

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 July 21, 2016.

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Highlights and Recognitions

CTAE Advisory Board Members Recognized for Outstanding Service

A District Career, Technical, Agricultural and Education Department Advisory Board member from each high school was recognized for major contributions to the CTAE programs.

Chris Tsavatewa, Chairman of Office of Experiential Learning at Middle Georgia State University, served as a member of the Advisory Board for the Engineering Program and STEM program at Westside High School. He wrote a grant for the annual Magnolia Soap Box Derby. This event served the entire community and involved students across the district. Mr. Tsavatewa was also awarded Advisory Board Member of the Year for the Bibb County School District for his tireless commitment to the success of CTAE students.

Donna Drummond, Marketing Development Coordinator with Robins Financial Credit Union, served as a member of Northeast High School's Marketing Advisory Board. She was instrumental in providing students with the financial knowledge needed to become productive citizens.

Rick Canipe, Commercial Lender with BB&T, served as a member of Rutland High School's Advisory Board. He participated in mock interviews, prepared FBLA students for competitive events and was always available to help in any capacity.

Tony Varamo, Vice President of Personnel Development with Metro Power, served as a member of the Construction Pathway Advisory Board for Hutchings College and Career Academy. Through Metro Power, Mr. Varamo provided internship opportunities to more than 20 students.

Daylon Martin, Jones County Commissioner and Director of Neighborhood Academy, was a proud supporter of the CTAE department at Central High School. He provided opportunities for Early Childhood Education students to gain employment at the Macon Neighborhood Academy.

Chuck Hammock, Consulting Engineer for Andrew, Hammock, and Powell Inc., was vital to Howard High School's Advisory board last year. He served on the Mock Interview team, assisted with FBLA competitions and was instrumental in Bibb County's robotics program.

Marvin Riggins, Chief of the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department, was an integral part of Southwest High School's CTAE program. He attended countless meetings. He and members of the fire department graciously served as guest speakers on numerous occasions.

Tarry Little was awarded the Industry Collaboration Award for her service to Bibb County CTAE programs at the school level and district level. Ms. Little is a Centralized Salvage manager at GEICO and is a leader within her company and an advocate for Bibb's CTAE department.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointments Approved

On Thursday, June 16, Board members approved the appointments of Olena Floore as Elementary Coordinator for the District, Antonio Young as Assistant Principal of Southwest High School and Timothy Deas as Assistant Principal of Weaver Middle School. To view the list of personnel items approved, [click here](#).

Board President to Appoint Naming Committee for Northeast/Appling Complex

On Thursday, July 21, Board members voted to authorize the Board President to appoint a naming committee for the new Northeast High School/Appling Middle School project. Board members will be appointed to the naming committee by the Board President, and input will be sought from the schools and community before names are brought back to the Board at a later date for a vote.

The new Northeast High School/Appling Middle School project at 1646 Upper River Road 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 Supports Resolution Opposing Opportunity School District

Board of Education member Daryl Morton proposed a recommendation for the Board of Education to pass a resolution opposing the [Opportunity School District](#), which is on the ballot in November and if approved would allow the state to take over locally operated failing schools. Other Boards of Education in the state, such as those in Chatham and Newton Counties, have voted to pass a similar resolution. A resolution will be developed and brought back before the Board for approval at a future meeting.

In-Talage to Provide International Teachers in Critical Needs Areas

On Thursday, July 21, Board members authorized the Superintendent to approve a three-year Teaching Services Agreement between In-talage Inc. and the District for 2016-2019 with a locked in fee of \$11,500 per teacher. The agreement does not require the District to use In-talage, but locks in the fee for the three years. To read more, [click here](#).

In an effort to fill vacant positions with high quality candidates, the District will partner with In-talage to recruit international teachers in critical need areas. In-talage is an educational consulting company that partners with school districts to provide international teachers in critical needs areas. The company is based in Atlanta. It has provided highly qualified, fully certified teachers in the areas of Mathematics, Science, and Special Education for more than 10 years to school districts. More than 80 percent of the In-talage candidates have 5-10 years of teaching experience.

In-talage sponsors the teacher candidates, provides support and completes all immigration and certification paperwork for candidates selected by the district. The principals and HR Department are provided the opportunity to review resumes and select candidates to interview. The principal makes the final decision to on candidate selected.

