

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 November 17, 2016.

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Highlights and Recognitions

GEAR UP Partner Organizations Recognized

The GEAR UP Program is designed to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP grantees serve cohorts of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. Currently, the Bibb County School District's GEAR UP Program serves all 11th and 12th grade students, who will graduate in 2017 and 2018.

This month, the District thanked the community and business partners who help to make this worthwhile program possible, including:

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Georgia;
- Communities In Schools of Middle Georgia;
- Fort Valley State University;
- Legacy Builders Foundation;
- Mercer University;
- Museum of Aviation;
- Spectrum RED;
- Deep Well Data Services;
- The Mentors Project of Bibb County;
- Wesleyan College;
- SunTrust Bank; and
- Robins Financial Credit Union.

Nutrition Department Chosen for Golden Radish Award

For nutrition departments across the state, farm-to-school efforts have become a key focus. To honor those efforts, the Georgia Departments of Agriculture, Public Health, Education and Georgia Organics have come together to recognize districts with Golden Radish awards. The Bibb County School District School Nutrition Program was honored last month at the Capitol with a Golden Radish award for initiatives including an Ag Day, a Food Festival and a menu that regularly features locally grown products.

District Chosen for Physical Education Grant

Health and wellness are very important to schools, and those efforts include school nutrition and physical education. Recently, the Athletics Department and School Nutrition Program worked together to secure a Carol M. White Physical Education Grant from the U.S. Department of

Education. Only about 16 districts receive these grants nationwide each year, and Bibb County was chosen to receive \$1.6 million, to be used in both departments, primarily in physical education.

Lane Honors Custodial Service Leadership

Lane Elementary School custodian Leroy Tyler and his staff recognized Maintenance Director Eddie Montgomery and Custodial Operations Coordinator Tracy Dawson for their efforts. Under their leadership, the District's schools remain clean and in working order each day.

High School Students Honored as AP Scholars

Students across the District take Advanced Placement (AP) courses to better prepare them for the rigors of post-secondary education. At the end of each of these courses is a test that can result in exempting college courses and a fast track to success at the next level.

This year, we had several high school students score well enough on the AP tests to be regarded as AP Scholars. This means that they scored a 3 or higher out of a possible score of 5 on three or more exams.

That group included Central High School's Isabel P. Newberry, Rutland High School's Hayley D. Harrod, Westside High School's Jaron A. Jackson and the following students from Howard High School: Jimmy R. Asbell, Nicholas Ayerbe, Magan A. Barker, Ranha Beak, Christopher E. Beckworth, Maya M. Beverly, Chloe M. Carmack, Emily E. Childress, Nora G. David, Hunter J. Fleenor, Sydney Grant, Nicholas P. Harriger, Madelyn L. Harvin, Benjamin T. Hornung, Jessica A. Johnson, Madison L. Judd, Ashlynn L. Kilcrease, Garrett W. King, Sebastian J. Lauterbach, Jacob M. McDonald, Kaylor O. Mondaizie, Janel R. Moore, Harley Ovell, Tate D. Partain, Dominic P. Perdido, Thomas L. Perez, Julianne K. Register, Adam B. Smith, Mallorie L. Stancil, Evan S. Williams, Rand C. Williams and Aaron T. Yates.

Two Howard students, Jenny Lee and Ridge A. White, were recognized as AP Scholars with Honor. This means that they averaged a score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams.

Also, three Howard High School students – Thomas Davis, Sophia I. Leicht and Lauren M. McCue – were named AP Scholars with Distinction, meaning they scored an average of 3.5 or better on all AP exams taken, and they scored a 3 or better on at least five exams.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointments Approved

On Thursday, November 17, Board members approved the appointments of Joanna Summerow as Director of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) and Afterschool Programs and Aveory Allen as Dean of Students at Ballard-Hudson Middle School.

To view the list of personnel items approved, [click here](#).

Academic Calendars for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Approved

On Thursday, November 17, Board members approved academic calendars for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. The calendars are a direct result of conversations and feedback from various stakeholder groups, including the Superintendent's student, parent and teacher advisory committees; an online survey with the majority of respondents preferring weeklong breaks to long weekend breaks; and dialogues received through the Let's Talk platform.

