

Communiqué

A summary of the September 6, 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 September 6 board meeting, please click [here](#). To see supporting documents, click on agenda items.

Superintendent's Spotlight

Youth Leadership Douglas

Superintendent Dr. Gordon Pritz recognized the summer graduates of Youth Leadership Douglas from schools in Douglas County: LaTybee Nelson and Jacob Womack, Alexander High School; Myles Davis and Tierra Gilchrist, Chapel Hill High School; John Buterbaugh, Ivy Cochran, Joshua Mack, Kaleb Mack, and Jackie Nemanich, Douglas County High School; and Jaylin Billings, Lithia Springs High School. Coordinators for Youth Leadership Douglas are Ms. Sara Ray, Douglas County Chamber of Commerce, and Ms. Whitney Lester, New Manchester High School.

Phil Powell

Dr. Pritz recognized Phil Powell, New Manchester High School student and Walmart employee whose generous act went viral on social media and was covered on local and national TV stations. While working at Walmart in July, 2016, Phil noticed a customer with no shoes. Because Phil has been homeless in the past, he deduced that this man was homeless and gave him the shoes off his feet. The good deed was witnessed by a Walmart customer who insisted on taking Phil's picture and posting it to Facebook. Walmart management and an administrator from New Manchester High School were on hand at the meeting in support of Phil's act of generosity.

Unfinished Business

The Board unanimously approved the Resolution to Oppose Governor's Opportunity School District as presented. The resolution was taken from the Georgia School Boards Association OSD Toolkit and was on the August 15, 2016, agenda as a discussion item.

Kwame Carr, Area Executive Director, delivered a report on the school system's use of online credit recovery. The school system has used online credit recovery for almost 10 years and follows best practices set forth by the Georgia Department of Education. Dr. Pritz followed with a statement regarding the integrity and benefits of the system's online credit recovery program.

New Business

Board members must decide by the September 19, 2016, board meeting which training sessions they would like to attend. Local school boards must submit a Local Board Training Plan for individual board members and whole board training by October 1 of each year. Whole Board Governance Training is scheduled for October 3, 2016, from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

The Board was presented with the Legislative Priorities for 2016 for review and will discuss Legislative Priorities for 2017 at the October 3 board meeting.

Consent Agenda

Certified and classified personnel were approved.

Elaine (Wood) McGhee was approved to continue to work with schools to strengthen and promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives/activities and computer science in our schools.

Discussion Agenda

Student Achievement and Leadership

James Strong, Assistant Director for Student Support and Athletics, presented a five-year history of student discipline as well as Ombudsman data. Mac Petit, Regional Vice President of Ombudsman, presented information on Ombudsman including data on enrollment, attendance, and academic results.

Recommendation was made to approve at the September 19, 2016, board meeting the agreement with Soliant Health for related support services (ie. SLPs, OT, PT, nurses, etc./non-instructional) for special education students as defined in Individualized Educational Plans (IEP).

Finance

Greg Denney, Chief Financial Officer, presented the system audit report for the year ended June 30, 2015. The school system received an unmodified opinion (no findings).

Policies

Recommendation was made to approve changes to Board Policy DJED: Bids and Quotations at the September 19, 2016, Board of Education meeting as presented. The changes reflect a change in the total value purchases requiring three verbal quotations from "\$1,000, but less than \$5,000" to "\$2,500, but less than \$5,000."

Personnel

Recommendation was made to approve at the September 19, 2016, board meeting employee dental and vision benefits as presented.

Action Agenda

Finance

Final possible budget amendment recommendations will be presented at either the September 19 or October 3 board meeting.

Information Only

Changes were presented regarding the composition of the Accident Review Committee and Administrative Action for bus drivers with driving violations.

Overnight out of state field trips were presented.

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, September 19, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Whole Board Governance Training on Monday, October 3, 2016, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting on Monday, October 3, 2016, 7:00 p.m.