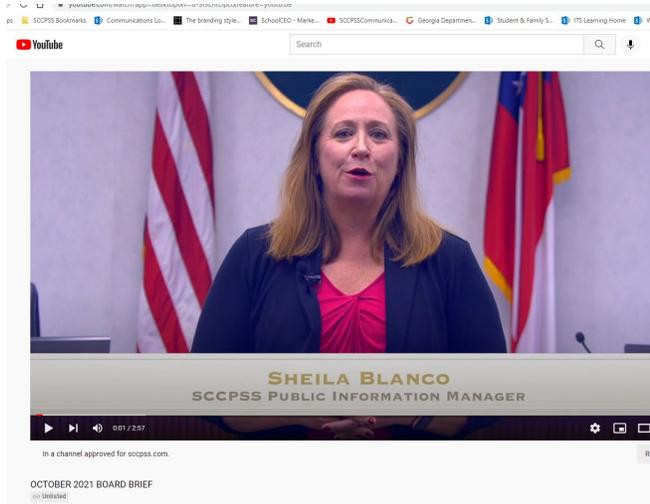


IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

A Brief Recap of the Board Meeting & News from Savannah Chatham County Public Schools



Video highlights from the October 6 Board Meeting from Public Information Manager Sheila Blanco. Click [here](#) to watch.



M. Ann Levett, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Savannah-Chatham Co.
Public School System
208 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401
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SCHOOL BOARD

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President

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District 2

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District 4

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District 5

Dr. David Bringman
District 6

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District 8

STEAM/STEM Initiatives

At the Informal Board Meeting, the Board received a report from Academic Affairs on District-wide STEAM/STEM Initiatives. The presentation included information on the Magnet Schools Assistance Program. As part of that program, the school district was awarded a grant in the amount of \$14- million to be dispersed over a 5-year period. The three MSAP schools benefiting from that grant are A.B. Williams, Hubert Middle School, and Savannah High School. The Comer School Development Program, also known as the Comer Process or the Comer Model, is being implemented under this grant. The purpose is to improve the educational experience of socio-economically challenged ethnic minority youth by improving school climate through a collaborative, consensus-building, no fault approach to problem solving between parents and school staff. The district has also been awarded two \$500,000 DoDEA Grant Awards. A 2019 STEM grant benefiting Georgetown K8 and Pulaski Elementary and a 2021 STEAM grant focused on Southwest Elementary, Southwest Middle and Godley Station K8. Both grants promote military connected student enrichment.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79KYM52BE9B>

GMAS End of Grade/End of Course Report

At the Regular Meeting of the Board, the Division of Data and Accountability presented a report on 2021 Georgia Milestones End of Grade and End of Course results. Student performance on the GMAS End of Course tests and End of Grade tests normally serves as a data point to calculate student achievement and growth. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, GMAS testing was suspended in SY 2020 and waived from being used in federal and state accountability measures in SY 2021. In addition, participation requirements for GMAS testing were waived in SY2021. Overall, SCCPSS ELA and Math participation rates averaged just over 40%, while science and social studies participation rates averaged just under 40%. GaDOE has stated that summaries of results by student group, school, system, or state should not be used as a part of a longitudinal trend analysis without including context of this year's pandemic and associated learning disruptions, and varying access to instruction. See the full report:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79KXX52AE3B>

Budget Planning Update

The Division of Finance gave Board members an update on the Budget Planning process at the Informal Meeting. Enrollment projections are beginning this month. Items of focus for FY 2023 include Enrollment and Staffing Stability, Lingering COVID-19 Impacts, State Budget / Austerity Reductions, Year 5 of the Modified Compensation Plan, Continued Financial Stability, and ESPLOST IV.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79L6P533970>

Superintendent's Good News Report

2021 President's Education Awards Program Recipients

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona congratulated the 2021 President's Education Awards Program recipients, recognizing nearly 1.85 million elementary, middle, and high school graduates on their educational accomplishments. In Savannah, students from White Bluff Elementary, Windsor Forest Elementary, Garrison K8, and Oglethorpe Charter School students all received recognition this year. Congratulations!

