

## Communiqué

A brief summary of the October 16, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Douglas County Board of Education meeting follows. Meeting agendas for each board meeting and work session are posted online. For an agenda from the October 16 meeting, please click [here](#). To see supporting documents, click on agenda items.

### **Board Recognition**

#### **Teacher of the Year**

The 2017-2018 Douglas County Teacher of the Year, Lauren Cook from Arbor Station Elementary, was introduced by Arbor Station Principal Melissa Joe. Mrs. Cook made remarks regarding her recent honor and the long list of DCSS employees who befriended and taught her as she grew up in Douglas County and those who mentored her in her teaching career.

#### **AJC Celebrating Teachers Award**

Out of 378 nominees from across the state, two teachers in Douglas County were selected as top ten candidates for the “Atlanta Journal Constitution Celebrating Teachers Award.” Cher Algarin, principal of Dorsett Shoals Elementary, introduced special education teacher Jill Buchanan. Melissa Joe, principal of Arbor Station Elementary, introduced Butch Soles, also a top ten candidate for the same award. Both teachers were nominated by parents of their students.

#### **Mason Creek Elementary School – STEM**

Pam Walker, the Science School Improvement Specialist for DCSS, explained the process for becoming STEM certified at the district, state, and national level. She announced that Mason Creek Elementary is the first, and currently the only, elementary school in our district to earn district STEM certification. Kathleen French, principal of Mason Creek Elementary, made remarks about the school’s journey toward district STEM certification and ultimately state and national certification.

#### **Buckets of Care**

Nell Boggs reported on the success of the one-week Buckets of Care service project that took place September 18-22. The school system donated 155 buckets filled with specific supplies to help volunteers and victims of flooding in south Georgia and Florida. Top school contributors to the Buckets of Care service project at the high school, middle school, and elementary school levels were: New Manchester High School, Alexander High School, Fairplay Middle, Factory Shoals Middle, Chapel Hill Middle, Holly Springs Elementary, Mason Creek Elementary, and Winston Elementary. The Central Office and Murray Education Center provided 39 buckets. The Chapel Hill High School band collected money at a performance that was donated to purchase utility knives to add to the buckets.

#### **Unfinished Business**

The Board plan for required training was approved. Devetrian Caldwell was selected as legislative liaison.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Board approved the following:

- Certified and classified personnel, including the appointment of Kenya Elder as Director of Professional Learning beginning January 2, 2018
- Purchase of Turnitin, a web-based program integrated through Engrade that allows teachers to provide feedback to students and to check for originality of their work
- Purchase of Education Galaxy, an engaging online tool to support K-5 mathematics and reading, grades 2-5 English/language arts, grades 3-5 science and social studies
- Registration fees for May, 2018, IB exams for Douglas County High School IB students
- Purchase of hardware and installation of the Audio Enhancement SAFE System in every classroom at Burnett Elementary and New Manchester Elementary
- Contract for afterschool tutoring/camps with EPIC Programs for Stewart, Turner, and Chestnut Log Middle Schools
- Agreement with GLISI for Leadership Competency Framework
- Board Policy GARH regarding professional personnel sick leave

### **Information Only**

Overnight and out of state field trips were presented for review.

Present were Board Members Tracy Rookard, District III, Chair; Michelle Simmons, District IV, Vice Chair; Devetrian Caldwell, District I; D.T. Jackson, District II; and Jeff Morris, District V. Also present were Superintendent Trent North; Chief Academic Officer Pam Nail; Assistant Superintendent of District Operations Dr. Tim Scott; Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Policy Dr. Michelle Ruble; Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Renee Davis; Director of Community Relations Karen Stroud; Director of Public Information Portia Lake; Community Relations Coordinator Nell Boggs; and Secretary to the Superintendent Melanie Nicholson.

### **Upcoming meetings of the Douglas County Board of Education**

Monday, November 6, 2017, 6:00 p.m. BOE Work Session/Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2017, 6:00 p.m. BOE Work Session/Meeting