

Communiqué

A summary of the November 14, 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 14 board meeting, please click [here](#). To see supporting documents, click on agenda items.

Superintendent's Spotlight

Eagle Scouts

Vincent Snyder, 11th grader at Alexander, and Vincent Wyche, 12th grader at New Manchester, were recognized for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Bill Arp Elementary

PTA: PTA Secretary Paula Waddle was recognized on behalf of all PTA officers for their leadership and support of students, staff, and school.

Gravity Games Club: Media Specialist Cassia Milhollin was recognized as sponsor of the Gravity Games Club. Fifth graders Aurora Ochoa and Jeremy Casey were honored as two representatives of the club.

First Lego League Club: Teachers Matt Nauman and Brandy Ruhl were recognized as sponsors of the club. Club members Roman Ochoa, 4th grade, and Aliyah Lowe, 5th grade, were in attendance representing the 17 members of the club.

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council: Ebony McIntosh, 5th grade, was recognized as Bill Arp's representative on the council.

Special Service Recognition: Alysia Queen, 4th grade, was recognized for initiating a campaign at Bill Arp to raise money and send letters of encouragement to the students at St. Amant Primary School in Louisiana after the school was affected by flooding.

South Douglas Elementary

Reading Olympics: The following students were honored as the top Reading Olympics Gold Medal winners: Sawyer Reyes, 3rd grade; Subasakti Chandrasekaran, 4th grade; Yahminisakti Chandrasekaran, 2nd grade; and Wyatt Brady, 2nd grade.

Reading Bowl: Julianna Rachal, 5th grade, was recognized as captain of the Reading Bowl Team.

Outstanding Character: The following students were recognized for demonstrating the character trait of sportsmanship: M.J. Oliver, 3rd grade; Rylan Gaddis, kindergarten; Zach Agan, 3rd grade; and Blake Agan, kindergarten.

Teacher of the Year: Stephanie Sanders was recognized as 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year for South Douglas.

Fairplay Middle School

Reading Bowl: Alyssa Roe, 6th grade, and Alex Larson, 7th grade, were recognized as members of the Reading Bowl Team.

Softball: Belle Williams, 8th grade, and Jordan Eslinger, 7th grade, represented the Lady Jaguars Softball Team, which recently won their third consecutive Douglas County Middle School Championship. The team was undefeated for the last two seasons.

Football: The Jaguar Football Team was recognized for improving over the season. Eighth graders Wesley Smith, Cooper Abernathy, and Luke Blasczyk were present to represent the team.

Art: Emily Mauldin, 7th grade, was recognized for having her artwork entered for the Holiday Card Competition sponsored by the Cultural Arts Center.

Music: Seventh graders Taya Taylor and Emma Ritchie were recognized for outstanding musical performance.

Teacher of the Year: Noelle Belaski was recognized as 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year for Fairplay.

Alexander High School

Color Guard: The Raider Team tied for 1st in the Region and placed 3rd at the state competition on October 29. The following members of Alexander's Raider Mixed Team presented colors for the meeting: Andrew Herring, 12th grade; Matthew Ooms, 12th grade; Jonathan Champagne, 11th grade; and Alex Evans, 12th grade.

Sign Language Club: Sydni Vaughn, 12th grade, was recognized for teaching herself sign language and starting the American Sign Language Club at Alexander.

Volunteer Program: Senior Katie Gamel was recognized for her work in the VolunTEEN program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta last summer.

Perfect Score on EOC's: The following students were recognized for making perfect scores on End of Course tests: Carleigh Camp, 12th grade, U.S. History; Braeden Collins, 12th grade, American Literature; Natalie Quick, 10th grade, Biology.

Key Club: Seniors Victoria Westfield and Jazzlyn White were recognized for their volunteer work with the Key Club.

Girls Fast Pitch Softball: The softball team placed 3rd in state. The following seniors were recognized for their contributions: Gracyn Thrasher, Makenzie Buck, and Rachel Gross.

Wrestling: Sophomore Ashley Weatherford is ranked 6th nationally in Girls Wrestling and was honored for many accomplishments in the sport.

Athletic Program: Chris Small was recognized for his work as Athletic Director for the past six years. The Boys Cross Country Team won state, and five other fall sports qualified for state competition.

Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda were approved including:

- Minutes from the November 7 Executive Session and Regular Board meetings
- Certified and classified personnel
- Purchase of Turnitin, a web-based teaching tool for high schools which will be used primarily in English/Language Arts classes
- Abstinence Education and Youth Development Grant which is implemented at the Performance Learning Center
- Annual renewal of support for the MediaCAST Digital Learning Platform
- Purchase of Humitec humidity control systems for nine schools where humidity levels in the walk-ins have been a problem
- Purchase of student furniture for Beulah Elementary
- Surplus of broken items from the School Nutrition Department
- Changes to Board Policies GAAA: Equal Employment/Educational Opportunities and JAA Equal Educational Opportunities

Discussion Agenda

Student Achievement & Leadership

Pam Walker, Science School Improvement Specialist, presented an update on standards and course offerings in science.

Operations

Recommendation was made to approve at the December 5, 2016, meeting purchase of technical services from Dell for the installation and configuration of Active Directory Federation Services, System Center Configuration Manager, and Windows 10 deployment engineering services.

Action Agenda

Finance

Board approved the September, 2016, financial report as presented.

Operations

Board approved the purchase of Audio Enhancement Educam360 and SAFE System as a pilot in classrooms at Arbor Station Elementary, Stewart Middle, and Alexander High.

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 Student Services E. Renee Davis; Community Relations Director Karen Stroud; Community Relations Specialist Nell Boggs; and Secretary to the Superintendent Melanie Nicholson.

Upcoming meeting of the Douglas County Board of Education

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