

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

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



Video highlights from the November 3 Board Meeting from Public Information Manager Sheila Blanco. Click [here](#) to watch.



Post-Secondary Accelerated Options

At the Informal Meeting, Board members received a report on Post-Secondary Accelerated Options. Post-secondary accelerated options include Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment (DE), and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and their associated standardized exams. COVID impacted all Postsecondary Accelerated Options measures by procedural changes and other factors. For this reason, SY 2020-21 data is not comparable to prior years; one-year and three-year change calculations along with historical references are omitted from this year's report. In SY 2020-21, 1,850 students successfully completed one or more AP, IB, or dual enrollment courses. The district's PAO completion rate was 20%, with school rates ranging from 3% to 64%. See the full report here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MJB560C1D>

Graduation Rate Rises

The Georgia Department of Education has released SY 2020-21 graduation rates and SCCPSS improved its cohort graduation rate once again. Our 2021 cohort graduation rate of 90.1% marks the seventh year in a row that our district has both graduated a higher percentage of students than the year before and surpassed the graduation rate for the state of Georgia.

STEM Academy and Coastal Middle Re-designated Lighthouse Schools

The STEM Academy @ Bartlett and Coastal Middle School have both been re-designated as Lighthouse Schools to Watch by the National Middle School Association for 2021-2024. Lighthouse Schools are considered national model middle school programs, and are chosen on the basis of academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and highly successful organizational structures and processes.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MKT561970>

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Student of the Month Recognized

The Superintendent's Student of the Month October is **Mekhi White**, a 7th Grader from Myers Middle School. Congratulations, Mekhi!

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MKW561973>



New Oatland Island Visitor Center Name Proposed

In accordance with Policy FDC and Administrative Regulation FDC-R, Naming Facilities, a team has been appointed by the Superintendent to provide a recommendation for the naming of the Oatland Island Visitor Center (main building). The proposed name(s) was read into record during the Regular Board meeting. The name will be voted on at the December Regular Meeting of the Board.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MLW561993>

Susie King Taylor Community School Granted Two Year Charter Extension

The Susie King Taylor Community School Charter School (SKTCS) has served the students of Savannah-Chatham County for over four years and is currently in the final school year of their existing Charter. SKTCS has not met the accountability expectations set forth for academics and student performance during the contract period. The Charter School is currently under a Corrective Action Plan that the State Department of Education approved, and they are monitored monthly. SKTCS initiated the Charter Renewal process and met the required renewal deadlines; however, due to significant performance deficiencies, the administration cannot support a five-year charter contract renewal at this time. Throughout the renewal process, the administration collaborated with the charter petitioners and sought guidance from the State Department of Education. While the performance deficiencies are concerning, all parties agree that the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have diminished the ability to make a quality recommendation due to lack of reliable performance data over the last two school years (SY 2020 and SY 2021). The extension will allow the charter school to continue to operate under specific terms and conditions outlined in the contract extension.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MLZ561996>

Legislative Priorities Adopted

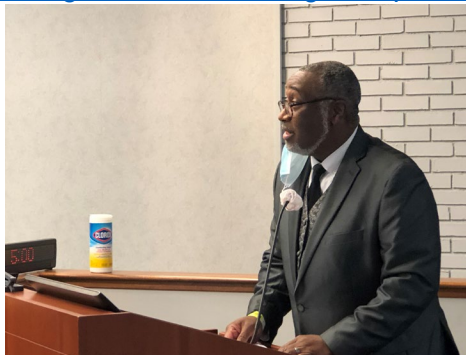
The Board's 2022 Legislative Priorities were discussed during the October 6, 2021, Board meeting and further reviewed during the Board's Legislative Breakfast held on October 27, 2021. The Board adopted the 2022 Legislative Priorities at the November 3rd Regular Meeting for use as a framework to advance the needs of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System in our work to ensure a high quality education is provided for every student.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MM4561999>

Professional Senate Report

A report from the latest meeting of the Superintendent's Professional Senate was presented by our Instructional Support Person of the Year.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MKZ561976>



2022-2023 ACADEMIC CALENDAR DRAFT Presented For Review

At the Regular Meeting, the draft 2022-2023 Academic Calendar was presented to the Board for review and awareness. The calendar is built based on the framework of the existing 2021-2022 academic calendar. The calendar includes:

- Ten (10) staff planning days with priority given to pre-planning days.
- Three (3) staff planning days spread evenly throughout the school year (Aug 3- May 23).
- Commitment to online learning platform with strategically planned “e-Learning” Days.
- Fall break to finish first nine weeks
- Veterans Day recognized with a Holiday for All.
- Full one-week Thanksgiving break.
- Full 2-week winter break.
- Early spring “long weekend” for students/staff (St Patrick’s Day weekend).
- One week Spring Break at the start of April.
- Federal Holidays accounted for using 12 Holiday for All Days to include observation of Juneteenth-June 19, 2023.

Final adoption of the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar is currently planned for the December 8, 2021, Board meeting

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MLT561990>

American Education Week Proclamation

The Board proclaimed the week of November 15-19, 2021, as the 100th Annual Observance of American Education Week in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System and all throughout Chatham County.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MM756199C>

Retired Educators Day Proclamation

The Board proclaimed that November 7th, 2021, as declared by the Governor of the State of Georgia, be recognized as Retired Educators Day in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System and that every citizen join us throughout the entire month of November to recognize the lasting contributions of retired educators.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MMA56199F>



ESPLOST UPDATES

Transfer of Funds to Accelerate Completion of New Hampstead K8

The Board approved the transfer of \$1,000,000 ESPLOST III New Hampstead K-8 School funds for the acceleration and completion costs of the project.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MQW561A13>

Design Contract for New Windsor Forest High School Approved

The Board approve a contract with Hussey Gay Bell & DeYoung International, Inc. for design services for the Windsor Forest High School project under RFQ C18-05 "On-Call" Architectural and Engineering Services (Annual Contract) in the total amount of \$2,641,983.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86NN65941F6>

Donation Approved for Play Area at Formey Early Learning Center

The Board accepted a donation from Georgia Ports Authority in the amount of \$159,039.13 that will be used to purchase two (2) Sensory Soft Play areas for the Early Learning Center at Henderson E. Formey School.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C86MP95619DE>

SCCPSS in the News

Hubert Middle School takes part in the Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate initiative

WSAV, October 7

Every year, thousands of students take part in the Anti-Defamation League's campaign to end bullying and discrimination through the No Place for Hate initiative.