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Students-from-Four-SCCPSS-Schools-Recognized-with-2021-President%E2%80%99s-Education-Awards.aspx>

Early College Student Chosen for State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

Savannah Early College student Jeremiah Salley has been selected for State Superintendent Richard Woods' 2021-22 Student Advisory Council. 66 members were selected from a pool of more than 1,000 applicants who applied to serve on the council; students in grades 10-12 are eligible to apply. Congratulations to Jeremiah!

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79KSY52AD9C>

Student of the Month Recognized

The Superintendent's Student of the Month for September is Nikola Majerova, a 7th grader from Coastal Middle School. Congratulations, Nikola!

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79L6P533970>



Report from Georgia State Teacher of the Year

Cherie Denis reported activity from the Georgia State Board of Education meeting she recently attended. An outline of the goal of the 2022 Professional Senate was also discussed.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79LNF555D73>

2022 Legislative Priorities Discussed

At the Regular Meeting, the Board reviewed Legislative Priorities previously adopted for updates in advance of the 2022 Legislative Session. Priorities will be adopted during the November 3, 2021, meeting.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79LSF55FFBB>

Savannah-Chatham Schools moves dirt for mega site K-12 multi-school campus

Savannah Morning News, September 30

Large dump trucks and bull dozers moved massive piles of dirt in the background as Savannah Chatham County Public Schools Superintendent Anne Levett, Board President Joe Buck, and other dignitaries turned dirt with their golden shovels Thursday during a delayed ceremonial groundbreaking for the new K-12 multi-school on the former site of Groves High School in Garden City.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/2021/09/30/savannah-chatham-schools-breaks-ground-mega-school-garden-city-construction-groves-high/5932816001/>



School Bus Safety and Transportation Appreciation Week Proclamation

The Board proclaimed the week of October 18-22, 2021, to be observed as School Bus Safety and Transportation Appreciation Week in recognition of the contribution drivers and other school transportation staff make to our public education system.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79LT45634D2>

National School Lunch Week Proclamation

The Board proclaimed the week of October 11-15, 2021, as National School Lunch Week and encourages all residents to join us in this recognition in hopes of achieving a more healthful citizenry for today and the future.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79LT55635A6>

National Custodial Workers Day Proclamation

The Board recognized and supports the nationally recognized date of October 2, 2021, as National Custodial Worker's Recognition Day and encourages all citizens to join us and celebrate their daily contributions all through the month of October.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C79LT656364F>



Technology Updates

Staff Laptops Purchase Ratified

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the department of Data and Accountability has realized a need for greater mobility among staff and has purchased 700 additional laptop computers from contracted vendor Broadway Typewriter dba Arey Jones under RFP 19- 11. These laptops will provide staff physical portability and reassurance that they will be able to continue working on daily tasks and projects as assigned without a hinderance to District operations. The Board ratified the use of ESSR II Grant funds to purchase 700 laptops for staff in the amount of \$490,483.00.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C7BMRT5C89CD>

Interactive Boards Purchase Approved for High Schools

The Board approved the use of \$1,500,000 in ESSR II Grant funds to update the District's current classroom multimedia systems. The current system uses a combination of projectors, Mimos, and Promethean boards. This outdated system will be replaced with more advanced Interactive Boards, which combine the functionality of all three components of the current system into one unit.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C7BMXD5D5946>

Mac Books for Groves High School

The District utilized a 1:1 model of the MAC Book with Apple Education prior to the pandemic at Groves High School. The Board ratified the use of ESSR II Grant funds to purchase 150 Mac Books for Groves High School in the amount of \$122,092.50. This purchase will return the District to using the Apple OS platform as the preferred choice for Groves High School students. The purchase will also maintain continuity in computer devices that are used in support of student learning.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C7BMRU5C8AA2>

Budget Transfer

The Division of Operations has identified additional cafeteria modifications and upgrades along with emergency equipment needs that were not met during FY21. The Division of Finance has would like to use vacancy accumulation and other expenditure savings that resulted from limited operations as a result of Covid 19 to support critical District functions. The Board approved an operating transfer of just over \$5 million to Capital Projects to create cafeteria modifications, HVAC upgrades, emergency equipment and security projects.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C7BN335D8BFE>

Budget Amendment

On May 5, 2021, the Board approved the State's Mid-Term adjustment in the General Fund that included \$3,326,820 for FY22 Debt Service payments. At Wednesday's meeting the Board approved an amendment of the General Fund and the Debt Service fund to adjust the revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$6,673,985 to pay all remaining capital leases (FY23-26) which leaves the District DEBT FREE!

