

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 May 16, 2013.

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Highlights and Recognitions

District Honors Retirees

Retirees with more than 25 years of service with the District were recognized at the Board meeting. Those honored for their contributions to education included:

- Gregory Austin, Department of Fine Arts, 34 years in Bibb, 34 years total
- Denise Bennett, Program for Exceptional Children, 31 years in Bibb, 31 years total
- Barbara Bivins, Vineville Academy of the Arts, 38 years in Bibb, 38 years total
- Elizabeth Blair-Ricks, Southwest High School, 30 years in Bibb, 32 years total
- Linda Blassingame, Hartley Elementary School / Custodial Services, 30 years in Bibb, 30 years total
- Glenn Brassel, Warehouse, 37 years in Bibb, 40 years total
- Christine Bunn, Jessie Rice Elementary School, 27 years in Bibb, 27 years total
- Joyce Cicalese, Heritage Elementary School, 34 years in Bibb, 34 years total
- Patricia Clarke, Bernd Elementary School, 26 years in Bibb, 26 years total
- Sybil Coffee, Burdell-Hunt Magnet School, 25 years in Bibb, 25 years total
- Nancy "Ginger" Connell, Lane Elementary School, 26 years in Bibb, 31 years total
- Laura Corkery, Elam Alexander Academy / Northwoods Academy / Psychological Services, 32 years in Bibb, 32 years total
- Margie Davis, Heritage Elementary School / Nutrition Services, 30 years in Bibb, 36 years total
- Prentis J Dominy Jr., Maintenance, 36 years in Bibb, 36 years total
- Evelyn Gilbert, Burdell-Hunt Magnet School, 34 years in Bibb, 34 years total
- Minnie Gordon, Burdell-Hunt Magnet School, 34 years in Bibb, 34 years total
- Geraldine Harris, Ballard-Hudson Middle School, 31 years in Bibb, 31 years total
- Harriett Holmes, Bruce Elementary School, 27 years in Bibb, 27 years total
- Patricia Huckabee, Heritage Elementary School, 34 years in Bibb, 34 years total
- Leslie Johnson, Heritage Elementary School, 25 years in Bibb, 33 years total
- Annie Pearl Jones, Union Elementary School / Nutrition Services, 44 years in Bibb, 44 years total
- Debra Jones, Hartley Elementary School, 30 years in Bibb, 30 years total
- Theresa Jones, Vineville Academy of the Arts, 30 years in Bibb, 30 years total
- Jean Kiernan, Springdale Elementary School, 34 years in Bibb, 39 years total
- Gail Mack, Vineville Academy of the Arts, 30 years in Bibb, 30 years total
- Regina Marsh, Heard Elementary School, 31 years in Bibb, 31 years total

- Michael Mason, Maintenance, 33 years in Bibb, 36 years total
- Tina May, Title 1 / Special Programs, 32 years in Bibb, 33 years total
- Bernae Mink, Howard Middle School, 29 years in Bibb, 32 years total
- Geonene Minshew, Taylor Elementary School, 33 years in Bibb, 33 years total
- Ned Moore, Williams Elementary School / Custodial Services, 26 years in Bibb, 26 years total
- Paula Murphy, Ingram-Pye Elementary School / PEC, 26 years in Bibb, 33 years total
- Peggy Nipper, Howard Middle School, 31 years in Bibb, 34 years total
- Joan Radiker, Skyview Elementary School / PEC, 30 years in Bibb, 44 years total
- Elizabeth Raines, Westside High School / Nutrition Services, 31 years in Bibb, 31 years total
- Cheryl Sanders, Heritage Elementary School, 27 years in Bibb, 29 years total
- Anne Sawyer, Howard Middle School, 31 years in Bibb, 31 years total
- Julie Saylor, Porter Elementary School, 28 years in Bibb, 28 years total
- Evelyn Smith, Howard Middle School, 26 years in Bibb, 26 years total
- Theresa Thompson, Rutland Middle School, 28 years in Bibb, 30 years total
- Kari Waltz, Rutland Middle School, 27 years in Bibb, 29 years total
- George Wimbush, Taylor Elementary School, 34 years in Bibb, 34 years total
- Phyllis Zellner, Elam Alexander Academy, 40 years in Bibb, 40 years total

Springdale Principal Named National Distinguished Principal

The Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals (GAESP) has named Springdale Elementary School Principal Dr. Amy Duke its Georgia 2013 National Distinguished Principal. This prestigious award is given by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the U.S. Department of Education.

