

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 Committees and Board Meetings on March 14, 2013.

=====

Highlights and Recognitions

Five District Schools Receive Monetary Awards for Being Named Reward Schools

Last fall, five Bibb County schools were designated as Reward Schools by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) as part of the state's waiver from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The designation is reserved for schools with the highest performance or the biggest academic gains by students in the last three years.

Recently, the GaDOE recognized these schools and announced they would receive monetary awards for their achievements. The funding may be used for instruction purposes only, said Dr. Lori Rodgers, the District's Executive Director of Title I and Special Programs.

Among the District's Reward Schools, Alexander II Magnet School was designated a Highest-Performing School and will receive \$10,000 to use for instruction purposes. Bernd Elementary, Ballard-Hudson Middle, Bloomfield Middle, and Howard High Schools were each designated a High-Progress School. Each of these schools will receive \$3,000 to use for instruction purposes.

A Highest-Performing School is a Title I school among the 5 percent of Title I schools in the state that has the highest absolute performance over three years for the "all students" group on the statewide assessments. A Highest-Performing School must have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the "all students" group and all of its subgroups in 2011. A school may not be classified as a Highest-Performing School if there are significant achievement gaps across subgroups that are not closing in the school.

A High-Progress School is a Title I school among the 10 percent of Title I schools in the state that is making the most progress in improving the performance of the "all students" group over three years on the statewide assessments. A school may not be classified as a High-Progress School if there are significant achievement gaps across subgroups that are not closing in the school.

Other categories under the state's waiver are: Priority, Focus and Alert schools.

CTAE Students of the Year Recognized

The District's Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Department hosted its second annual Student of the Year Awards banquet last month at Central High School. During the program, an outstanding CTAE student from each high school was recognized, and a District-level winner was announced.

CTAE Students of the Year for 2013 who were recognized include Tierney Ridley of Central High School, Delaney Doolittle of Howard High School, Ta'Karsha Ridley of Hutchings Career Center, Jontae' Nash of Northeast High School, Kelly Bui of Rutland High School, Jaimeson Taylor of Southwest High School, and Kiara Fuller of Westside High School.

Delaney Doolittle, a senior at Howard High, was named the District CTAE Student of the Year and received a \$500 scholarship. Runners-up Kelly Bui of Rutland High School and Kiara Fuller of Westside High School each received a \$250 scholarship.

"I commend these outstanding students for doing an exceptional job in and out of the classroom," CTAE Director Dr. Cassandra Washington said at the banquet. "They have taken full advantage of opportunities to expand their leadership skills and give back to their local community. These students are establishing a pathway that will lead to success in college and future careers."

In competing for the title of District CTAE Student of the Year, each student was judged on the same criteria by a panel of four judges. The criteria include overall Grade Point Average (GPA), pathway GPA, Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) leadership, CTSO chapter and community service participation, an essay entitled "How Career and Technical Education Has Affected Decisions About My Future," and an interview by the panel of community judges.

Central High Junior Recognized for Participation in Jeopardy! Teen Tournament

Central High School junior Kelton Ellis was recognized at the Board Meeting on Thursday, March 14, for his participation in *Jeopardy! Teen Tournament*. One of 15 contestants selected nationally to appear on the game show, Kelton made his first appearance on the show January 30. From there, he advanced to the semifinals on February 7. His winnings from the show totaled \$10,000.

The *Jeopardy! Teen Tournament* is one of the traditional tournaments held each season on the TV quiz show *Jeopardy!* The competition is for contestants ages 13-17 as they compete for a grand prize of \$75,000.

According to the *Jeopardy!* website, registrants take a 50-question timed online test at a set test time. Takers are given 15 seconds per clue to type in their answers. A random selection of those who pass the test are invited to attend regional auditions in locations around the United States at which another 50-question written test is given, followed by interviews, and mock games. The number of students selected for the regional auditions is usually about 300, from which 15 are selected for the show.

Kelton first learned of his selection for *Jeopardy! Teen Tournament* when he was surprised by 13WMAZ News Anchor Lorra Lynch Jones on October 26, 2012, during the school day. The show was taped in November 2012.

"I'm a big fan of the show," Kelton said of his decision to try out for the competition. "I like random facts and I have them all arranged in my head so I decided why not put that to use."

Kelton is one of the many standouts representing Central High's elite International Baccalaureate (IB) program. He also plays the cello in the school's orchestra, is Captain of the school's Quiz Bowl Team, Secretary of the French Club, and a member of Central's Mock Trial Team. He also writes for the school paper, The Central Post.

As part of the celebration of Kelton's appearance on the show, the *Jeopardy!* Clue Crew visited Central High School on Thursday, January 31, to moderate a *Jeopardy!* game with juniors in the IB program.

