

Communiqué

A summary of the November 7, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Douglas County Board of Education meeting follows. Meeting agendas for each board meeting are posted online. For an agenda from the November 7 board meeting, please click [here](#). To see supporting documents, click on agenda items.

Superintendent's Spotlight

National School Psychology Awareness Week

Nancy Schusterman, lead school psychologist, read a summary of the National School Psychology Awareness Week Proclamation. School psychologists were recognized.

National Family Engagement Month

Patti Sullivan, Parent Outreach Specialist for Title I, read the Proclamation for Family Engagement Month. Instructional Lead Teachers and Parent Outreach Specialists were recognized.

Education Support Professionals Day

Dr. Pritz read a summary of the Education Support Professionals Day Proclamation.

American Education Week

Rachel Rogers, Douglas County Teacher of the Year for 2016-2017, read a summary of the American Education Week Proclamation.

Teacher of the Year Finalists

Dr. Pritz recognized the three finalists for 2016-2017 Douglas County Teacher of the Year: Carmilla Hilton, Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Factory Shoals Elementary; Kelli Rowsey, Middle School Teacher of the Year, Chestnut Log Middle School; and Rachel Rogers, High School Teacher of the Year and Douglas County Teacher of the Year, New Manchester High School.

New Manchester High School

Community Engagement

Rachel Rogers was recognized as part of a group of teachers and staff members who hosted the school's second bi-annual R.E.A.L (Raising Extraordinarily Amazing Ladies) community forum in October.

FAME

The following students were recognized for success in the arts: Kale Ward, grade 10, accepted to Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra; Raven Godwin, grade 11, accepted to the Metropolitan Atlanta Youth Wind Ensemble; Sonja Bridges, grade 12, Bryce Farris, grade 9, Janei Dortilus, grade 11, Enaya Lincoln, grade 11, and Sakinah Bennet, grade 12, awarded scholarships to study dance at the Atlanta Ballet. FAME is under the direction of Robert Connor.

World Language

Mr. John Green, World Language Department Chair, was recognized for the expansion of the World Language Department over the last five years.

Band

Damien Gaiters, Band Director, was recognized for his work in fine arts.

Annette Winn Elementary

Media Cast Crew

The following fifth graders were recognized as members of the Media Cast Crew: Parris Hawkins, Saharah Khan, Kenia Franquez, London Smith, Anthony Douglas, Jaylan Shaw, Hannah McIver, Brielle Holland, Nathan Zhu, and Stefanny Lopez. Cathy Harrison, media specialist, is sponsor of this group.

Teacher of the Year

Linda Rogers was recognized as Teacher of the Year for Annette Winn Elementary.

New Manchester Elementary School

Teacher of the Year

Ashley Thomas was recognized as Teacher of the Year for New Manchester Elementary.

Student Forum Representative

Layla Perry, 5th grade, was recognized as student forum representative for New Manchester.

News Crew

The following fifth graders were recognized as members of the News Crew: Morgan Worthan and Soliana Beniyam. Darnita Williams sponsors the group.

Jr. Beta Club

Seihana Smith and Julia Amufor, 5th grade, were recognized for their work with the Jr. Beta Club. Shanta Williams and Dr. Windalyn Hawkins serve as sponsors.

Hearing and Vision Screenings

Tamara Coleman Whitehead, Healthcare Science Teacher from New Manchester High School, was recognized for the outstanding job she does training and preparing her high school volunteers for the hearing and vision screenings at New Manchester Elementary.

Unfinished Business

The 2017 Board of Education Legislative Priorities were approved.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved, including the approval of certified and classified personnel; approval of International Baccalaureate exam fees; and the purchase of four engines to replace engines that no longer run in buses that have a good chassis.

Discussion Agenda

Student Achievement and Leadership

Recommendation was made to approve at the November 14, 2016, meeting the purchase of Turnitin, a teaching tool that will be predominantly used in English/Language Arts classes but can be used across content areas.

Recommendation was made to approve at the November 14, 2016, meeting the Abstinence Education and Youth Development Grant. This is a continuation of an existing grant program for students at the Performance Learning Center (PLC).

Operations

Recommendation was made to approve at the November 14, 2016, meeting the following purchases:

- Annual renewal of support for the MediaCAST Digital Learning Platform
- Humitec humidity control systems for nine schools where humidity levels in the walk-in coolers and freezers have been a problem
- Student furniture for Beulah Elementary due to the condition of the current furniture
- Hardware and installation of the Audio Enhancement Educam 360 and SAFE System as a pilot in classrooms at Arbor Station Elementary, Stewart Middle, and Alexander High Schools

Recommendation was made to surplus items that are broken beyond repair in the School Nutrition Department.

Policies -- First Reading

Recommendation was made to approve at the November 14, 2016, meeting changes to Board Policies GAAA: Equal Employment/Educational Opportunities and JAA Equal Education Opportunities.

Action Agenda

Finance

July, 2016, and August, 2016, financial reports were approved as presented.

Information Only

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

Updates to Board Regulations GAAA-R(1) Equal Opportunity Employment and JAA-R(1) Equal Educational Opportunities were presented for review.

Present were Board Members D.T. Jackson, District II, Chair; Carol Lindstrom, District I, Vice Chair; Tracy Rookard, District III; Michelle Simmons, District IV; and Jeff Morris, District V. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Gordon Pritz; Chief Academic Officer Pam Nail; Assistant Superintendent of District Operations Dr. Tim Scott; Chief Financial Officer Greg Denney; Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Policy Dr. Michelle Ruble; Assistant Superintendent of Student Services E. Renee Davis; Community Relations Director Karen Stroud; Community Relations Specialist Nell Boggs; and Secretary to the Superintendent Melanie Nicholson.

Upcoming meetings of the Douglas County Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting on Monday, November 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting on Monday, December 5, 2016, 7:00 p.m.