Playground Equipment Purchased for 10 Schools

On Thursday, July 21, Board members authorized the Superintendent to issue a purchase order to Miracle Recreation Equipment to provide elementary playground equipment for Bernd, Burdell-Hunt Magnet, Carter, Hartley, Porter, Skyview, Springdale, Taylor, Union and Williams Elementary Schools. To read more, [click here](#).

Board Approves Renewal of Edgenuity Contract

On Thursday, July 21, Board members approved the renewal of Edgenuity for the implementation of online learning for 2016-2017. The District's high schools have used Edgenuity, an online, blended learning experience, for several years to provide students with opportunities to recover credits; to offer AP courses that may not be offered at particular schools; and to provide instructional supports. To read more, [click here](#).

SAM to Provide Professional Development for 12 Schools

On Thursday, July 21, Board members authorized the Superintendent to issue a purchase order to the National School Administration Manager (SAM) funded by Title-IIA for professional learning services for the 2016-2017 school year. SAM is a professional development process which concentrates on changing a principal's focus from school management tasks to instructional leadership – activities directly connected to improving teaching and learning. More than 500 schools in 17 states contract for SAM services. Twelve schools will participate in the first cohort: Hartley Elementary, Heritage Elementary, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, Skyview Elementary, Ballard-Hudson Middle, Howard Middle, Rutland Middle, Weaver Middle, Central High, Northeast High, Southwest High and Westside High. To read more, [click here](#).

Solution Tree to Help Implement Professional Learning Communities

On Thursday, July 21, Board members authorized the Superintendent to enter into negotiations with Solution Tree to assist with the implementation of Professional Learning Communities. Solution Tree will provide training, coaching and monitoring to the priority and focus schools for the 2016-2017 school year. To read more, [click here](#).

Board OKs School House Health Agreement with Medical Center

On Thursday, July 21, Board members authorized the District to renew an updated contract with the Medical Center Navicent Health for nursing services in 2016-2017. The District's partnership with the Medical Center for nursing services has been in place since 1994. To read more about the partnership, [click here](#).

Infinite Campus Renewed for 2016-2017 School Year

On Thursday, July 21, Board members authorized the Superintendent to renew Infinite Campus for 2016-2017 in the amount of \$169,652. The District has used Infinite Campus for more than 8

years as a secure online tool to track and manage student information. Infinite Campus also serves as the official grade book for the District for all grade levels. To read more, [click here](#).

Board Moves Forward with First Reading on Policy

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

- Policy GBRC – Professional Personnel Work Week

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

Also, Board members received information about a new regulation for employees under Policy IFBGA. The policy and regulation address social media as it relates to employees using BCSD devices and sanctioned social media sites. To view the regulation, [click here](#).

Information

Students Demonstrate Growth During Summer Opportunity Program

On Thursday, July 21, Board members received information about the District's Summer Opportunity Program. The District provided a free Summer Opportunity Program for third, fifth and eighth grade students who scored at the "Deficient" level on the Reading-Curriculum Based Measurement. The District also provided a Summer Opportunity Program for high school students interested in credit repair, credit recovery and credit accrual opportunities.

One of the District's strategic priorities is to ensure students are reading on grade level, and the purpose of the Summer Opportunity Program was to help all children succeed at the next grade level. A total of 663 students participated in the third and fifth grade programs, and 258 students participated in the eighth grade program. At the elementary and middle school levels, a total of 57 percent to 62 percent of students demonstrated an increase in their Lexile scores. At the high school level, 374 courses were offered.

To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Alternative Program to be Identified as School of Opportunity, Achievement and Results

On Thursday, July 21, Board members received information about changes to the alternative program, which moved this summer to the Williams S. Hutchings Building at the Martin-Whitley Educational Complex on Riverside Drive. 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. It was decided by the staff that SOAR Academy would be the most appropriate name to reflect the mission and goals for the program. SOAR stands for the School of Opportunity, Achievement and Results.

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.

District Establishes TKES Guidelines

With the passing of SB 364, Districts were afforded flexibility in several areas of implementation of the Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES). Consequently, districts have been required to develop written guidelines and protocols, and must communicate these guidelines to teachers. The flexibility requires districts to determine: the minimum number of observations required of teachers assigned to the flexible process; a process for measuring the professional growth component; and how they will determine Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) for teachers of non-SGP courses and grades. The Human Resources and the Teaching and Learning Departments, in collaboration with senior cabinet, developed FY 17 TKES guidelines to address the aforementioned questions. The guidelines also established District deadlines for TKES implementation. To read the guidelines, [click here](#).