

# 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 January 19, 2017.

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## *Highlights and Recognitions*

### **Weaver Academic Team Qualifies for National Competition**

The Weaver Middle School Academic Team participated in the Fall 3-2-1 competition hosted by Questions Unlimited and finished second in the nation. Team members were Jaden Causey, Angel Hoang, Mona James, Jordan Lowe, Raj Patel, Rakhi Patel, Ricki Patel, Karissa Pudder and Johanna Rodriguez-Sanchez. Weaver Middle's accomplishment qualifies the academic team for participation in the 10th annual Junior National Academic Championship.

### **Lane Elementary Selected for Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant**

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant is presented to schools each year with the intent of making a permanent impact on the lives and education of students. This year, Lane Elementary School's "Fifty Years of Reading and Beyond" Program received a grant of \$3,580. The program is seeking to replace old, well-loved books with new copies so that future generations can enjoy them.

### **Georgia Power Presents New Teacher Assistance Grant**

Since 2004, Georgia Power has sought to support and recognize first-year teachers through its New Teacher Assistance Grant Program. In November, Howard High School's Timothy Jones was selected to receive one of the company's New Teacher Assistance grants for \$1,000.

### **Cox Communications Gives Innovation Grants**

Cox Communications gives out grants annually to programs throughout the country that enhance educational efforts. This year, the Bibb County School District had three programs selected for a grant: Northeast High School's "Make It" Space received a grant of \$1,000, Central High's Army JROTC Program received a grant of \$1,000, and Lane's "Fifty Years of Reading and Beyond" Program received a grant of \$1,500.

### **Hicks Chosen for GASBO Board Position**

The Georgia Association of School Business Officials seeks to support the quality of programs and services made available to Georgia students through practices in various departments throughout the state's school districts. Title I Grant Coordinator Chad Hicks was chosen to serve on the organization's Board of Directors until November 2018.

### **Two Board Members Honored for Service as President**

Dr. Thelma Dillard and Lester Miller were recognized with commemorative gavels for their service as board president. Dillard served in 2015, and Miller just completed his time in the position for the 2016 calendar year.

### **Dr. Michael Kemp Honored for Service to District**

Dr. Michael Kemp was recognized as he prepares to leave the District for a position in Orange Park, Fla. Dr. Kemp joined the Bibb County School District two years ago and made it his mission to ensure all schools and facilities in the District had equitable resources when it came to technology. He will remain with the District through January.

## *Actions Taken*

### **Appointment of Assistant Superintendent, Principals for 2017-2018 Approved**

On Thursday, January 19, Board members approved the appointment of Dr. Lori Rodgers as Assistant Superintendent of District Effectiveness and Federal Programs. In addition, principals and certified administrators were renewed for the 2017-2018 school year. To view all personnel items approved, [click here](#).

### **Northeast High Receives School Improvement Grant**

On Thursday, January 19, Board members approved the award of the 1003(g) School Improvement Grant (SIG) to Northeast High School as part of Cohort 5. The Georgia State Board of Education approved funding for the 1003(g) SIG Cohort 5 at its meeting earlier this month. Schools awarded SIG funds have the potential to receive the funds for five years based on demonstrated increased student achievement and successful implementation of the school's reform intervention model. For 2016-2017, Northeast High School will receive \$1.2 million in SIG funds.

For more information, [click here](#).

### **Board Accepts Clean Audit of District's Financial Statements for 2015-2016**

On January 19, Board members voted to accept the clean audit of the District's financial statements for the 2015-2016 school year. To view the recommendation, [click here](#).

### **Board Approves FY 2018 Budget Calendar**

On Thursday, January 19, Board members authorized the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Budget Calendar. To view the calendar, which outlines the timeline for the development of the 2017-2018 budget, [click here](#).

### **Board Reviews Policies**

Board members approved one policy after a second reading on Thursday, January 18.

- Policy GBRIG – Federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

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

- Policy DCCA – Budget Deadlines and Schedules.

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

### **Board Elects Officers for 2017**

On Thursday, January 21, Board members elected new officers for the 2017 calendar year. Daryl Morton was elected to serve as President, Dr. Thelma Dillard was elected to serve as Vice President, and Susan K. Sipe was elected to serve as Treasurer.

## *Information*

### **New Elementary Schedules Providing More Instruction, Intervention Time**

On Thursday, January 19, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Tanzy Kilcrease presented Board members with data from District Management Council (DMC) in regards to the District's implementation of an elementary master schedule this school year.

