

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 October 20, 2016.

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Highlights and Recognitions

Superintendent Receives Educational Leadership Award

Bibb County School District Superintendent Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr. was recognized for being presented with the Bill Barr Leadership Award on Wednesday, October 19, during the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) Fall Conference in Athens. The award is named after Dr. Bill Barr, GSSA's executive director from 1991 to 1999. It is presented annually to one exceptional superintendent who possesses the unique ability to mentor and lead others in pursuing excellence in public education.

Dr. Jones joined the Bibb County School District as Superintendent on April 6, 2015. He immediately began working on the district's Strategic Plan, "Victory in Progress." The district's strategic goals focus on increasing student achievement, increasing student and stakeholder engagement, increasing teacher and leader effectiveness, being a reliable organization, and learning and growth. Each of these goals assists the district with its mission of developing a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society.

During his 19-year career in education, Dr. Jones has been a JROTC Instructor, high school principal, and assistant superintendent. Before becoming an educator, he served in the United States Army from 1977 until 1997, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Dr. Jones is a 1977 graduate of United States Military Academy at West Point.

Dr. Jones has received numerous accolades and awards during his tenure in education. He currently serves as a governing board member for the American Association for School Administrators (AASA) and Past President for the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA). He received the President's Award from the Georgia School Superintendents Association in 2012 and was one of the finalists for the 2015 Georgia Superintendent of the Year Award. He has served as a member of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission Ethics Task Force.

Bibb Schools Honored as *Let's Move!* Active Schools

Let's Move! Active Schools is an initiative of First Lady Michelle Obama that aims to ensure 60 minutes of physical activity a day for students in kindergarten through the 12th grade. Of the 544 schools honored nationally as *Let's Move!* Active Schools, 16 were from Bibb County – Alexander II Magnet, Bruce Elementary, Bernd Elementary, Heard Elementary, Ingram-Pye Elementary, Lane Elementary, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, Porter Elementary, Skyview Elementary, Springdale Elementary, Taylor Elementary, Weaver Middle, Central High, Howard High, Rutland High, and Southwest High.

Powered by a national collaborative of leading health, education and private sector organizations, *Let's Move!* Active Schools equips schools with the resources, programs, professional development and grants to increase physical education and physical activity opportunities for students, and to cultivate an Active School environment. To earn a *Let's Move!* Active Schools National Award, a school must have met significant benchmarks in five areas: physical education; physical activity before and after school; physical activity during school; staff involvement; and family and community engagement.

Central Teacher Chosen for State Award

The Lions Club of Georgia recognizes a teacher each year for its Anne Sullivan Award. The winner is chosen from among educators and school workers across the state, and this year's winner was Central High School teacher Karen Remington. Ms. Remington was honored at this month's meeting by Edward Adams Sr., president of the Macon Cherry Blossom Lions Club.

Vineville Academy Robotics Team Wins School Bell Award

The Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals gives out School Bell Awards to no more than 10 schools each year with "outstanding programs in the area of curriculum and organizational leadership." This year, the RoboPandas robotics team from Vineville Academy of the Arts was one of the programs recognized.

Vineville Academy Principal Kristy Graham was honored at the October meeting with Assistant Principal Lashonda Gilbert, teachers Leslie Brown and Thomas Trinh, and the RoboPandas team. Team members are Andrew Edwards, Daniel Biek, Dontavious Lofton, Gustavo Castaneda-Gomez, Isaiah Ford-Patterson, Janelle Sealy, Kyle Hicks, Mary-Katherine Lewis, Maya Jones and Skye Selby.

Three Bibb Students Chosen for State Advisory Council

State Superintendent Richard Woods selected 108 students from more than 800 applicants statewide for his Student Advisory Council. Three of those students were from Bibb County schools – Weaver Middle School's Jordan Lowe and Shemitria Risper and the Academy for Classical Education's Ben Trofemuk.

The council members will meet with the state superintendent throughout the year to discuss policy decisions, as well as serving as an ambassador within their respective schools.

Three Elementary Schools Recognized for Symphony Math Efforts

Educational Learning Systems representative Virginia Stoner recognized schools for their efforts with the Symphony Math program. These schools were chosen for Awards of Excellence for using the Symphony Math "as part of a comprehensive program to improve both teacher education and student ability." Three Bibb County schools were chosen for Awards of Excellence for the 2015-16 school year: Brookdale Elementary, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary and Williams Elementary.