According to the NAESP, “The National Distinguished Principals program honors outstanding elementary and middle-level administrators who ensure that America's children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. The program was established in 1984 to recognize and celebrate elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities.”

Dr. Duke has been principal of Springdale since the summer of 2006. Prior to that, she was the assistant principal at Springdale for one year and also taught and coached for the Houston County Board of Education. She also has served as an adjunct professor at Central Georgia Technical College.

She received her bachelor's degree from Georgia College & State University. She earned a master's degree in Educational Administration from Georgia College & State University, and a specialist in education degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Columbus State University. She received her doctorate in Curriculum Studies from Georgia Southern University.

Rutland High Junior Receives State Award from Boys and Girls Clubs

Rutland High School junior Tyler Ragin was named State Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Youth of the Year is a national Boys and Girls Clubs program designed to recognize high achieving Boys and Girls Clubs members ages 14-18 in the areas of service to club, community and family; academic success; strong moral character; life goals; and poise and public speaking ability. Students are scored based on essay submissions, speech, and interviews with a panel of judges.

Tyler was named the Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Georgia earlier this year. She received a \$1,000 scholarship with the honor, and \$5,000 scholarship with the title of State Youth of the Year. From state, competition continues at the regional and national levels with scholarship awards at each level. The National Youth of the Year will be installed by the President of the United States.

“She’s very disciplined and very driven, and she’s just a real good example of a Boys and Girls Clubs kid. She really feels that the club has helped her, and likewise, we feel like she has been a very big asset to the club,” said Angie Wilson, Vice President of Program Services for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Georgia. “She helps with the younger children, she’s an excellent role model of what you can do, what you can achieve if you really stay in school, focus on your academics, and put your best foot forward.”

Tyler is the third state winner from Central Georgia in the past 10 years. During the next year, she will have the opportunity to travel and speak to different civic clubs and organizations as part of her duties as State Youth of the Year.

“It means a lot to me,” Tyler said of the honor. “I worked hard for it. The club means a lot to me and I’m trying to give back to my community making sure that other kids have the opportunity to get something in life.”

Tyler has many goals for the next few years of her life. She said she hopes to graduate at the top of her class and earn a track scholarship. She has already received letters of interest from such schools as Princeton and Harvard Universities, the University of Miami, and more. Beyond school, her biggest goal is to compete in track at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Three Central High Seniors Named Gates Millennium Scholars

Three Central High School seniors have been named Class of 2013 Gates Millennium Scholars. Kenya Andrews, Christine Okaro, and Ashley Washington will each receive \$250,000 toward their college education.

Only 1,000 students are selected as Gates Millennium Scholars each year. Previously, the District has had only one other student who was named a Gates Millennium Scholar. That student, Thelron Pleas, was a 2011 graduate of Central High School.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding low income African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline they choose. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence by providing thousands of outstanding students, who have significant financial need, the opportunity to reach their full potential.

District Students Place in State Technology Competition

On Saturday, March 9, Middle Georgia State College in Macon hosted the 2013 Georgia Educational Technology Fair. The event was sponsored by the Georgia Educational Technology Consortium.

Students from across Georgia competed in this event. They had to qualify at their Regional Technology Fair to advance to the Georgia Educational Technology Fair. Bibb County students advanced from the District's 2013 Student Technology Summit on Saturday, February 9, at Northeast High School. Those attending the state event competed with more than 500 students from 14 regions across the state.

The following seniors were awarded a \$250 scholarship provided by the Georgia Educational Technology Consortium for being the highest placing senior in their category.

