

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 and Public Hearing on June 16, 2016.

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Highlights and Recognitions

Two Recognized for Dedicated Service to District

Assistant Superintendent of District Effectiveness and Special Programs Sylvia Hooker and former Assistant Superintendent of Student Affairs Edward Judie Jr. were recognized Thursday, June 16, by Superintendent Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr. for their dedicated service to the Bibb County School District.

Ms. Hooker will retire June 30 after joining the District in August 2013. Prior to that, Ms. Hooker served as Deputy Superintendent for School Turnaround for the Georgia Department of Education, a position she was appointed to in January 2011. Also, she served as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning with Troup County Schools, Director of Professional Development for Coweta County Schools, a Performance Consultant for Georgia's Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI), Principal, Assistant Principal and more.

Mr. Judie served the District from 2011 until 2015. Not only did he serve as a distinguished educator in Georgia and Washington, but he is also a retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major who served 26 years in combat arm units. Of those 26 years, Mr. Judie served 15 years in Special Operations with the U.S. Army Rangers.

District Wins Gold Medal for Math Gains at Ballard-Hudson Middle School

Ascend Education awarded its first ever Gold Medal District Award this year to the Bibb County School District for the success seen at Ballard-Hudson Middle School through Title I's Flexible Learning Program.

Four years ago, the District implemented the Flexible Learning Program as a Georgia Department of Education requirement for Priority and Focus schools. FLP is a blended learning program that consists of direct instruction coupled with online learning for math. Bibb County Title I uses the Ascend Math software to help FLP students gain an understanding of mathematical concepts.

Through the FLP blended learning model at Ballard-Hudson Middle this past school year, 86 percent of participating students advanced one or more grade levels in knowledge, 41 percent gained three grade levels, and 18 percent of participating students gained four grade levels.

This is the second year the District's Flexible Learning Program is being recognized for its success. Last year, [Howard Middle School was one of three schools](#) in the United States to receive the 2015 Ascension Math Gold Medal Leader Award.

Custodial Teams Recognized for Inspection High Marks

Twice a year, schools are thoroughly inspected for cleanliness. Custodial staff work hard to keep their ratings high. School custodial teams who earned the top levels at the elementary, middle and high school levels were recognized for maintaining a high standard in environmental protection during the period of August 2015 through June 2016.

Elementary School Winners:

- First place, Lane Elementary, score of 99 percent, head custodian Leroy L. Tyler.
- Second place, Skyview Elementary, 98 percent, head custodian Stanley Alford.
- Third place, Northwoods Academy and Vineville Academy of the Arts tied, score of 97 percent, head custodians Ifeani Ammanugi and Randy Jackson, respectively.

Middle School Winners:

- First place, Ballard-Hudson Middle School, score of 93 percent, head custodian Sam Blassingame.
- Second place, Appling Middle School, 92 percent, head custodian Jermaine Davis.
- Third place, Howard Middle School, 90 percent, head custodian Reginald Cole.

High School Winners:

- First place, Hutchings College and Career Academy and Rutland High School tied with a score of 98 percent, head custodian Lillie Moore and Beverly Harris, respectively.
- Second place, Howard High School, 94 percent, head custodian Thomas Adams.
- Third place, Central and Northeast High Schools tied at a score of 92 percent, head custodians Sylvia Daniels and Charles Lucas, respectively.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointments Approved

On Thursday, June 16, Board members approved the appointments of Camisha Sneed as Assistant Principal of Ingram-Pye Elementary School and Tracey Harbor as Assistant Principal of Springdale Elementary School. To view the list of personnel items approved, [click here](#).

District Moves Forward with Formal Site Approval for Northeast/Appling Complex

On Thursday, June 16, Board members authorized the District to submit the Northeast/Appling Replacement Site Approval Application to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), requesting approval to build on the existing site located at 1646 Upper River Road, Macon, GA 31211. For more information, [click here](#).

