

Communiqué

A summary of the May 16, 2016, Board of Education meeting follows. Meeting agendas for each board meeting are posted online. For an agenda from the May 16 board meeting, please click [here](#). To see supporting documents, click on agenda items.

Superintendent's Spotlight

Students who won state honors and the spring 2016 class of Youth Leadership Douglas were the focus of the Superintendent's Spotlight.

Beulah Elementary

Third graders **Lucy Noonan** won 1st place and **Ososese Okojie** won 2nd place in a statewide essay contest sponsored by the Georgia Association of Multilingual/Multicultural Education. Teachers and administrators recognized were Dr. Andrea Nesbitt, Ms. Kenelma Gist, Ms. Tracy Moore, Ms. Corinne Barnes, and Dr. Stefanie Cosper.

Mt. Carmel Elementary

Hellen Nganga was recognized for winning state in the Young Georgia Authors competition for 4th grade. Her teacher Dr. Linda James was recognized as well as Dr. Tara Campbell who coordinates the competition for the county.

Factory Shoals Middle School

Sarah Khan won 2nd place in the state competition for poetry at the Jr. Beta Club Convention. Sponsors are Mr. Louis Smith and Dr. Esther Aligbe.

Mason Creek Middle School

Madelyn Harris, 6th grade, won 1st Honors and five special awards in the Junior Division of the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. Her science teacher is Ms. Kim Scasny and principal is Mr. Eric Collins. Ms. Pam Walker coordinates the science fair for the county.

Alexander High School

Natalie Johnson was selected for the Georgia Dugout Club All State Softball Team. Her coach is Mr. Zachary Graham.

Justin Hall was recognized in football as 1st Team All State by the Associated Press, 1st Team by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association North, and Honorable Mention by the Atlanta Journal Constitution. **Trayzel Jureidini-Wyche** was recognized in football for being named 2nd Team All State by the Associated Press. Trayzel's defensive line coach is Mr. Phillip Sizemore. Head football coach is Mr. Matt Combs.

The following students were selected for All State Chorus: **Morgan Blacksmith, Moses Dotson, Colby Davis, and James Stanley**. Choral director is Sandra Chandler.

Chapel Hill High School

Sondai NaNaBuluku and **Yaa Ofori** were named winners of the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. Sondai will attend Bard College in New York. Yaa will attend High Point University in North Carolina.

The Girls Softball Team won the state championship in October. Team members include: **Anna Aulgur, Rashana Burney, Shelby Robinson, Bella Caricari, Savana Sikes, Ashley Morgan, Ivory Jones, Kira Morgan, Paige Vincent, Nina Connor, Amber Lockaby, Ansley Roberts, Kenedy Hagen, Alexis Hawthorn, Tiara Hudson, and Isis Taylor**. The team was coached by Mick Harper, Bobby Nail, Doug Allen, and Tim Trowell.

Stephanie Pimiento won 1st place in Dramatic Interpretation at the Georgia High School Association State Literary Competition. **Jahbril Everett** won 4th place in the state in Extemporaneous Speaking. Mr. Larry Boon is the sponsor of the Literary Team.

Alexandra Carpenter won 3rd Honors and one special award at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair.

The Girls Track Team won state in the 4 x 100 meter relay. Team members were: **Aliyah Sangster, Kayla Alexander, Angel Amadi, and Kendria Edouard**. Kayla also won the state championship in the 100 meter hurdles. Coaches are Ms. Kelly Williams, Mr. Chris Rentz, Mr. Chris Sapp, Mr. Scott Long, and Mr. Steve Camp.

The Key Club won 1st place in the Single Service Community Service project at the Georgia District Convention. Officers include: **Sara Newby, Taiyler Wilson, Mason Medley, and Janaye Masters**. Ms. Lydia Blakey is the club sponsor.

Douglas County High School

Devika Dutt won 1st Honors and two special awards at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair.

The Scholar Bowl placed 2nd in the statewide High Q competition which airs on WSB-TV. Team members are **Gareth Gibbs, Andy Austin, Solomon Takang, Ethan Offenbacher, and Jake Coldiron**. Team sponsor is Ms. Victoria Burnett.

Roda Kesete placed 2nd in the Personal Essay category at the State Literary Competition. **Erica Bressner** placed 3rd in the Rhetorical Essay category. Ms. Rebecca Jackson and Mr. Justin Stephens are sponsors for the team.

Spencer Caro was named International Skills Diploma Seal Star Student by the Georgia Department of Education.

Lithia Springs High School

Vincent Buckman won the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. Vincent will attend Washington & Lee University.

