community service, and maintain at least a C average.

For the past two years, Rachel has been researching microbial fuel cells on plants and how to calculate chlorophyll content and started researching the world's energy reservoir. She then began to create a plan for displaying the qualities of the microbial field cell that could improve the agriculture industry and become a new source of electricity.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointments Approved

On Thursday, April 21, Board members approved the appointments of Kenya Waters as Assistant Principal of Ballard-Hudson Middle School and Tyiesha Wright as Assistant Principal of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. To view the list of personnel items approved by the Board, [click here](#).

District to Expand Wi-Fi Connections at Schools

On Thursday, April 21, Board members authorized the District to execute a contractual agreement with Progressive Communications Inc. to provide E-rate Internal Connections and Managed Internal Broadband Services as specified in IFB 16-28. The purchase will provide wireless access points and any applicable network switches necessary to support the upgrade of existing network infrastructure, allowing campus-wide connectivity in all District schools. E-rate funding and funds from the GOSA Classroom for Connections grant will be used for the purchase. To view more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Foreign Language Textbook Adoption

On Thursday, April 21, Board members authorized the purchase of foreign language textbooks at a cost of \$241,570.75.

In order to ensure that core learning resources are of the highest quality, the State Board of Education established procedures for evaluating and recommending learning resources in state-funded courses. The Georgia Textbook/Learning Resources Program guarantees that those procedures are followed and that school systems throughout Georgia receive support throughout the recommendation process. The recommendation process is based upon a six-year cycle, which repeats itself in the seventh year. Each year of the cycle, the state reviews learning resources and learning materials that relate to a particular subject or group of subjects in order to create a state-

recommended list of materials. The 2015-2016 school year was the year to review K-12 Foreign/World Languages materials.

The Bibb County School District followed the suggested guidelines from the state for the K-12 Foreign/World Languages Adoption. The following textbooks and learning materials were selected:

- Grades K-5 – Risas y Sonrisas, Vista Higher Learning
- Grades 9-12 – French – Holt McDougal Bien Dit!, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Grades 9-12 – IB French – D'accord, Vista Higher Learning
- Grades 9-12 – Spanish - Holt McDougal Advancemos, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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

Board Authorizes Use of Barden Elementary for Head Start Program

The Board on Thursday, April 21, authorized the District to enter into a lease agreement with the Macon-Bibb Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) Inc. for the use of Barden Elementary School for the Head Start Program. The Head Start Program currently operating at the Bellevue location will be relocated to Barden Elementary to open in August 2016. The Bellevue location, currently owned by the District, will become surplus property that will be made available for sale. To view more information, [click here](#).

Intergovernmental Agreement with Land Bank Authority Approved

On Thursday, April 21, the Board authorized the District to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Board of Public Education for Bibb County and the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority to extinguish delinquent taxes on property without the necessity of coming back before the Board for approval on every property. To view more information, [click here](#).

Information

Board Receives Update on Proposed Bell Schedule Changes

On Thursday, April 21, Chief of Staff Keith Simmons presented Board members with an updated proposal for 2016-2017 bell schedule changes. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

The proposal to change bell schedules aligns with District strategic goals for student achievement and being a reliable organization. The proposal would put schools on a three-tier dismissal system of elementary, middle and high versus the current two-tier system of elementary and middle/high. This would provide students with additional instructional time, provide more accurate and reliable arrival times for bus pickup, reduce bus load counts and discipline problems, and separate middle school students from high school students on buses.

Mr. Simmons explained that one of the reasons for the proposed change is because of a shortage of bus drivers. Similar to Bibb, other school districts throughout the state are experiencing a shortage of available bus drivers. Examples presented include a vacancy of 12 bus drivers in Houston County where starting pay is \$14.51 per hour, a vacancy of 25 bus drivers in Muscogee

County where starting pay is \$13.00 per hour, and a vacancy of 5 drivers in Bibb where the starting pay is \$12.88 per hour. Many of the school districts facing shortages of bus drivers offer a more competitive starting salary for bus drivers than Bibb. As part of the planning process for the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, the District has proposed increasing the salary of bus drivers in Bibb County to help with the shortage.

The shortage of drivers combined with the current two-tier system have impacted the arrival time for buses at several schools throughout the District. At Southfield Elementary School, for example, the dismissal time is 3:35 p.m. but the actual arrival time for buses is 4:05 p.m. This delay prevents teachers from participating in collaborative planning because they are monitoring students for additional time. As for bus loads, many buses are approved to carry a larger number of students than may be comfortable. Examples of large bus load counts include a load of 72 students from the Howard zone, 76 students from the Southwest zone and 75 students from the Westside zone.