In each calendar, school would start for students on August 1 and end on the Friday prior to Memorial Day weekend. Each calendar includes a full week of pre-planning for teachers, a full week of fall break during the second week of October, a full week for winter break in February, and a full week of spring break at the end of March. The semesters are evenly split, with no fewer than 89 instructional days in each semester. In addition, the calendar for 2017-2018 is closely aligned with calendars currently available for next school year from surrounding districts.

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

District Enters Final Phase of ESPLOST Project to Put Cameras in All Classrooms

On Thursday, November 17, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to Progressive Communications to complete the final phase of providing classroom cameras and audio amplification equipment for the remaining 22 locations in the District. The amount of the final phase of the project is \$3,939,850, which will be funded by the 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), a one percent sales tax approved by voters in November 2015.

As part of the [2016 ESPLOST](#), the Board provided funding to improve classroom technology and security for all District classrooms. The installation of classroom cameras and audio amplification equipment provides a security and instructional function for classrooms.

An initial pilot installation of a selected classroom camera and audio amplification system was installed at Ballard-Hudson Middle and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary during the 2015-2016 school year to test functionality and compatibility with the existing network infrastructure. To watch a video about the pilot program of classroom cameras and audio amplification system, [click here](#).

Phase I of the project to implement this technology districtwide was completed during the summer and included equipping all middle schools with classroom cameras and audio amplification. Phase II is near completion and included the installation of this technology at each of the District's high schools and SOAR Academy. The third and final phased of the project will provide classroom cameras and audio amplification equipment for the remaining 21 elementary schools in the District and Hutchings College and Career Academy at the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex.

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

Electronic Access Control Systems to be Installed Throughout District

On Thursday, November 17, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$1,259,271.90 to Tyco Integrated Security for the installation of access control

systems at 18 schools. The project will be funded from the 2011 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), a one percent sales tax approved by voters in November 2010.

As part of the 2011 ESPLOST program, building security was an item to be addressed throughout the District. This project has consisted of installing secure vestibules, upgrading camera systems and installing electronic access control. To date, access control has been installed in 9 locations: Alexander II Magnet, Bernd Elementary, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, Heard Elementary, Porter Elementary, Riley Elementary, Veterans Elementary, the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex, and the Maintenance Facility/Operations Center.

Work is currently underway through in-house efforts to install access control systems at the following 9 locations: Burdell-Hunt Magnet, Heritage Elementary, Southfield Elementary, Springdale Elementary, Ballard-Hudson Middle, Howard Middle, Miller Middle, Rutland Middle, and Weaver Middle.

Installation by Tyco at the remaining 18 schools is scheduled to begin in December 2016 and to be completed by summer 2017. To read more, [click here](#).

Board Gives Go Ahead for Ocmulgee Crossing TAD Agreement

On Thursday, November 17, Board members approved a resolution from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission that allows the Board President and Superintendent to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement related to Ocmulgee Crossing Tax Allocation District (TAD). The Ocmulgee Crossing TAD involves what has been known as the Old Bibb Mill Center in east Macon, and the intent of the agreement is to promote the redevelopment and expansion of the area for economic growth and increased revenue. The agreement would be subject to final approval by the Board. To read more about this, [click here](#).

Proximity Learning to Provide Virtual Education

On Thursday, November 17, Board members authorized the District to hire 7 additional teachers through Proximity Learning Inc. In August, Board members authorized the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Proximity Learning Inc. to hire three teachers as part of a pilot program to fill teacher vacancies in the District. The approval of 7 additional positions is an extension of that contract based on the program's success so far this year.

In an effort to fill vacant positions with high quality candidates, the District is partnering with Proximity Learning Inc. to live stream high quality virtual K-12 educators into District classrooms with teacher vacancies. The teachers serve as highly qualified substitute teachers until a permanent teacher can be placed in the classroom. A paraprofessional or substitute is placed in the classroom as support for the virtual educator.