- Steven Flagg, Northeast High School
- Austin Woods, Rutland high School
- Kelly Bui, Rutland High School
- Luke Bush, Rutland High School

The following students placed in their category:

- Kelly Bui, Rutland High School - first place in Web 2.0 (grades 11-12)
- Jamicah Moore, Rutland Middle School - first place in Animated Graphic Design (grades 7-8)
- Jeremy Moore, Rutland Middle School - first place in Animated Graphic Design (grades 7-8)
- Jonathan Wimberly, Appling Middle School - first place in Case Modification (grades 7-8)
- Austin Woods, Rutland High School - first place in Technology Literacy Challenge (grades 11-12)
- Lauren Applebee, Heritage Elementary School - second place in Technology Literacy Challenge (grades 3-4)
- Aman Borchha-Masand, Alexander II Magnet School - second place in Web 2.0 (grades 3-4)
- Luke Bush, Rutland High School - second place in Hardware (grades 11-12)
- Kianna Elam, Appling Middle School - second place in Non-Animated Graphic Design (grades 7-8)
- Steven Flagg, Northeast High School - second place in Animated Graphic Design (grades 11-12)

- Charles "CJ" Hammock, Howard High School - second place in Robotics (grades 9-10)
- Kishan Patel, Alexander II Magnet School - second place in 3D Modeling (grades 3-4)
- Tucker Preston, Rutland High School - second place in Technology Literacy Challenge (grades 9-10)
- Kinealie Rutland, Appling Middle School - second place in Non-Animated Graphic Design (grades 7-8)
- Jordan Ammons, Howard High School - third place in 3D Modeling (grades 11-12)
- Arielle Balkcom, Rutland High School - third place in Non-Animated Graphic Design (grades 11-12)
- Titania Lester, Northeast High School - third place in Case Modification (grades 9-10)
- Andrew McBryde, Rutland High School - third place in Project Programming (grades 11-12)
- Kaitlyn Minter, Heritage Elementary School - third place in Technology Literacy Challenge (grades 5-6)
- Sami Momin, Alexander II Magnet School - third place in Multimedia Applications (grades 3-4)

Howard Freshman to Study in China through Confucius Institute Summer Camp

Howard High School freshman Amanda Rowan was selected to participate in the 2013 Chinese Bridge Summer Camp organized by the Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT). She will spend two weeks in China studying Chinese culture and the language. There were more than 30 applicants for the few slots available.

Prior to going to China, Amanda will spend three weeks at the University of Georgia participating in the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) summer studies program. She will study Apocalypse in Literature and Pop Culture.

Talented Young Authors Recognized

Thirteen talented young authors were recognized for earning first place at the District level Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition. This competition is an annual contest sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education that encourages students to develop their writing skills while celebrating the successful work of all students.

Any type of writing may be submitted, and one winning entry per grade level is submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

Winners at the District level were:

- Alexander Hamlin, Porter Elementary School, first place for kindergarten
- Savannah Whitehead, Skyview Elementary School, first place for first grade
- Morgan Hickman, Skyview Elementary School, first place for second grade
- Aryan McColum, Alexander II Magnet School, first place for third grade
- Gregory Jones, Riley Elementary School, first place for fourth grade
- Josiah Cotton, Taylor Elementary School, first place for fifth grade
- Edna Rutland, Miller Magnet Middle School, first place for sixth grade

- Alaina Graham, Miller Magnet Middle School, first place for seventh grade
- Taylor Bowdry, Weaver Middle School, first place for eighth grade
- Amanda Rowan, Howard High School, first place for ninth grade
- Holly Carter, Hutchings Career Center, first place for 10th grade
- Jacy Thomas, Howard High School, first place for 11th grade
- Delanie Newberry, Rutland High School, first place for 12th grade

Students Represent District in Math 24 Competition

Elementary and middle school students competed in the District's Math 24 Competitions in March. The elementary school competition was hosted March 8 at Heritage Elementary, while the middle school competition was hosted March 20 at Vineville Academy of the Arts.

In the Math 24 competition, four students sit around a table, and a card with four numbers is placed in front of them. The first student to determine how those four numbers combine – adding, subtracting, multiplication, and division – to come up with the number 24 wins the card. The student with the most cards wins the round.

By competing in Math 24, students are practicing higher-order math skills at a young age, having to work these algebraic equations in reverse quickly and in their head.

