

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

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



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### SCHOOL BOARD

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Video highlights from the March 2 Board Meeting from Public Information Manager Sheila Blanco. Click [here](#) to watch.



### **School Media Center & Learning Commons Book Selection Process Detailed**

At the Informal Meeting of the Board, a report on the process for selecting books that are included in our school media centers and learning commons was provided to Board members. The report included selection criteria, the screening and weeding process, as well as the ways in which parents can seek reconsideration of a book or limit their child's access to it.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBWTTYT758159>

### **Budget Process Update**

Also at the Informal Meeting, the Board received an update on the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Process including a report from the Chatham County Board of Assessor's Office.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBWTZR75A980>

### **District Operational Update**

At the Regular Meeting of the Board, the Superintendent presented a district operational report to the Board. That report included updates to masking protocol and quarantine guidance, along with plans for a gradual return of volunteers and visitors and field trips to schools.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBWU2M75F30A>

### **Faculty and Support Staff Retention Rate Report**

The Board received a report on the retention rate of district teachers and support staff as well as goals under the new District Accountability System designed to improve those numbers. The attrition rate for teachers in the 2020-21 School Year was 14.3-percent. School Support Staff was 15.5% and other Support Staff was 12.9%.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBWUKS7893A4>

## Student of the Month Recognized

The Superintendent's Student of the Month for February is **Caroline Johnson**, a 5th grader from May Howard Elementary. Congratulations, Caroline!  
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBFSS672A9A2>



## School Board Appreciation Week

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools are joining a statewide celebration to salute the efforts of local school board members this month. The week of March 14-20, 2022 has been proclaimed School Board Appreciation Week in Georgia. The weeklong observance calls attention to the contributions of local Boards of Education.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBFSY272FBEEF>



## National School Breakfast Week/National Nutrition Month

The School Breakfast Program is dedicated to the health and well-being of our children, and nutrition education and awareness serves to bring immeasurable value to our school nutrition programs. The Board proclaimed that the District will observe the week of March 7-11, 2022 as National School Breakfast Program with the theme "Take Off with School Breakfast" and observe the Month of March as National Nutrition Month.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBFSYT737E07>



## National School Social Workers Week

The Board proclaimed the week of March 6 – 12, 2022 as National School Social Workers Week in recognition of the integral part they play in the educational process that enables student achievement and success in school. The theme for this year's National School Social Workers Week is "Time to Shine."

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBFSYV73806A>



## Name Approved for New Woodville Tompkins Gymnasium

A committee comprised of students, staff, alumni and community members considered four names for the new Woodville Tompkins Gymnasium. They voted unanimously to name the gym after Joe Turner and the name was read into the record for the first time at the February 2022 Regular Meeting. The name was voted on and approved at the March meeting of the Board of Education.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBFSYX73814C>

## ESPLOST Updates

### ESPLOST IV Budget Adoption

The Board adopted the multi-year ESPLOST IV budget in the amount of \$420,000,000. The Capital Improvement Committee will review economic trends and monthly income on a semi-annual basis to make necessary recommendations for adjustments should economic conditions necessitate modifications

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBWULH78C>  
[FAA](#)

### Pulaski Elementary Conversion to K8

The Board approved a contract with Goodwin Mill Cawood, LLC for Design Services in the planned conversion of Pulaski Elementary to a K-8 facility for a total Design Professional Fee of \$1,010,000.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBWULP78D6FB>

### Godley Station K8 Addition and Site Improvements

The Board approved a contract with Cogdell & Mendrala Architects, PC for Design Services for a classroom addition and site improvements for Godley Station K-8 for a total fee of \$481,750.00.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBWUBW778622>

### Budget Transfer: Coastal Middle School Renovation

The Board approved the transfer of funds from EII Unallocated Account to EII Coastal Middle School Renovation Accounts. The transferred funds will be used to perform internal renovations at Coastal Middle School.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBWULL78D04D>

## **Board Approves Resolution to Close Port Wentworth Elementary**

The Port Wentworth Elementary School has been phased out per the specifications of the Georgia Department of Education and will no longer be available for instructional use. At the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year, the facility will be utilized administratively to support operational needs identified by the school district.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBWULV791888>

## **Attendance Zone Modifications Approved Due to Phase Out of Port Wentworth Elementary**

The Board approved a reconfiguration of the attendance zones in Western Chatham County due to the upcoming phase out of Port Wentworth Elementary School. The reconfiguration will affect Rice Creek School, Brock Elementary, Garden City Elementary a report was presented to the Board on the phasing out of the Port Wentworth Elementary facility and the proposed reconfiguration of attendance zones in the Western Chatham County that will affect students from Port Wentworth Elementary, Rice Creek School, and Garden City Elementary beginning in the 2022-23 School Year.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CBFSTW72A9DA>

## **Good News Report**

### **Junior Achievement Discovery Center now open**

WTOC, February 7

The first students will be welcomed inside the Junior Achievement Colonial Group Discovery Center on Monday morning. This is a brand new facility focusing on immersive business education.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2022/02/07/junior-achievement-discovery-center-now-open/>

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/chatham-county-middle-schoolers-practice-life-skills-in-new-gsu-junior-achievement-center>

### **Pandemic funding sets up SCCPSS for technology use into the future**

WTOC, February 10

“We see now what a classroom looks like, it is more of a blended learning environment where students are in school 5 days a week, however if you are absent you can still continue to learn,” said David Feliciano, the district’s chief data and accountability officer. “We want to minimize the disruption to the teaching and learning process by taking advantage of both worlds, face to face and online.”