This is the District's second year working with DMC on the implantation of the master schedule. The first year was a planning year to prepare for full implementation this year. During the first year, DMC captured schedules of staff to determine how much time they were spending on instruction and what the schedule variations were throughout the district. Baseline data from last year showed there was a large variation in time spent on instruction of core subjects, especially reading instruction.

In order to ensure consistency in instruction and that schools are implementing best practices in reading and math, the District implemented a master elementary schedule, with variations depending on departmentalization. In order to provide support, DMC collected scheduling data from elementary staff the week of November 7 this school year. They compared this new data with that captured in 2015-2016 and determined that we have increased equity of instruction time throughout the district, as well as time for intervention and enrichment. DMC will continue to work with a steering committee of elementary administrators throughout the year to adjust the schedule so it best suits the district's needs.

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

### **Board Receives Overview of Formative Assessment Data**

On Thursday, January 19, Director of Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability Tony Jones provided Board members with another update of formative assessment data collected during the first semester 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](#).

### **AdvancED Accreditation External Review Team to Visit in October 2017**

Every five years, the Bibb County School District hosts an AdvancED team, which has the authority to recommend accreditation designation for the district. The Bibb County School District's next on-site review is the week of October 2, 2017. For more information, [click here](#).

### **ACE, Hutchings Present Annual Reports**

Representatives from the Academy for Classical Education (ACE) and Hutchings College and Career Academy presented their annual reports the Board of Education on Thursday, January 19.

To view the presentation by ACE, [click here](#). To view ACE's annual report, [click here](#).

To view the presentation by Hutchings, [click here](#). To view the charter program's annual report, [click here](#).

### **ESPLOST Oversight Committee Presents Update**

On Thursday, January 19, Board members received an update on the ESPLOST Oversight Committee's first year. Over the past year, the committee has overseen school renovation projects, playground improvements, safety and security improvements, furniture replacement, charter school projects and more. To view the ESPLOST Oversight Committee's presentation, [click here](#).

Since the approval of Bibb's Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) in 2000, substantial progress has been made in improvements to Bibb County School District facilities. All projects are identified and approved based on documented need and board priorities. In November 2015, Bibb County voters approved the renewal of the one percent ESPLOST by 75 percent, allowing for the education sales tax to be collected for a continued 5-year period from 2016 to 2020.

The ESPLOST Oversight Committee oversees the management of ESPLOST capital improvement projects, per Policy BBC. Policy BBC allows each Board member and the superintendent to appoint one person to the ESPLOST Oversight Committee to form a nine-member team. Members of the ESPLOST Oversight Committee for 2016 included Alvin Copeland, Dr. Henry Ficklin, Patricia Ballard, Leonard Beville, James Timley, Tiffany Harvey, Karen Yarbrough, Timothy Jones and Dan Slagle.

Board members submitted names on Thursday, January 19, for ESPLOST Oversight Committee appointments for 2017. Members of the ESPLOST Oversight Committee for 2017 include Alvin Copeland, Dr. Henry Ficklin, Patricia Ballard, Karen Yarbrough, Timothy Jones, Tiffany Harvey, Michael "Mickey" Daniell. Two seats remain to be named.

### **Board Receives Update on Change in Exempt Status for Personnel**

On Thursday, January 19, Board members received an update on the District's efforts to follow required legal changes to salary and compensation levels for some employees.

The Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor updated the overtime rule related to salary and compensation levels. The rule, which was to go into effect on December 1, 2016, was halted due to an injunction granted by the U.S. District Court. The decision is under appeal at this time.

In order to prepare for compliance with the change, effective February 2017, a handful of positions will be designated as exempt and will no longer be eligible for overtime. Salaries for these positions will be adjusted to ensure that employees are not negatively impacted due to loss of

overtime. Additionally, moving earned pay from overtime to salary positively impacts the employee's retirement. The estimated budget impact for Fiscal Year 2017 is \$10,000 total.

For more information, [click here](#).

### **District Considering Partnership for PACE Center for Girls**

Board members on Thursday, January 19, received information about a possible public/private partnership with state and local governmental agencies to bring the PACE Center for Girls to Georgia. Macon is one of three cities, along with Atlanta and Savannah, identified for expansion to serve girls in the Macon-Bibb County community who can benefit from critical wrap-around services only PACE can provide.

For more information, [click here](#).

### **School Submits Documentation for Field Trip**

On Thursday, January 19, Board members received information regarding an out-of-state field trip request from Central High School. The senior class will travel to Florida in April.