The following students placed first in the District's Math 24 Competition, and each represented Bibb County at the state level this month:

- From the fourth grade, Christopher Knapp from Hartley Elementary School.
- From the fifth grade, Marquez Finney from Hartley Elementary School.
- From the sixth grade, William Hoang from Weaver Middle School.
- From the seventh grade, William Jose Royster from Miller Magnet Middle School.
- From the eighth grade, Savion Sneed from Miller Magnet Middle School.

Students who also made it to the state level of competition and were state winners include:

- Alexander II Magnet School fourth-grader Haaris Ahmed: first place, gold and silver medals
- Hartley Elementary School fourth-grader Christopher Knapp: bronze medal
- Hartley Elementary School fourth-grader Ta'Zheara Butts: silver medal
- Union Elementary School fourth-grader Ricardo Dunham: bronze medal
- Carter Elementary School fifth-grader Katie Alley: first place, gold and silver medals
- Hartley Elementary School fifth-grader Marquez Finney: silver medal
- Hartley Elementary School fifth-grader Jasper Lewis: silver medal
- Hartley Elementary School fifth-grader Walter Hollingshed: bronze medal

Math Team Competition Winners Announced

Each year, District students compete as individuals and as teams in the District's Math Team Competitions. The Elementary Math Team Competition was held Friday, February 15, at Union

Elementary School, and the Middle School Math Team Competition was held Wednesday, March 6, at Vineville Academy of the Arts.

In the elementary competition, each student takes an individual assessment of 40 multiple-choice questions. Then the team competes in a 10-question problem solving assessment. The scores are combined for the winning team. Individual winners are based solely on their score on the Math Competition test.

The middle school competition follows the same process but also includes a speed round competition. Each school selects two students to compete in the speed round. Questions are shown on a screen and the first person to "buzz" in with the correct answer gets a point. The winner is the student who answers the most questions correctly and quickly.

Individual Awards:

First place for fourth grade: Christian Lee, Springdale Elementary School

First place for fifth grade: Robert Ceglie, Springdale Elementary School

First place for sixth grade: David Ren, Miller Magnet Middle School

First place for seventh grade: Keyonus Summer, Appling Middle School

First place for eighth grade: Martaze Blackmon, Rutland Middle School

Speed Round:

First Place: Martaze Blackmon, Rutland Middle School

Elementary School Team Awards:

First Place: Springdale Elementary School students Robert Ceglie, Jessica Gu, Jake Holt, Katie Kosowski, Christian Lee, and Konner Toth

Sixth Grade Team Awards:

First Place: Miller Magnet Middle School students Andrew Barnes, Trey Burton, Zipporah Graham, Aubrey Heaton, Stephanie Rawls, and David Ren

Seventh Grade Team Awards:

First Place: Appling Middle School students Jaylon Freeman, AhQui Gillens, Arturo Henandez, Lakerria Phillips, Roni Roland, and Keyonus Summer

Eighth Grade Team Awards:

First Place: Rutland Middle School students Martaze Blackmon, Ravyn Chatman, Edwin Lopez, Renee Plymel, Lea Walker, and Nic Walker

Quiz Bowl Winners Receive Accolades

District students showcased their academic knowledge this school year by participating in elementary and middle school Quiz Bowl teams.

The elementary Quiz Bowl team is made of fourth and fifth grade students. All elementary schools compete in two practice rounds and the semi-finals competition. The five winning teams in the semi-finals compete for a chance at the championship match, which was held this year at

Vineville Academy of the Arts on May 7. Alexander II Magnet School, Vineville Academy of the Arts, Heritage Elementary School, Springdale Elementary School, and Carter Elementary School participated in the final tournament this year.

In the competition, two teams of four face off across a table, answering 10 toss-up questions and 10 bonus questions. Between the fifth and sixth question, the team completes a written worksheet together.

It is a game of knowledge, of skill, and of speed, and it helps better prepare students for middle and high school academic teams.

The top elementary team in the county this year is Alexander II Magnet School. Team members include fifth-graders Colin Browning, Wylie Byrne, Jaden Deuley, Gabby Floyd, Tim Johansen, Jack Lamb, and Caleb Muhammad; and fourth-graders Aman Boricha-Masand, Taylor Frankum, Sami Momin, and Michael Oliver.