The following students won honors at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair: **Sebastian Torres-Wilcken** won 1st Honors and two special awards; **Ethan Harrison** won 3rd Honors and a special award; **Hana Zanlerigu** won 3rd Honors and a special award; **Nicholas Gorzynski** won two special awards; and **Kenneth Thomas** won one special award.

Michael Keener and **Zach Parker** placed 4th in the EMT competition at the state HOSA competition. Debbie Vinsant is the sponsor.

New Manchester High School

Jose Amador won the prestigious Gates millennium Scholarship. He will attend Emory University.

Erika Aquino is the State Star ESOL Learner. **Ms. Marguerite Gimenez** is the State Star ESOL Teacher.

Youth Leadership Douglas

The following students are spring graduates of the Youth Leadership Douglas class:

Alexander High School--**Ashton Johnson, Diana Sims, Joe Thompson**

Chapel Hill High School--**Britney Lowe, Adara Mayo, Kayla McLain, Allison Price, Kamran Sorhaindo, Mika Walker, Jackie Williams**

Douglas County High School--**Olivia Barnes, Erica Bressner, Nathaniel Christian, Tari Clement**

Lithia Springs High School--**Dele Babalola, Timothy Lindstrom**

New Manchester High School--**Chassey Lock**

Ms. Sara Ray from the Chamber of Commerce and Ms. Whitney Lester from New Manchester High School serve as sponsors for the program.

Consent Agenda

Certified and classified personnel were approved. Current AP at Mirror Lake Elementary Ms. Chandell Johnson was named principal at Mirror Lake. Mr. Andre Touchard was named assistant principal at North Douglas Elementary. Current AP at Yeager Middle School Dr. Stefanie Stinchcomb was named principal effective July 18 to replace Dr. Fred Ervin who will retire September 30. Mr. Michael Hopping was named assistant principal at New Manchester High School. Ms. Sue Calderera, current principal at Mirror Lake Elementary, was named principal at Beulah Elementary. Dr. Stefanie Cospser was named coordinator for the Performance Learning Center. Current AP at New Manchester High School Angela Holley was named assistant principal at Factory Shoals Middle School. Current AP at Sweetwater Elementary, Mr. Michael Angresano, was named assistant principal at Mirror Lake Elementary.

The following recommendations were approved:

- The renewal of the premium maintenance and support services contract with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for the Read 180 computer based reading intervention program that is used in high schools
- The purchase of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt instructional materials to support reading instruction for students using Read 180 and System 44 reading intervention programs
- The renewal of the Microsoft Premier Support Agreement
- The renewal of the Microsoft School Licensing Agreement
- New school lunch prices
- The surplus of furniture, books, mobile classrooms, and other items

Discussion Agenda

Student Leadership and Achievement

Recommendation was made to approve at the June 6 Board of Education meeting the following items:

- Accreditation fees for AdvancED
- The agreement with Cobb Pediatric Speech Services, Inc. for speech therapy services as needed
- The contract with Vision Rehabilitation Services of GA, Inc. to provide orientation and mobility training to low vision/blind students
- The agreement with 360 Degree Customer, Inc. for speech therapy services.
- The contract with Southern Behavioral Group

Finance

First Public Hearing on 2016-17 Proposed Budget Recommendation -- Chief Financial Officer Mr. Greg Denney presented a Power Point covering key aspects of the budget. The Board "tentatively" approved the budget as presented which allows the school system to advertise the tentative budget and the second and final hearing for the budget which is scheduled for June 6.

Operations

Recommendation was made to approve at the June 6 Board of Education meeting the following items:

- Renewal of FY 2017 pest control contract with Jaxx Pest Control
- Renewal of agreement with Caduceus for occupational health, drug, and alcohol screenings
- Renewal of agreement with Control Concepts, LLC. to provide services and maintenance on DCSS Staefa/iNTREO Energy Management Systems
- Contract with Royal Produce to provide our district fresh produce and eggs
- The surplus of desktop computers, laptops, and other technology devices. Etowah Computer Sales was the most responsive bidder for the surplus.

Policies

Recommendation was made to approve at the June 6 Board of Education meeting the Board Policy DIE: Fraud Prevention.

Action Agenda

Student Achievement and Leadership

The Board approved the recommendation to waive section 4 Promotion Requirements for Grades 3, 5, and 8 of DCSS Policy IHE. This is in line with the May 5 State Board of Education approval to waive a similar policy due to technology problems experienced across the state during spring testing.

Information Only

On-campus and off-campus summer camps 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 and Budget Hearing on Monday, June 6, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting on Monday, June 20, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.