<https://www.wtoc.com/2022/02/10/pandemic-funding-sets-up-sccpss-technology-use-into-future/>

### **Target selects Savannah for its pilot high school art design program**

WJCL, February 15

Jenkins High School seniors Olivia James and Vaux South are getting a leg up in the world of art design thanks to department store Target's virtual Advancing Design Diversity program. Savannah is one of only three cities hosting it.

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/target-selects-savannah-for-its-pilot-high-school-art-design-program/39100057>

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

WJCL, February 17

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.

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

### **Hubert Middle Students Earn Recognition at FCCLA Competition**

sccpss.com, February 17

Hubert Middle School students recently competed in several FCCLA Students Taking Action with Recognition Events (STAR) at S.E Bulloch H.S and placed in the Top 2 (silver or gold) for each event.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Hubert-Middle-Students-Earn-Recognition-at-FCCLA-Competition.aspx>

### **Second Annual Competition Helps Jenkins High Staff Raise Donations for Ronald McDonald House**

sccpss.com, February 18

For the second year in a row, the staff and teachers of H V Jenkins High School have competed in the Superbowl 2.0 to support the needs of the local Ronald McDonald House. The school collected and donated over 80 bottles of laundry detergent to the Ronald McDonald House.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Second-Annual-Competition-Helps-Jenkins-High-Staff-Raise-Donations-for-Ronald-McDonald-House.aspx>

### **A gifted and talented teacher who's the real gift: Jessica Roberts**

WJCL, February 18

"It's all about exposure to me. It's exposure. Because when you're exposed, when you hold this worm in your hand, you start to realize we are all living together," Roberts said. "It all comes, for lack of a better word, organically. The minute something pops up in the garden, boom there's a lesson."

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/a-gifted-and-talented-teacher-whos-the-real-gift-jessica-roberts/38506763>

### **Teacher Feature: Hannah Glass at the STEAM Academy at Bartlett**

WJCL, February 18

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>

### **Standing out at Savannah Arts Academy while teaching Spanish: Jeff 'Jefe' Fortson**

WJCL, February 25

"I think it means, it goes beyond even your subject matter. ... A kid might not always remember what you try to teach them, but they'll always remember how you treated them in the classroom and how you made them feel. And I feel that's what the heart of a teacher is-- not so much the subject matter, but the 'how does a kid feel as a result of their time in your classroom,'" Fortson said.

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/standing-out-at-savannah-arts-academy-while-teaching-spanish-jeff-jefe-fortson/39203889>

## **7th graders from Garrison School for the Arts win 2nd annual Black History Month writing contest**

Savannah Morning News, February 24

Two seventh-grade students from Garrison School for the Arts took top honors in the second annual writing contest sponsored by the Savannah Yamacraw Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/lifestyle/2022/02/24/garrison-school-arts-seventh-graders-win-second-annual-black-history-month-writing-contest/6925928001/>

**Dr. Angie Lewis** has been named to the **CTAE Advisory Commission** by Governor Brian Kemp. Dr. Lewis is a paragon in the statewide network of CTAE educators and we are fortunate to have her leadership in this district. She recently hosted educators, business partners and staff from Georgia Department of Education to review our accomplishments and goals for the Economic Development Program Designation, where we outlined our successes with work-based learning, career pathways, and secondary education preparation.

**The Savannah (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated** sponsored the **New Beginnings Art Exhibit** opening Tuesday, February 22. The exhibit, which is on display at the Cultural Arts Center of Savannah through March 19<sup>th</sup>, showcased the work of our middle and high school art students. Amazing and exciting to see the students' works. Congratulations to Trinity Jenkins for Best of Show!

The **STAR Student luncheon** was held Tuesday, February 22, to honor those students who scored the highest on the SAT at their schools. 14 SCCPSS seniors and their teachers were recognized for the honor. Savannah Arts Academy had three honorees. You can see a list of all the winners on our website.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **Capital Improvement Committee Meeting (CIC)**

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - 9:00 AM

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G 2 Laura Avenue

#### **Academic Excellence Committee Meeting**

Thursday, March 10, 2022 - 3:00 PM

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G 2 Laura Avenue

#### **Audit Committee Meeting**

Thursday, March 24, 2022 - 8:00 AM

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G 2 Laura Avenue