Brookdale Principal Kim Tolbert and former Flexible Learning Program teacher Dr. Danielle Jones, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary Flexible Learning Program teacher Deborah

Boatwright and Principal Dr. Shandra Yarbrough, and Williams Flexible Learning Program teacher Jacquelyn Engram and Principal Dr. Shandrina Griffin-Stewart were honored at the Board meeting.

Northwoods Paraprofessional Receives Boys and Girls Club Award

Each year the Boys and Girls Clubs recognize professionals within the organization for their work in various programs. One such honor is the Outstanding Youth Development Professional Award. This year, that award was presented to Northwoods Academy paraprofessional Tori Hall for her work with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Georgia. She was presented with the award at the Boys and Girls Clubs State Conference in Atlanta this fall.

Retired Educators Celebrated in November

The Bibb Retired Educators Association (BREA) presented a resolution in honor of Retired Educators Month in November. The Georgia Retired Educators Association has chosen the month of November to celebrate retired educators and the state of Georgia recognizes Retired Educators Day on November 1. Bibb Retired Educators Association President Frank Tompkins presented the resolution.

Actions Taken

District to Purchase Laptop Carts to Assist with Online Assessments

On Thursday, October 20, Board members authorized the District to utilize Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) funds to purchase laptops needed for district-wide online assessment efforts. The approved funds will be used to purchase 86 laptop carts (2,580 laptops including 5 spares), in order to assist multiple schools throughout the District with the logistics of assessing approximately 25,000 students online within the 15-day testing window each spring. The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has set a goal for districts to administer 100 percent of annual assessments online. To read more, [click here](#).

District to Purchase 5 New School Buses

On Thursday, October 20, Board members approved the purchase of five Blue Bird school buses from Yancey Bus Sales and Service. The Transportation Department will purchase four Blue Bird Vision buses equipped with a wheelchair lift and one Micro Bird multipurpose school bus. The purchase will be funded through Georgia Department of Education bus allocations for Fiscal Year 2017 and the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), a one percent sales tax approved by voters. To read more, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Addendum to Lease Agreements for Barden, Jones Buildings

Board members on Thursday, October 20, authorized the Superintendent to execute addendums to the current leases for Agnes Barden Elementary and Walter P. Jones Elementary that allow the Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council to make improvements to the properties and a federal interest in the properties to cover the value of the improvements. Currently, the Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council operates the Bibb County Head Start Program in each of these facilities. To read more, [click here](#).

New Roof Planned for Alexander II Magnet School

On Thursday, October 20, Board members authorized the District to move forward with Pittman Waller Roofing Co. for the installation of a new roof at Alexander II Magnet School. This project will be funded from the 2010 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), a one percent sales tax approved by voters in 2009. Work on the roof is expected to begin in early November, with expected completion by March 2017.

Board Reviews Policies for Second Reading

Board members approved two policies after a second reading on Thursday, October 20. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To view the policies, [click here](#).

- Policy BBAA – Election of Officers
- Policy FGDB – Facilities Projects Contracts Awards Procedures

Also, Board members approved the Local Board Training Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 to be submitted to the Georgia State Board of Education. To read more, [click here](#).

Personnel Items Approved

On Thursday, October 20, Board members approved various personnel items, including new hires, transfers and separations of employment. To view personnel items for the month, [click here](#).

Information

Board Receives Overview of Formative Assessment Data

On Thursday, October 20, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Tanzy Kilcrease and Director of Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability Tony Jones provided Board members with another update of formative assessment data collected during the first quarter of the school year and how the data is being utilized by teachers and administrators to improve student achievement. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

District Pushes to Improve SAT Results

After seeing gains in SAT results for the 2015-2016 school year, the Bibb County School District is helping even more students to be successful as they take the tests this school year.

Across the District, students improved from an average score of 418 to 429 in critical reading, 408 to 424 in mathematics and 409 to 419 in writing compared to 2014-2015 averages. Bibb County students also closed the gap with the state average in all three areas, showing the biggest improvement in mathematics, where the state average actually dropped from 485 to 476.