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C7BN345D8D04>

Savannah Morning News Storytime: Teacher of the Year winner reads 'Giraffes Can't Dance'

Savannah Morning News, August 16

A fire captain, a schoolteacher, and a storyteller. A college basketball coach and the owner of Savannah's championship-winning baseball team. Together they've joined "Storytime with the Savannah Morning News," a week-long video series in which these locals support youth literacy by sharing their favorite children's books.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/lifestyle/2021/08/16/storytime-savannah-morning-news-ga-teacher-year-reads-giraffes-cant-dance/8145426002/>

Juliette Low Elementary educator Sharonna Ray teaches life skills through art

Savannah Morning News, September 30

My students walk into my classroom thinking that they're going to be learning about art, but what they don't realize is that my lessons are much bigger than that. It is my mission to teach them the tools of art and life.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/lifestyle/2021/09/30/savannah-ga-students-learn-how-manage-life-through-art-sharonna-ray/5914579001/>

SCCPSS To Host Vaccination Clinics At Area High Schools

Patch, October 2

SCCPSS has teamed up with St. Joseph's/Candler Health System, the Coastal Georgia Department of Health, Hospice of Savannah, Savannah Fire Department, and Chatham Emergency Services to host vaccine clinics at area high schools for staff and students 12 years of age or older. Schools have been divided into clusters with neighboring elementary and middle schools assigned to a high school.

<https://patch.com/georgia/savannah/sccpss-sccpss-host-vaccination-clinics-area-high-schools>

Savannah elementary school adds color to curriculum with new mural

WSAV, September 9

"The vision for our school year is to introduce students back to the classroom, but in a grand way," Dozier said, "in a way where we can adjust to the environment that we're currently in, but also to bring something that we know is impactful to education, and that is project-based learning."

<https://www.wsav.com/now/savannah-elementary-school-adds-color-to-curriculum-with-new-mural/>

SCCPSS Holds Ready to Work Job Fair at Savannah Mall

sccpss.com, October 7

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System and the Office of College and Career Readiness hosted their annual Fall "Ready to Work" Job Fair, Thursday, October 7, at the Savannah Mall. The job fair provided employers an opportunity to meet highly skilled juniors and seniors from high schools across the district.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Holds-Ready-to-Work-Job-Fair-at-Savannah-Mall.aspx>

Three SCCPSS Students Announced Regional Winners of Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition

SCCPSS.com, October 11

Three SCCPSS students were recently announced First District RESA Winners of the 2020-21 Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition. The students won the district level competition last spring before moving on to the regional rounds of the YGA Writing Competition.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Three-SCCPSS-Students-Announced-Regional-Winners-of-Young-Georgia-Authors-Writing-Competition.aspx>

Food bank school pantry program feeds thousands

WSAV, September 16

"I've been in education now for 28 years and I've seen kids fill their pockets with food from the cafeteria wanting to take food home because they didn't know when the next meal was coming. A program like this — it just is one less worry for that child," Kimberly Newman, the principal at Hesse K-8 School, said.

<https://www.wsav.com/feedingamerica/food-bank-school-pantry-program-feeds-thousands/>

2022 Georgia Teacher of the Year is Georgia Southern University Alumna

AllOnGeorgia.com, September 29

Working with an average of 60 children per year, Dennis teaches ESOL students in grades K-5, focusing on their English reading, writing, listening, and speaking proficiency skills. Virtual learning during the pandemic was an additional challenge for many of these students.

<https://allongeorgia.com/bulloch-schools/2022-georgia-teacher-of-the-year-is-georgia-southern-university-alumna/>

Savannah-Chatham Schools celebrate Georgia Teacher of the Year

WJCL, September 14

"I'm very humbled and I'm very honored," Dennis said. "It still, even to this day, seems kind of surreal even though it's been a while since everything has been announced and I'm just really proud to represent all the staff here at Hesse."

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/savannah-chatham-schools-celebrate-georgia-teacher-of-the-year/37599273#>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

9:30AM-10:30AM

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G

Available for viewing via livestream

District 6 Town Hall-Dr. David Bringman

Topic: ESPLOST Construction Program

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 - 6:00pm

Windsor Forest High School

Audit Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 28, 2021

8:00AM

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G

Available for viewing via livestream