Kelton described the whole experience as nerve-wracking and exciting, but also "kind of weird."

"It's weird to watch the show and then realize you're going to be on the same set you see all these people on," he said. "And shaking (host) Alex Trebek's hand and talking to him and answering all of his questions."

And just what did he think of longtime host Trebek?

"He's taller in person," Kelton said. "He's really great. He's really witty and funny and smart."

Kelton's advice for others hoping to appear on the show is simple: "Just know your stuff and try out for the show, and you might be surprised at what happens," he said.

Action Taken

Contract for Superintendent Search Presented to Board

On Thursday, March 14, the Board reviewed a contract presented by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) for the search of a permanent superintendent. The Board voted to authorize legal counsel to return to the GSBA with amendments including a travel expenses cap of \$1,500 and that additional costs which may be incurred as a result of a broader scope of search activities will be assessed and added to the contract agreement by written agreement. If GSBA accepts these amendments, the Board accepts the contract agreement for the search of a permanent superintendent.

To view the contract presented to Board members without the aforementioned amendments, [click here](#).

Board Approves District Policies

The Board approved several District policies after a second reading. Any changes to policies must be read officially two times by Board members before they may be approved.

To view PR-4, Policy JGI on Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting, [click here](#).

To view PR-6, Policy GCK/GCN on Professional/Classified Personnel Suspension and Transfer, [click here](#).

To view PR-8, Policy GBA on Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts, [click here](#).

Board Agrees to Settle Lawsuit

On Thursday, March 14, the Board voted to settle a lawsuit in the amount of \$1,758. Interim Board President Susan Sipe was authorized to sign the settlement agreement, which will be made public upon its completion.

Board OKs Personnel Services Items

The Board approved appointments and transfers, as well as separations from employment, for the month. To view Personnel Services documents presented, [click here](#).

Information Presented

Board Receives Update on State of Technology

Board members on Thursday, March 14, received an update from Executive Director of Technology Thomas C. Tourand and representatives of the firm PCTI on the status of technology throughout the District.

Technological infrastructure upgrades first began at Northeast High School in October and continued through Thanksgiving Break.

“Northeast was the first and hardest one to do,” Mr. Tourand said at the time. “Having that behind us, and the lessons learned from working at that architecturally challenging school that was not designed for technology, that gave us a lot of insight as to how we’re going to move forward with the rest of the schools. That should give us a more efficient and faster completion at the rest of the schools.”

Since the completion of work at Northeast, work has begun at Central High School, Hutchings Career Center, Appling Middle School, and Burdell-Hunt Magnet School. Preliminary work also has begun at many of the District's other schools.

Once the transition is complete at each school, users should expect to see an increase in bandwidth and a much faster and more efficient Internet connection, Mr. Tourand has said.

To view the PowerPoint presentation, which includes a complete timeline for school technological infrastructure upgrades, information on the status of work at each school, the need for a network operating center and how it impacts employee email, and more, [click here](#).

Board Receives Update from School Nutrition Program for National Nutrition Month

In honor of National Nutrition Month, Board members received an overview of the Bibb County School Nutrition Program's past year.

Dr. Cleta Long, Director of the Bibb County School Nutrition Program, spoke to Board members about the award-winning department's involvement in the schools with such programs as the Healthier U.S. School Challenge, the Farm to School program, the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables program, Feed My School for a Week, school gardens, and more.

To view the PowerPoint presentation featuring School Nutrition Program highlights, [click here](#).

Board Reviews District Policies

The Board reviewed several District policies for a first reading or as information. Any changes to policies must be read officially two times by Board members before they may be approved.

To view PR-1, Policy DJEAA on Board Authority, [click here](#).

To view PR-2, Policy DJED Bids and Quotations, [click here](#).

To view PR-9, Instruction Graduation Requirements, and the accompanying recommendation, [click here](#).

Board Discusses Request to Rename Campus Police Department Building

On Thursday, March 14, Board members discussed a previously approved request to rename the Campus Police Department building in honor of Officer Euel Thomas Smith, who was killed in the line of duty in 1983. The Board approved the request on October 18, 2012. Chief Legal Counsel Randy Howard informed the Board that Campus Police Chief Russell Bentley will be contacting the family and arranging a ceremony to name the building.

Monthly Financial Reports, 2010 Capital Improvement Program Reports

Board members were updated on the status of the General Fund and as well as the 2010 Capital Improvement Program through a monthly presentation.

To view the Regular Monthly Reports, as well as the 2010 Capital Improvement Program reports on Construction Progress, Financial Status, and 2010 ESPLOST, [click here](#).