The new Northeast High School/Appling Middle School project will be funded by the 2016 ESPLOST (Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax), a one percent sales tax approved by voters in November 2015. Construction is expected to begin in June 2017 and to be complete by August 2019. The community will be invited to participate in the design of the project.

Board OKs FY 2017 Five-Year Perkins IV Local Plan for CTAE

The Board voted Thursday, June 16, to approve a Five-Year Perkins IV Local Plan for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) and One-Year Funding Application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. All local school systems are required to submit this application annually for federal Perkins funds to support CTAE programs during the following school year. The Georgia Department of Education requires that the local Board of Education approve the application. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Renewal of AIMSweb for 2016-2017

Board members on Thursday, June 16, authorized the renewal of the AIMSweb (Achievement Improvement Monitoring System) for the 2016-2017 school year. AIMSweb is a research-based screening and progress monitoring system used to efficiently and quickly assess students' reading and math skills.

The District has used this web-based monitoring system for several years as a means to implement the Response to Intervention (RtI) process. Universal screening is the first step in identifying students who are at risk for learning difficulties. The universal screening is conducted three times per school year – in the fall, winter and spring. Universal screening measures consist of brief assessments focused on target skills (e.g., phonological awareness) that are highly predictive of future outcomes. Teachers also utilize AIMSweb to provide more frequent assessments to monitor the progress of students. For more information, [click here](#).

Code of Student Conduct Approved for 2016-2017 School Year

Board members on Thursday, June 16, approved the District's Code of Student Conduct for the 2015-2016 school year. To view a draft of the Code of Student Conduct, [click here](#).

AT&T to Provide Telecommunication Services

On Thursday, June 16, Board members authorized the District to enter into a new three-year agreement (with an annual renewal option) with AT&T to provide local and long distance telecommunication services to the Bibb County School District in an amount not to exceed a monthly charge of \$14,950. Telecommunication services are 50 percent E-Rate eligible for the 2016-2017 school year. Recent technology upgrades allowed the District to significantly decrease the number of traditional lines needed and to significantly reduce recurring monthly costs. For more information, [click here](#).

Food Bids Awarded for 2016-2017 School Year

On Thursday, June 16, Board members approved bid awards for food services for the 2016-2017 school year. The following companies were awarded bids: ACC Distributors, US Foods, Williams Institutional Foods, and Sutherland Foodservice. For more information, [click here](#).

District Insurance Coverages Renewed

Board members on Thursday, June 16, approved the renewal of property, auto, general liability, commercial inland marine and boiler and machinery insurance coverages for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 for the total premium of \$899,023. The Safety and Risk Management Department engaged in a comprehensive underwriting process for all of the insurance coverages referenced above with

BB&T Insurance Services Inc. This is the insurance agency of record for these insurance coverages. For more information, [click here](#).

Also Thursday, June 16, Board members approved the renewal of FY 2017 Student Accident Insurance Coverage for the premium of \$38,500. The Safety and Risk Management Department engaged in underwriting process for this insurance coverage with Dunwoody Insurance, which is the insurance agency of record for this insurance coverage. For more information, [click here](#).

The student accident insurance coverage covers the District's male and female high school athletes from injury during athletic activities for their high school team. This insurance policy also allows all school district parents the option to purchase additional student accident insurance, at their own expense, for their student attending a Bibb County non-charter public school. Parents may purchase student accident insurance for school hours only or 24-hour accident insurance coverage.

Information

Alternative Program, Board Room to be Relocated

On Thursday, June 16, Board members received information about the relocation of the District's alternative program from Burghard to the Williams S. Hutchings Building at the Martin-Whitley Educational Complex on Riverside Drive.

The move of Hutchings College and Career Academy this summer from its Riverside Drive location to the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex on Anthony Road created vacant space at the William S. Hutchings Building. In an effort to improve the culture and climate of the alternative program, it was decided to relocate the non-traditional programs to the William S. Hutchings Building. This includes both the PLC (Credit Recovery Program) and Burghard Opportunity Academy (Alternative Program).