The District currently has 3 Proximity teachers working in the following positions: eighth grade ELA at Ballard-Hudson Middle, second grade at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary, and sixth grade ELA at Weaver Middle School.

To watch a video about Proximity Learning teachers in the District, [click here](#).

Board Oks Final Phase of Playground Equipment, Creating Equity Throughout District

On Thursday, November 17, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$758,133.05 to Miracle Recreation Co. for the installation of playground equipment at 13 elementary school locations in the District. Once installed, all the elementary schools in Bibb County will have equity in playground equipment for the first time in the District's history.

A report conducted in summer 2014 revealed some schools had no playground equipment while others had insufficient equipment that was outdated or in need of repair. The first phase of a project to install new or updated playground equipment in the District at 10 locations was approved in July 2016. That first phase is near completion, with 13 locations remaining in need of new or updated playground equipment. With the Board's approval of the final phase of this project, all equipment should be installed and in service by April 2017.

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

District Upgrading to Networkable Printers

On Thursday, November 17, Board members authorized the lease/purchase of multi-function devices that print, copy, scan and fax from DLL Financial for the purpose of upgrading school-based printing districtwide. The goal is to install more efficient networkable machines – in this case, Konica Minolta Machines – within school administrative offices, teacher workrooms, media centers and designated lab areas to allow staff to have the ability to print, scan, copy or fax from one device location. Additionally, the machines will provide increased accountability through copy cost controls. To read more, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policy, Regulation

Board members approved one policy for a first reading on Thursday, November 17. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action.

- Policy IDCH – Dual Enrollment – Move on When Ready. To view the policy, [click here](#).

Additionally, Board members heard a presentation on the regulation for Policy FGDA, which deals with the selection process for construction companies. To view the presentation, [click here](#). To read the regulation, [click here](#).

Information

Quarterly Performance Reviews: Ensuring Victory in Our Schools

On Thursday, November 17, Board members received information on the District's implementation of Quarterly Performance Reviews with each school to ensure Victory is in Progress. As part of the review process, each school meets with District administration quarterly to present updates on the school's Continuous Improvement Plan and how teachers and staff are working to improve student achievement. The first round of Quarterly Performance Reviews took place in October; the next round of reviews will begin in late January. To view the information, [click here](#).

District Graduation Rate Increases

Data released this month by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) show the Bibb County School District's high school graduation rate increased by 0.43 percentage points in 2016 compared to 2015 for a graduation rate of 71.644 percent. Howard High School exceeded the state graduation rate of 79.2 percent by almost 5 percentage points while Central, Northeast and Rutland High Schools each came close to meeting the state average.

School	2015 Grad Rate	2016 Grad Rate	Change
Central	74.104	74.545	0.44%
Howard	76.265	83.832	7.57%
Northeast	70.064	73.714	3.65%
Rutland	67.568	72.563	5%
Southwest	72.174	68.067	-4.11%
Westside	71.687	67.296	-4.39%
District	71.216	71.644	0.43%
State	78.744	79.2	1.2%

Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones has set a goal for the District to achieve a 90 percent graduation rate by the year 2025. To view more information, [click here](#).

Board Receives Information on District's Advanced Placement Scores

On Thursday, November 17, Board members received information on the District's Advanced Placement (AP) test scores from 2015-2016. To view the information, [click here](#).

The District has implemented various initiatives this year to help improve AP scores.

- AP teachers attended summer training.
- Teachers attend monthly District collaboration meetings.
- Teachers are receiving professional learning in the areas of rigor, analysis of scores, and close reading.
- Twelve teachers are participating in an AP Mentors Project, including one AP Lit and one AP US History teacher from each school.
- Teachers attended state sponsored training this month.
- GEAR UP is sponsoring Saturday School for students.

Additional Information Provided to Board

- [Quarterly Update on Truancy](#)
- [GEAR UP's Homework Hotline](#)
- [Report on Teacher Effectiveness Measures](#)
- [Mandated Changes Directed by Wage and Compensation Rule](#)