On October 19, while sophomores and juniors took the PSAT, the District hosted SAT Day for seniors. About 1,100 seniors who are on track to graduate took the SAT free of charge at each of the District's high schools.

According to the College Board, the SAT School Day increases students' access to the college entrance exam in several ways.

- Weekday testing does not interfere with weekend work or family obligations.
- Students do not have to worry about transportation or trying to locate the testing site because they test in their own schools.
- Test-day stress is lower because students are in a familiar location with familiar staff.

Additionally, the District has worked to help students link their College Board accounts to Khan Academy, an online resource that provides students with practice SAT tests. Doing so has provided students with access to assessment data to help them understand areas where they need to improve. Also, GEAR UP has offered SAT and ACT prep sessions the first Saturday of each month.

To view the presentation by Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Floyd Jolley, [click here](#).

District Leaders Using Multi-Pronged Approach to Bolster Literacy Skills

Led by Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones, District leaders continue to focus on literacy initiatives to ensure that all students can read on grade level by third grade.

Educators at all Bibb County schools are striving to help students develop literacy: the ability to read, write, speak and think at high levels as specific contexts demand. By third grade, students need to have adequate literacy skills in order to comprehend other subject areas, to include math and science.

The Bibb County School District Literacy Plan provides a roadmap to identify the literacy needs and goals at all District schools as well as the steps for how to achieve them. Some of the steps on the roadmap include several initiatives: Systems 44, Reading Mentors Program, United Way and AARP's Social Innovation Fund, United Way's Read2Succeed, Literacy Target Schools, Sonday Reading Program and more.

All elementary third-graders are using Systems 44 to enhance their understanding of the English language. It's a finite system that focuses on the 44 sounds and 26 letters.

The Reading Mentors Program is a comprehensive coaching support for K-3 teachers. Teachers are receiving specialized, customized professional coaching to strengthen instructional practices and help more students read at grade level at the critical year of third grade.

District community partner United Way of Central Georgia was awarded grants to assist with both of its literacy initiatives that pair reading tutors with students to help reinforce literacy skills in elementary school. Earlier this year, United Way announced [ReadUnited](#), an umbrella for its expansion upon the successful Read2Succeed program and the grant it received from the AARP to recruit older volunteers for a greater number of hours each week. To learn more about what it takes to volunteer for these initiatives, [click here](#).

Also, teachers are using the Sonday Reading Program to ensure effective, consistent and proven literacy instruction for students. The *Sonday System* is based on Orton-Gillingham instructional principles that have been well documented over time. The Orton-Gillingham approach has been

the subject of five major reading research studies over the last 70 years. Citing these, the National Reading Panel identified Orton-Gillingham as one of the effective methodologies that address the needs of struggling readers (National Reading Panel, 2000).

To view the presentation, which provides background on each of the District's literacy initiatives, [click here](#).

Board Receives Information on District Enrollment Trends

Board members received updated information on district enrollment trends from the Department of Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability (REAA). The data review of enrollment trends since the 2007-2008 school year is intended to provide Board members with a greater understanding of where the District's student population is growing and where it is decreasing. According to the presentation by REAA Director Tony Jones, current projections show future expected growth in the western portion of Bibb County. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Data from Review of District's Magnet Schools Released

Board members received an overview of a comprehensive research study of the District's magnet schools conducted by Hanover Research during the 2015-2016 school year. To review the information, [click here](#).

District to Collaborate with Partners on School Bus Stop Arm System

Board members were presented with information about plans for the Bibb County School District's Operations Division to collaborate with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office, the Office of the Solicitor-General and Force Multiplier Solutions toward the implementation of a school bus stop arm program. The goal of the program is to increase student safety at bus stops during the loading and unloading process, to increase public awareness on the dangers of passing stopped school buses during the loading and unloading process and to identify and issue citations for violations. Upon completion of these efforts and prior to implementation, this item will be brought before the Board for review and approval of a proposed MOU between the entities.

Annually, the Bibb County School District participates in a national survey of vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses that are loading and unloading students. This survey is conducted each year in April and lasts for just one day. In 2014, 105 school bus drivers documented 122 violations. In 2015, 105 school bus drivers documented 130 violations.