In order to create a more positive culture and climate for both the students and faculty at the alternative program, it was important for the District to remove the negative perception. The alternative program will be divided into three professional learning communities, with the option of a fourth. The three are: high school behavior, middle school behavior and high school credit recovery. In an effort to offer the students more options, the District also is considering the addition of a virtual component. This option is designed for students currently being home-schooled.

Also, Board members received information about the relocation of the Board Room from the fourth floor to the first floor of the Central Office at 484 Mulberry Street. This will provide street-level access and increased seating capacity for Board meetings, as well as additional training and meeting space for Central Office staff.

Let's Talk! Serves as Additional Communications Tool for District

On Thursday, June 16, Board members received an update on the District's use of the communications platform *Let's Talk!* First introduced at a Board Retreat on September 22, 2015,

the District implemented *Let's Talk!* in an effort to increase two-way communication with stakeholders and to become a more reliable and responsive organization.

The *Let's Talk!* buttons were added in strategic locations on the District's website and social media, and the program went live to the public on October 1, 2015. Since October the District has received 1,409 dialogues from various stakeholders. The District's feedback average score on dialogues is a 7.8 on a scale of 10, with an average dialogue completion time of 1.3 days.

Dialogues through *Let's Talk!* began with Central Office administrators and principals this school year. Next school year, the program will be expanded to the schools to continue to improve communication between stakeholders and the District.

To view the presentation about *Let's Talk!* and some of the statistics on the District's use of the program, [click here](#).

Public Hearing

Board Holds Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2017 General Fund Budget

On Thursday, June 16, Board members held a Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 General Fund Budget. Board members approved the tentative adoption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 General Fund Budget on Monday, June 6, after receiving an overview from Superintendent Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr. and Chief Financial Officer Ron Collier. To view the budget presentations by Dr. Jones and Mr. Collier on June 6, [click here](#).

The FY 2017 General Fund Budget recommendation is directly aligned to the mission and core values of the District. Dr. Jones highlighted the work that has been accomplished during the past school year and explained the need for the items featured in the FY 2017 General Fund Budget.

Highlights of the FY 2017 Superintendent's Recommended Budget are listed below.

- 3 percent salary increase for all employees
 - Will allow the District to hire and retain qualified teachers and staff, and to remain competitive with surrounding counties
- 14 additional teachers
 - Art, Music and PE
 - Will allow additional collaborative planning time for teachers
- 4 additional counselors
 - Applying, Heritage, Howard High and Northeast
- 14 PBIS Paraprofessionals for ISS support at elementary level
- Salary increase for bus drivers
 - Will assist with hiring and retaining bus drivers and allow District to be more competitive with surrounding counties
- Summer School (Grades 3, 5, 8)
- Increase in Paraprofessional work days (from 180 to 182 days)
- 30 additional minutes for all School-Based Clerk I positions (from 7.5 to 8 hours per day)

- 5 additional work days for School-Based Clerks at the elementary level (from 195 to 200 days)
- Continuation of SchoolCity Inc. (used for testing)
- District-wide reading intervention (System 44 Research Based Reading Intervention Program)
- Continuation of the Leader In Me Program (Carter and Burdell-Hunt Elementary Schools)

Additionally during the June 6 meeting, Mr. Collier highlighted a summary of cost reductions over previous years that have allowed the District to balance the budget. For example, the District has gone from more than 1,800 teachers in 2009 to 1,523 teachers in 2015. Also, school closures and consolidations, and employee furloughs have been utilized to help reduce costs over the years. In addition, Mr. Collier explained the millage rate has not changed since 2009 when the District actually conducted a rollback of the millage rate from 19.7988 mills to 17.9450 mills. Mr. Collier pointed out that due to the rollback the District has lost more than \$31 million over the years.

The Board is set to vote on final approval of the FY 2017 budget during a Board meeting Thursday, June 23.

To view the budget presentation from the Public Hearing on Thursday, June 16, [click here](#).