

The Board Brief

This edition of *The Board Brief* is a summary of the actions taken at the Board of Education's Called Board Meeting on June 23, 2016.

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Actions Taken

Board Approves Superintendent's FY 2017 Recommended Budget

On Thursday, June 23, Board members approved the final adoption of the Superintendent's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Recommended Budget. Board members approved the tentative adoption of the budget June 6 after receiving an overview from Superintendent Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr. and Chief Financial Officer Ron Collier. A Public Hearing was held June 16.

To view the budget presentation from the meeting on June 6, [click here](#).

To view the budget presentation from the meeting on June 23, [click here](#).

The Superintendent's FY 2017 Recommended Budget is directly aligned to the mission and core values of the District. It supports the three major goals of the District's Performance Scorecard – increasing academic achievement and student success; increasing operational effectiveness and efficiency; and increasing stakeholder satisfaction and support. The use of the Performance Scorecard as a roadmap positions the District to move toward ensuring that all students demonstrate strength of character, are college or career ready, and are provided the tools necessary for success in a 21st century global society.

The District continues to face many of the same challenges as districts across the state of Georgia and across the nation. 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. Due to the rollback, the District has lost more than \$31 million over the years.

The FY 2017 Superintendent's Recommended Budget does call for an increase of the millage rate by 2 mills. Board members will not vote to set the millage rate until August after receiving the tax digest for the year. Three Public Hearings will be held in August to provide the community with an opportunity to discuss plans to increase the millage rate.

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
 - Appling, 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)

Administrative Appointments Approved

On Thursday, June 23, Board members approved the appointment of April Harriger as Director of Northwoods Academy and Barbara Alston as Director of Hutchings College and Career Academy. Ms. Harriger has been an employee with the District since 1999. She is currently a System-Wide Special Education Coordinator. Ms. Alston is currently the Federal Programs Director and CTAE Director for Meriwether County School System. To view personnel items, [click here](#).

Board Approves Resolution to Sell Surplus Property

On Thursday, June 23, Board members approved the sale of the old Hall Elementary, surplus property at 2312 Shurling Drive, for \$225,000.