The school bus stop arm program requires the use of several cameras mounted on the school bus. These cameras record events as they occur at each stop. The data is reviewed by employees of Force Multiplier Solutions for possible violations. All identified violations are processed and submitted to a local law enforcement entity for final review and approval. Once approved, a citation is issued. This entire system and process comes at no cost to the District.

Northeast Application for SIG Cohort 5 Moves to Next Round

Board members received notification of the next steps in the application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG) for Northeast High School. Northeast submitted an application for SIG Cohort 5 to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Division of School and District Effectiveness on September 6. The application met requirements for Rounds 1 and 2, and has proceeded to Round

3, which involves revising the application per feedback from the Division of School and District Effectiveness staff. District applications that are successful with the Round 3 review will be notified by October 28 of intent to recommend for State Board of Education approval.

Board Receives Information on Every Student Succeeds Act

Board members received background information about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, as a replacement to No Child Left Behind (NCLB). ESSA represents a shift from the broad federal oversight of primary and secondary education to greater flexibility and decision making at the state and local levels. To read more about ESSA from the U.S. Department of Education, [click here](#).

Also, the Georgia Department of Education released an online survey on Thursday, October 20, to receive public feedback on the ESSA. In addition to the survey, eight feedback sessions are being held throughout the state to allow all citizens to give input on Georgia's ESSA plan. The online survey can be found at the following link: <http://gadoe.org/ESSASurvey>. Learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act and the development of Georgia's state plan at gadoe.org/ESSA. View a [one-page overview here](#).

District Presents Final Unaudited Statements for FY 2016

Chief Financial Officer Ron Collier presented Board members with a look at the final unaudited statements for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

GaDOE Seeking Feedback on GNETS

District administrators presented Board members with information about upcoming Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) feedback sessions regarding the GNETS program, and how any potential changes to GNETS could impact the District. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

The GaDOE will host three regional feedback sessions to collect stakeholder comments before drafting State Board of Education Rule 160-4-7-.15 GEORGIA NETWORK FOR EDUCATIONAL AND THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT (GNETS). Information on the three feedback sessions is below.

Hall County

Date: October 24, 2016

Time: 3-6 p.m.

North Hall High School

Performing Arts Center

4885 Mt. Vernon Road

Gainesville, Georgia 30506

Tift County

Date: October 27, 2016

Time: 3-6 p.m.

Northeast High School

3021 Fulwood Road

Tifton, Georgia 31794

Fayette County
Date: October 28, 2016
Time: 3-6 p.m.
LaFayette Educational Center
Building A, Media Center
205 LaFayette Avenue
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

Any person interested in providing feedback may do so either in person or by email. Those who prefer to provide written comments may do so by sending an email to GNETrule@doe.k12.ga.us.

Committee Recommends Name for New Northeast, Appling Complex

On Thursday, October 20, Board members were presented with the naming committee's suggestion for the new Northeast High / Appling Middle Complex planned for Upper River Road. The naming committee recommended the names of Appling Middle Academy of Health Sciences and Northeast High Academy of Health Sciences. Members of the naming committee included Board of Education member Ella Carter, Northeast Principal Steven Jones, Appling Principal Dr. Christopher Ridley, and community members Dominique Johnson and Kim Hill. The Board will vote on the recommendation at a later date.

Board Receives Fuel Purchase Notification

On Thursday, October 20, Board members were presented with background information on fuel purchase prices that will exceed \$100,000. Quotes on fuel prices for diesel and gasoline are obtained from a minimum of three suppliers prior to each order. Fuel orders are then placed with the supplier with the lowest quoted price. Per Policy DJED, the Board was notified Thursday that the dollar spend amount will exceed \$100,000 with one or more of the District's fuel suppliers. Suppliers that have provided quotes to the District for Fiscal Year 2017 are Walthall Oil Co., Davis Oil Co., Osan Petroleum Co. and Mansfield Oil Co. A total of \$1,225,000 was budgeted and approved for fuel purchases for 2016-2017.

Schools Submit Documentation for Field Trips

On Thursday, October 20, Board members received information regarding out-of-state field trips planned for this school year. Springdale Elementary School and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School submitted information about trips for fifth-graders to Washington, D.C.; and Howard High School's orchestra and guitar classes will travel to Florida for a musical performance.