Five District middle schools - Miller, Howard, Weaver, Rutland, and Bloomfield - participated in Quiz Bowl this year. The middle school Quiz Bowl teams compete after school and on weekends with various districts within the state. On May 2, the middle school teams participated in a play-off hosted at Miller Magnet Middle School to determine the District's middle school champion.

Miller Magnet Middle School won the tournament. Miller team members include Team Captain Thomas Martin and fellow eighth-graders Caleb Lindsey, Elijah Rutland, and Victor Toliver; seventh-graders Chandler Clark, Lucas Davis, Joseph Heaton, Tobias Kopp, and Nika Lofton; and sixth-graders Gracie Bell, Naved Momin, and Trent Smith.

Eight CTAE Programs Receive Industry Certification

Eight different Career, Technological and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs at District schools achieved Industry Certification this spring.

These programs include:

- The Healthcare Science program at Hutchings Career Center with Angelique Lattimore.
- The Automotive program at Hutchings Career Center with Levon Tarver.
- The Business and Computer Science program at Central High School with Alicia Daniels, Wylene Dickey, Cassandra Thrasher, and Nikia Williams.
- The Business and Computer Science program Howard High School with N'Yasha Davis, Natasha Eppinger, Joe Finkelstein, Josh Hunter, Morgan Jarvis, Susan Little, and Paige Welch.
- The Business and Computer Science program Hutchings Career Center with Maggie Bruce.
- The Business and Computer Science program Rutland High School with Diane Byington, Cheryl Hitchcock, William Moultrie, DeAndra Richards, and April Wade.
- The Business and Computer Science program Southwest High School with Queen Adeboyejo, Lucretia Fuller, Tina Ransey, and Tesheika Stewart.

- The Business and Computer Science program Westside High School with Dr. Patricia Curtis, Chris Fleming, Steve Neil, and Betty Whitaker.

When a program becomes Industry Certified, it receives a "stamp of excellence," which represents the apex of program quality. Only those programs that have successfully undergone rigorous reviews by leaders from business and industry are recognized with this distinction.

Industry certification standards are developed collaboratively by Georgia Department of Education Program Specialists and varying business associations. Representatives of these associations conduct the Industry Certification review process. These associations are, for Healthcare Science, the Blue Ridge Area Health Education Center; for Automotive, the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation; and for Business and Computer Science, the Society of Human Resources Management.

The Georgia Department of Education is committed to the industry certification process as a part of its effort to strengthen technical and academic standards for all CTAE programs. Students are ensured participation in a program that has been carefully interfaced with current industry standards, thus helping to increase students' qualifications toward successful employment. The curriculum and delivery method taught to students are also improved and updated enabling the student to receive high quality instruction.

"It is quite an honor to be Industry Certified, but it is a special honor for all of our eligible Business and Computer Science, Automotive and Healthcare programs to be certified at the same time," said District CTAE Director Dr. Cassandra Miller-Washington. "The success can be attributed to the caliber of Bibb County School District's business and computer science, automotive and healthcare instructors and, of course, to our outstanding student representatives who met with the reviewers to articulate their course knowledge and activities."

Dr. Miller-Washington also thanked CTAE Supervisors Charles Baima, Jo Brown, and Jason Weiss for supporting the teachers throughout the Industry Certification process.

Programs are typically certified for a period of five years. During that time instructors continue to document activities that will allow their program to be reviewed and renew their Industry Certification at the end of five years.

Action Taken

Board Approves Technology Contracts

The Board on Thursday, May 16, approved two contracts - one by Layer3 and one by Diversified - to allow the District to continue with its current technological upgrades. The two contracts were previously sent out for bids as RFPs and were then entered into without ever being brought before the Board. The Board's action makes those contracts valid, and allows the work to continue.

Board Approves Contracts for Flexible Learning Program

Board members on Thursday, May 16, approved a contract for Educational Learning Systems Inc. (ELS) to provide curriculum and professional development for the Flexible Learning Program (FLP), which is a required program that is federally funded. The Board will be presented with a contract for approval at a later date. They also approved an addendum to a contract for University Instructors to provide educational staffing for the FLP

The FLP is scheduled to take place in Bibb County June 3-28, 2013.