The updated proposed bell schedule options are:

Option 1:

Middle: 7:25 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

High: 8:15 a.m.-3:20 p.m.

9:05 a.m.-4:10 p.m.

Option 2:

High: 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Middle: 8:20 a.m.-3:20 p.m.

Elementary: 9:10 a.m.-4:10 p.m.

The District has yet to propose action on bell schedule changes for 2016-2017. Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on possible options in March. Additionally, the District has received feedback through Let's Talk!, and through discussions with the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council and the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council. The District intends to host forums on possible changes before presenting a proposal to the Board for action.

Board Receives Update on Status of Macon Charter Academy

Chief of Staff Keith Simmons provided Board members with an update on the status of Macon Charter Academy on Thursday, April 21. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Truancy Hearing Scheduled for Parent

Board members received information on Thursday, April 21, about a parent (Plaintiff X) who has been summoned to appear in court due to being in violation of the truancy law. Plaintiff X attended the District's Truancy Task Force in February and was found in violation of the truancy law. The parent was given a citation and reported for the hearing, at which point she was charged with 10 counts and given two options:

- Option 1: 6 months on probation with a \$300 fine and a special condition of probation where the children would be required to attend school (and if absent for any reason, written documentation would need to be submitted and approved); OR,

- Option 2: 6 months on probation and complete 40 hours of community service and a special condition of probation where the children would be required to attend school (and if absent for any reason, written documentation would need to be submitted and approved).

The parent refused to plead guilty, not because of the probation, the fine or the community service, but because she did not believe she had to send her kids to school, which is the law. The parent will appear for court on May 4, 2016, at 8:45 a.m.

College Board Presents AP Diagnostic Review

Representatives from the College Board presented Board members on Thursday, April 21, with a review of an AP Diagnostic it conducted for the District. The Advanced Placement (AP) Diagnostic utilizes a comprehensive approach to evaluate district AP programs and provides targeted strategies to increase AP participation and performance. To view the presentation, which includes the College Board's findings and recommendations for the District to improve AP success, [click here](#).

District to Offer Summer Opportunity Programs

The Bibb County School District will host a Summer Opportunity Program for students in third, fifth and eighth grades who are not successful on the Georgia Milestones test. The elementary and middle school program will run June 6-June 30 at Southfield and Union Elementary Schools and Miller Magnet Middle School. All students who do not meet the third grade reading, or fifth and eighth grade reading and/or math Georgia Milestones requirements will be required to attend the Summer Opportunity Program to be considered for promotion or administrative placement to the next grade.

Additionally, a Summer Opportunity Program will be offered for high school students who are in need of credit recovery, credit repair, and for students who want to take non-Milestones course acceleration. The high school program will run June 13-July 14 at Central High School.

Parents will be able to register students online and on-site. To view the presentation with more information, [click here](#).

United Way Partners with District on Reading Initiatives

On Thursday, April 21, representatives with United Way of Central Georgia provided Board members with an update on the organization's partnership with the District to improve reading levels among students. United Way of Central Georgia is working with the District to provide reading assistance through initiatives such as Read2Succeed, an AARP Foundation literacy grant, and its Kickstart Reading program – just to name a few.

The AARP Foundation, a grantee of the Social Innovation Fund, recently awarded a generous subgrant to United Way of Central Georgia to help grow Experience Corps, the evidence based AARP Foundation literacy program that improves the reading skills of children, enriches the lives of volunteer tutors, and strengthens schools in local communities. AARP Foundation Experience Corps matches volunteers age 50 and over with students in kindergarten through third grade to help them improve their reading skills. The program offers both 1:1 volunteer and small group tutoring assistance, which is the focus of the Social Innovation Fund grant.

“Strong communities don’t just happen. Strength requires investment, and thanks to this grant from AARP Foundation, we are going to be able to significantly increase our investment in our area’s most important resource – our children” said George McCanless, President and CEO of United Way of Central Georgia. “Partnering with AARP Foundation Experience Corps will help us reach more children faster, and the data shows that these reading support efforts will improve their reading scores and ultimately, our area’s graduation rates. We look forward to partnering with Dr. Curtis Jones and his team at Bibb County Schools to implement this transformative initiative.”

To read more about the AARP initiative, [click here](#).

To learn more about Read2Succeed, [click here](#), or watch a video [here](#).

Reading is one of Superintendent Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr.’s four focus areas for the District. Other focus areas include enrollment, attendance and discipline. To view the presentation by United Way of Central Georgia, [click here](#).

Board Holds First Reading on Policies

Board members reviewed three policies for first reading on Thursday, April 21. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on.

- Policy GBA, Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts
- Policy GBB, Personnel – Position Management
- Policy IBB, Charter Schools

To review the policies, [click here](#).