

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 December 15, 2016.

=====

Highlights and Recognitions

School Board Honored by GSBA as Distinguished Board

At the Winter Conference for the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA), the Bibb County Board of Education was recognized as a Distinguished Board. This honor reflects the second tier of GSBA recognition and is a step up from the board's selection as a Quality Board in 2015. Boards chosen for this honor are selected based on their school governance and leadership practices that foster student development and achievement.

Outgoing Board Members Honored

Board of Education members Thomas E. Hudson and Jason E. Downey were recognized for their service to the Bibb County School District. Mr. Downey, the District 6 representative, has served as vice president for the last year after holding the office of treasurer in 2015. Mr. Hudson has held several Board leadership positions during his 12 years as the District 5 representative, including a year as Board President. Both Mr. Hudson and Mr. Downey were presented with commemorative crystals in recognition of their service to students in Bibb County.

School Board Members Sworn into Office

Prior to the meetings on Thursday, December 15, newly elected Board members were sworn into office during a ceremony with Judge Sarah Harris of the Probate Court of Bibb County. Board members sworn into office include re-elected members Ella Carter (District 1, third term), Dr. Thelma Dillard (District 2, second term), Susan K. Sipe (District 3, third term), and Lester Miller (District 4, second term); and newly elected members Dr. Sundra Woodford (District 5, first term), and Robert Easter (District 6, first term). New members will take their seats on the Board beginning in January 2017.

Past Board Presidents Recognized for Service

Several Board members were recognized for their time serving as Board President in the past with a commemorative gavel. Thomas E. Hudson was president in 2009, followed by Dr. Wanda West in 2013, and Susan K. Sipe in 2014. Dr. Thelma Dillard was previously recognized for her service as president in 2015. Current President Lester Miller will be recognized for his service in January.

CTAE Students Recognized for GSBA Vision Video

A group of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) students recently participated in a video contest hosted by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). The focus of the contest was to highlight the students' Vision for Public Education. Stephaughn Hamilton, Terry Hollingshed, Devin Johnson, Ikyla Jones, D'Naazah Matthews, Jamicah Moore and Matthew

Smith created the video as part of the Audio and Visual Pathway at Hutchings College and Career Academy.

Southwest High School Football Team Recognized for Championship

The Southwest High School football team had a historic year, winning the program's first region championship with a share of the Region 3-AA title. The Patriots also became the first Bibb County team to beat fellow District program Westside High School. The team was represented by head coach Joe Dupree, other coaches and senior players, who presented outgoing District 5 representative Thomas E. Hudson a signed football as thanks for his support.

Actions Taken

Administrative Appointment Approved

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved the appointment of Charles Flowers as Director of Physical Education for Progress, or PEP, Grant. To view all personnel items approved, [click here](#).

District to Apply for New GEAR UP Grant

On Thursday, December 15, Board members authorized the District Effectiveness Division to move forward with preparation for submitting a letter of intent to apply for the 2017 GEAR UP Grant Competition. The primary goal of GEAR UP is to increase the high school graduation rate and enrollment in post-secondary education. This is a competitive seven-year grant, which provides early intervention and support services to cohort students beginning in middle school.

During the 2011-2012 school year, the District was awarded a GEAR UP Grant. GEAR UP: Create Your Future (CYF) – the District's local initiative – is a collaborative of the Bibb County School District and local community organizations. The GEAR UP ~ CYF project serves a cohort of 3,600 students presently enrolled in eleventh and twelfth grades at the District's high schools.

The 2017 GEAR UP initiative will have the same primary goals as the current grant, and funding will be used to support the District's strategic goals, including a 90 percent graduation rate by 2025.

Board Approves MOU with United Way of Central Georgia

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with United Way of Central Georgia to support reading initiatives in the District's elementary schools. Through the United Way's literacy and volunteer tutorial programs, the AARP Foundation Experience Corps and Read2Succeed, tutors will work in District elementary schools to help struggling students.

The AARP sites are Brookdale, Porter, Riley and Southfield. The Read2Succeed sites are Bruce, Burdell-Hunt, Hartley, Ingram-Pye, Martin Luther King, Jr., Veterans and Williams.

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

Board Authorizes Roof Repair for Schools

On Thursday, December 15, the Board authorized the District to issue a purchase order to Pittman Waller Roofing Co. to perform roofing repair and improvements to 17 school locations. The work is needed to repair existing issues and to perform preventative maintenance to extend the life of the existing roof assemblies. For more information, [click here](#).

Workers Compensation Insurance Policy Renewed

On Thursday, December 15, the Board approved the renewal of the District's Excess Workers Compensation Insurance Policy with Safety National Casualty Corp. for 2017. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Moves Forward with Ocmulgee Crossing TAD Agreement

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved an intergovernmental agreement related to the Ocmulgee Crossing Tax Allocation District (TAD) and authorized the execution of that agreement.

The Ocmulgee Crossing TAD involves what was known as the Old Bibb Mill Center in east Macon. The intent of the agreement is to promote the redevelopment and expansion of the area for economic growth and increased revenue. For more information, [click here](#).

Calendar of 2017 Meeting Dates Approved

Board members approved the schedule of regular Committee/Board Meetings for the Bibb County Board of Education for the 2017 calendar year and January 2018. All Committee/Board meetings will be held at the Board of Education's Central Office located at 484 Mulberry Street, Macon.

The meetings will be on the third Thursday of the month with the exception of the December 2017 meeting, which will be held on the second Thursday because the District will be closed for holidays on the third Thursday. Committee Meetings will begin at 4 p.m., followed by the Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Committee/Board Meeting dates are:

January 19, 2017

February 16, 2017

March 16, 2017

April 20, 2017

May 18, 2017

June 15, 2017

July 20, 2017

August 17, 2017

September 21, 2017

October 19, 2017

November 16, 2017

December 14, 2017

January 18, 2018

Board Reviews Policies

Board members approved one policy after a second reading on Thursday, December 15.

- Policy IDCH – Dual Enrollment – Move on When Ready.

Also, Board members approved a first reading of a policy.

- Policy GBRIG – Federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To view the two policies, [click here](#).

Information

District Participates in Collaborative Vendor Fair

The Bibb County School District's Procurement Department collaborated with the Macon-Bibb Office of Small Business Development Office, Macon Water Authority and Macon Housing Authority to conduct a vendor fair on December 8 at the Dr. Robert J. Williams Complex, 1780 Anthony Road. The goal of the project was to enhance the partnerships of contractors within the Macon-Bibb community.

About 50 attendees and 28 vendors were in attendance. The keynote speaker was Dorna Wederlin, Training and Outreach Manager from the Department of Administrative Services. Mrs. Wederlin's presentation focused on educating the small business contractors on various opportunities within the state of Georgia, and how to solicit business opportunities.

The District's primary objective in participating in this collaborative event was to provide ample support to local and small businesses within Macon-Bibb County when dealing with bids, contracts, and vendor setup. The attendees were given information on all upcoming projects, as well as information on how to become an active vendor within each of the four entities.

The agenda included a panel discussion on how to do business within the local government. The panel consisted of Patrick Topping, President MEDC; Alex Morrison, Urban Development; and Alex Habersham, Macon-Mid GA Black Pages.

To watch a video about the vendor fair, [click here](#).

Additional Information: SOAR Academy Enrollment, OCR Submission

On Thursday, December 15, Board members also received information packets on SOAR Academy's increasing enrollment and a Voluntary Compliance Plan (VCP) to be submitted to the CTAE Division Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

To view information on SOAR Academy, [click here](#). To view information on the OCR, [click here](#).