ELS will provide reading and math curriculum for a summer blended learning program aligned to Common Core. This program is designed to have online instruction for no more than 30 minutes per subject and one hour of direct instruction per subject. The extended time enables students to receive small group and individual instruction partnered with ELS online course work.

On April 18, the Board authorized an original contract with University Instructors to provide educational staffing for the FLP. The May 16 addendum to the contract authorizes University Instructors to hire more staff due to the acceptance of additional students in the FLP. The increase in staff will allow the FLP to maintain its ratio of one teacher for every 10 students in the program.

Staff screened and hired by University Instructors will receive professional development by ELS.

To learn more about the FLP through a PowerPoint presented in April, [click here](#).

Board OKs FY 2014 Five-Year Perkins IV Local Plan for CTAE

The Board voted to approve a Five-Year Perkins IV Local Plan for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) and One-Year Funding Application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. All local school systems are required to submit this application annually for federal Perkins funds to support CTAE programs during the following school year. The Georgia Department of Education requires that the local Board of Education approve the application.

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

District Tables Discussion of 45/15 Calendar Option for 2014-2015 School Year

Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Jane Drennan presented Board members with the Calendar Task Force's recommendation that a 45/15 calendar option for the 2014-2015 school year be tabled due to the District's current financial challenges and a lack of internal District support. Possible reconsideration may be given when the committee reconvenes to study the 2015-2016 academic calendar, she said.

The calendar task force has met three times since February to gather additional information to address support, obstacles, and solutions for possible implementation of a 45/15 calendar for the 2014-2015 school year. Results from a District survey given to all District staff this month showed that of the 918 employees who participated in the survey, 292 supported the concept of the 45/15 calendar while 626 were not in favor.

Additionally, a cost estimate for the extended summer days was provided by Chris Bryson, District Energy Manager. Mr. Bryson estimated additional utility costs for the reconfigured calendar would be approximately a 1.5 percent increase, which translates to approximately \$56,000.

Ms. Drennan, the Task Force Facilitator, also met with Marty Drawhorn, Director of Maintenance, to discuss possible obstacles in maintaining buildings and grounds with the reconfigured calendar. Mr. Drawhorn felt the new calendar was very workable from a District maintenance perspective and could provide possible opportunities for better preventative maintenance.

Board Receives Update on District Discipline and Safety Report

Board members were updated on the District's progress regarding the results of Safe Havens International's discipline and safety report.

- **School Based Emergency Response Plan:** Schools are completing their new 2012-2013 School Emergency Preparedness Plans that will be submitted to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) for inclusion in state of Georgia's Georgia Online Disaster Awareness Geospatial System ("GO DAWGS") emergency management information system. Additionally, each completed school plan will be distributed to the Campus Police Department and local community public safety/public health partners. Due to sensitive safety information in these plans, they will be encrypted and posted on the Risk Management Department's website where access will be granted to GEMA and our state and local public safety/public health community partners. Each School Emergency Preparedness Plan includes plain language security codes that will replace the Color Security Code system in place in the current school based emergency preparedness plan. A photo tour of the school will also be included in the plan. A new School Emergency Preparedness plan will be submitted by each school at the beginning of each subsequent school term, including the 2013-2014 school term. The school plans each school year will continue to be encrypted.
- **Family Reunification Sites:** The Risk Management Department, in cooperation with the Campus Police Department and Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency, has identified three Family Reunification sites in the event a full evacuation of a school is required. The full school evacuation will go beyond each school's Primary and/or Secondary Relocation site that is located at least 1,000 feet from the school building. The Family Reunification Site system, if activated, would involve security on site from Campus Police Department, Bibb County Sheriff's Office, Macon Police Department, Macon-Bibb County Fire Department, and Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management

Agency. Students, faculty, staff and any visitors would be bussed from the school's Primary and/or Secondary Relocation site to the Family Reunification site by the School District's Transportation Department. Parents will be notified by the School District's automated message system, website, Facebook page and Twitter account of the location of the Family Reunification site. Additionally, the School District will notify the local news media for public broadcasting of the Family Reunification site.