Savannah's Hubert Middle School played an important role in the pre-recorded virtual **kickoff** event — which featured National Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman.

<https://www.wsav.com/news/local-news/hubert-middle-school-takes-part-in-the-anti-defamation-leagues-no-place-for-hate-initiative/>

Teacher Feature: Johnson High's Amanda Fanelli goes above and beyond

WJCL, October 8

What makes Amanda Fanelli so remarkable to her students? Each may have a different reason, but a common thread binds them all. Thalianna Mayner, one of her students, explains, "She wants to see us succeed, not just in class but in life."

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/teacher-feature-johnson-highs-amanda-fanelli-goes-above-and-beyond/37858765>

Savannah-Chatham County Schools pays off remaining \$6.6 million debt four years early

Savannah Morning News, October 8

"Overall, it reduces the tax burden on citizens," said district 6 board member David A. Bringman. "This past year we were able to lower our taxes and still pay off all of our debt."

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/2021/10/08/savannah-chatham-county-school-system-debt-free-budget-school-bus-pandemic-funds-esplost/6027899001/>

Students from Four SCCPSS Schools Recognized with 2021 President's Education Awards

sccpss.com, October 11

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona has congratulated the 2021 President's Education Awards Program (PEAP) recipients, recognizing nearly 1.85 million elementary, middle, and high school graduates on their educational accomplishments. The students come from more than 18,750 public, private, and military schools from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and American military bases abroad – including four schools in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

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

SCCPSS launches 'Walking School Bus' program at Godley Station K8

WTGS, October 13

Students at Godley Station School in Chatham County tested out the Safe Routes and Walking School Bus program for the first time, Wednesday. Savannah Chatham County School System (SCCPSS) Campus Police launched the program as a way to provide safety to students who walk to school.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/sccpss-launches-walking-school-bus-program-at-godley-station-k8>

SCCPSS launches 'Walking School Bus' at Godley Station to celebrate National Walk to School Day

WSAV, October 13

SCCPSS Campus Police are helping launch a new safety initiative to kick off National Walk to School Day. The program is called "Walking School Bus" and allows school staff to accompany groups of students who walk to school.

<https://www.wsav.com/news/local-news/sccpss-launches-walking-school-bus-at-godley-station-to-celebrate-national-walk-to-school-day/>

SCCPSS introduces app for parents to track child's bus route

WSAV, October 20

"It gives parents peace of mind that hey, the bus showed up at the stop, it gave me an alert that it got to the school," Abbott said. "Because a lot of parents have to put their kid at the bus stop and a lot of parents have to go to work."

<https://www.wsav.com/news/sccpss-introduces-app-for-parents-to-track-childs-bus-route/>

May Howard educator returns home to teach

WJCL, October 15

It's not every day you get to work next to your hero .. In the very place you were inspired. Shannon Royster heads out to May Howard Elementary School .. To meet a teacher living out her dreams.

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/may-howard-educator-returns-home-to-teach/37972258>

Clinic sponsored by St. Joseph's/Candler and SCCPSS trains local students while promoting community health

WSAV, November 4

"We are super excited about this community education and wellness clinic here at Beach High School because one of the main goals of our healthcare program is to create a healthier community," says LaSaundra Wade, the Coordinator of Healthcare Science for Beach High School.

<https://www.wsav.com/news/local-news/a-clinic-sponsored-by-st-josephs-candler-and-sccpss-is-training-local-students-while-promoting-community-health/>

Georgia graduation rate holds steady; SCCPSS beats state average

WSAV, October 21

"I could not be prouder of our students and staff who work hard every day in pursuit of this significant indicator of success," stated Superintendent Dr. Ann Levett. "The fact that the district was able to achieve our highest graduation rate ever during a global pandemic with every aspect of teaching and learning impacted last year is a tribute to the efforts of all."

<https://www.wsav.com/news/education/georgia-graduation-rate-holds-steady-sccpss-beats-state-average/>

Teacher Feature: Hannah Glass at the STEAM Academy at Bartlett

WJCL, November 10

She may be at a school best known for its STEM program, but Hannah Glass puts the spotlight on drama class. "Art is immensely important when you think about what makes us a human being," Glass said.

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/teacher-feature-hannah-glass-at-the-steam-academy-at-bartlett/38108870>

Teacher Feature: Bynikini Frazier making a difference at Hesse K-8

WJCL, November 12, 2021

Bynikini Frazier isn't just a third-grade teacher at Hesse Elementary School. She's a leader across many generations, inside and outside of the classroom. "I wear many hats that I love. And I'll take one off and put one on whenever I need to but at the heart of it is a love for children and a love for education," Frazier said.

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/teacher-feature-bynikini-frazier-making-a-difference-at-hesse-k-8/38233054>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Board Academic Excellence Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 - 9:30 AM

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G. 2 Laura Avenue

Fair Dismissal Hearing

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 - 9:00 AM

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G. 2 Laura Avenue

Accountability Committee & Equity Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 - 3:30 PM

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G. 2 Laura Avenue