- **FEMA Training:** The District's Campus Police, Transportation, Psychological Services, and Risk Management Departments will participate with our community public safety partners in a FEMA sponsored E-361 course, "All Hazards Planning for Schools," in Emmitsburg, Md., in July 2013. FEMA pays for the transportation and lodging costs associated with participation in this course. This course will provide material for annual review of the school-based emergency preparedness plan and development of additional school safety plans and procedures.

Bibb Families in the Free Lunch Program May Qualify for Low-Cost Internet, Computers

Last fall Connect2Compete, the Knight Foundation, Cox Communications, and other leading technology companies invited 21 Bibb schools to participate in a national pilot to bridge the digital divide. In 2,000 schools across the country, families in the National Free Lunch Program were offered broadband Internet service for \$9.95 a month and refurbished fully-programmed computers at discount prices.

The offer generated a huge response from Bibb families. In fact, Macon/Bibb was by far the highest performing in the nation. Connect2Compete big shout-out to the educators and families who took advantage of this chance to put the Internet's resources in the eager hands of Bibb students.

Through the end of 2013, Connect2Compete and Cox will offer all qualifying Bibb Free Lunch students high-speed Internet for only \$9.95 a month. Some families in the ZIP codes of 31201, 31204, 31206, and 31217 also will qualify for a refurbished desktop computer, laptop, or tablet at a low cost.

Information about Connect2Compete will be sent to Bibb schools with end-of-the-year progress reports. To learn more, visit <http://www.connect2compete.org>, or to view fliers with more information, [click here](#).

Board Receives SIG Grant Update

Sylvia Hooker, Deputy Superintendent of the Office of School Turnaround for the Georgia Department of Education, joined District School Improvement Grants (SIG) Coordinator Dr. Sharon Campbell in a presentation updating Board members on the status of the District's SIG grants.

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

District Partnering with Mercer University, Macon-Bibb CVB on FIRST Robotics

The District will begin a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics team this summer thanks to a partnership between Mercer University, the Macon-Bibb County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the District's Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Department. The FIRST Robotics Competition takes place nationally each year, and thousands of high school students compete as teams to build robots weighing less than 120 pounds.

According to FIRST's website, the nonprofit organization's mission, "is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership."

There was a robotics program at Howard during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years, but the program was canceled due to a lack funding. The new program will be open to students from each of the high schools and students and advisers will receive assistance from Mercer University faculty and students.

The Macon-Bibb County CVB is helping the District to secure funding for the FIRST Robotics team. Eventually, Macon-Bibb County CVB President and CEO Monica Smith said, she hopes this partnership will help bring the state FIRST Robotics tournament to Bibb County.

Meetings and training sessions for students interested in joining the FIRST Robotics team will be held at Mercer University this summer. To learn more or to join the team, contact CTAE Director Dr. Cassandra Miller-Washington at cmwashington@bibb.k12.ga.us or Howard High School teacher Joe Finkelstein at jfinkelstein.howardhs@bibb.k12.ga.us.

To view the presentation with more details about the partnership, [click here](#).

To learn more about the FIRST Robotics Competition, [click here](#).

Alexander II Magnet School Council Asks Board for Adjustment to Academic Day

Alan P. Taylor, Chair of the Alexander II Magnet School Council, requested that the Board consider adjusting the academic day schedule for Alexander II to a start time of 8:15 a.m. and an end time of 3:15 p.m.

All elementary schools in the District currently have a start time of 8:45 a.m. and an end time of 3:45 p.m. Because the District does not provide transportation for general education students to Alexander II, the District's Transportation schedule would not be affected by the change, Mr. Taylor suggested.

Mr. Taylor said all of the school's parents were asked to participate in a survey regarding the academic school day, and about 70 percent responded. The response for a change that would allow for an earlier end time was overwhelmingly positive, Mr. Taylor said.

Board President Dr. Wanda West referred the request to Acting Superintendent Susanne Griffin-Ziebart to gather further information about how the change might impact the District. While the District's Transportation Department does not provide transportation to general education students at this time, the Department is prepared to facilitate any transportation requests for special education students. Another factor that could affect the request, Dr. West said, would be student nutrition.

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](#).