

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

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



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Video highlights from the April 13 Board Meeting from Public Information Manager Sheila Blanco. Click [here](#) to watch.



### Academic Affairs Updates

At the Informal Meeting of the Board, a report on the work of the Academic Affairs Division was presented. The report included updates on the Pre-K lottery results and waitlist, Kindergarten enrollment and the latest numbers on applications and staffing for the district's summer programs. A report on Choice program enrollment was also included as well as an update on transportation plans for that segment of the student population. At this time, no changes are planned. Transportation for students enrolled in the district's Choice programs and schools will remain the responsibility of the parent.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8Q896799AE>

### ESOL Updates

Also at the Informal Meeting, the Board received an update on the District's ESOL Language Instruction Program. The report detailed the number of English Language Learners in Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools as well as the latest instruction protocols. Plans for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Grant that goes into effect this fall for the next five years were also detailed. The district was awarded nearly \$800,000 to provide targeted literacy programs to our ESOL community.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8QFR691673>

### Student of the Month Recognized

The Superintendent's Student of the Month for March is Francie Tedder, a 7th grader from the STEM Academy at Bartlett. Congratulations, Francie!

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8QGY68449C>



### **Celebrating Former Board Member Mr. Larry Lower**

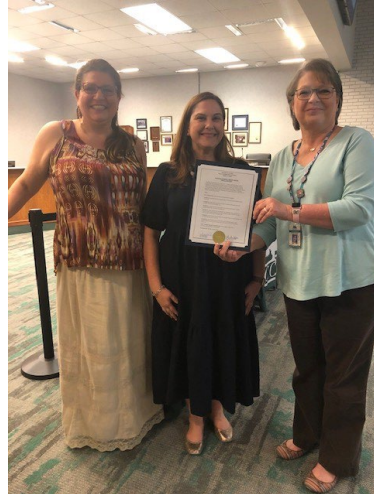
A Board Resolution was adopted recognizing the contributions of former long-time Board Member Mr. Larry Lower who passed away on March 18, 2022.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CDAS7W70549A>

### **National School Library Month**

The Board proclaimed the month of April 2022 as National School Library Month to recognize Library Media Technology Specialists who actively encourage students to read to expand their abilities, interests, and curiosity in the world they live in and beyond.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8QNK6A0741>



### **Superintendent's Professional Senate Report**

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

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8QH268449E>

### **Resolution of Support for Georgia School Boards Association Legislative Positions**

The Board approved a statement of support for the proposed Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) 2022 Legislative Positions which were presented for the Board's consideration. Those positions include supporting constitutional authority vesting exclusive control over public schools to local boards of education and opposing state or federal legislation mandating school choice among others. See the full list and explanation of positions here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8QHK6844AF>

### **Board Budget Objectives Approved**

The Board approved objectives that were developed for use in preparing the recommended budgets for Fiscal Years 2023-2026. Find the objectives aligned with the Board's Strategic Goals here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8QNJ6A0678>

### **Rental of Former Thunderbolt Elementary to Apple Studios Approved**

The Board approved the rental of the location being used for the production activities associated with the television program currently entitled "Manhunt". In return for the proposed use, Apple Studios, LLC will pay the district \$22,000 per month.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8R8N6CC875>

## **ESPLOST Updates**

### **Oatland Island Parking Lot Lighting**

The Board approved the transfer of funds from EIII Unallocated Account to EIII Oatland Island LED Renovation Account in the amount of \$339,183 to provide and install LED lighting in the Oatland Island Wildlife Center Parking Lot.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8QJC6844C8>

### **Budget Transfer Approved for Design and Construction Costs of New Windsor Forest High School**

The Board approved the transfer of funds from EIII Windsor Forest High School Addition Account to EIII Windsor Forest High School New School Account. The funds will be used to cover design fees and construction costs for a new facility.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8QKA6844E6>

### **Guaranteed Maximum Price Set for Savannah Arts Academy Addition and Renovation Project**

The Board approved GMP Change Order #1 to McKnight Construction Company to provide a GMP of \$22,980,000 for the construction of the Savannah Arts Academy Addition and Renovation Project.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8RLK6E8431>

### **Contract Renewal for Substitute Employee Services**

The Board approved the first contract extension of RFP 21-37 Substitute Employee Services (Annual Contract) to the firm of ESS Southeast, LLC for a one-year period with the option to extend the contract for two (2) additional one-year periods. Estimated total annual cost for the first one-year extension period is \$6,500,000

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8RKX6E7037>

### **Intergovernmental Agreement Approved w/Chatham County**

The Board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with Chatham County utilizing a Consolidated Public Safety System including E-911 services to support the district's continual and efficient operations for public safety.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CD8RLD6E7FFC>

## **Good News Roundup**

**John Hubert Middle School FCCLA students** competed in 5 different competitions at the Georgia FCCLA State Leadership Conference. 6th grader, Elon Dennis, competed in a Sustainability Challenge and earned a bronze medal. 7th grader Maurice Robinson, competed in the state only competitive events, Toys that Teach, where he placed 2nd and won a cash prize. 8th grader Anthony Albright competed in the Chapter Service Project Portfolio and earned a silver medal. Alexis Monroe, also an 8th grader, competed in the Chapter Service Project Display and earned a silver medal. Alexis and Anthony will advance to National Competition, in San Diego, CA.

Georgia State School Superintendent Richard Woods has named five Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools for 2022. **Jenkins High School and New Hampstead High School** were named AP Access and Support schools. **Jenkins High School** also was named an AP STEM School. **Savannah Arts Academy** was named an AP School of Distinction, AP Humanities Schools, an AP Humanities Achievement School, and an AP STEM School. **Islands High School** was named an AP Humanities Schools and AP STEM School. **Woodville Tompkins Technical and Career High School** has been named an AP Expansion School.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Four-SCCPSS-High-Schools-Named-AP-Honor-Schools-for-2022.aspx>

The Georgia Department of Education awarded **Virginia L. Heard Elementary School** with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) certification March 24, 2022. Heard Elementary became the first STEAM-certified elementary school Southeast of Macon and the first STEAM-certified elementary school in Savannah-Chatham County.

Five SCCPSS students were chosen as **Governor's Honors Program** finalists or alternates. Over 3200 students were nominated the program and just over 1400 participated in the interview/audition process. The SCCPSS finalists and their area of study are Kate Bossler of Islands High School in Science; Michael Wood of Islands High School in Science; Maisra Ali of Savannah Early College High School in Social Studies. Two Savannah Arts Academy students have been chosen as Alternates – Sharon Lee on violin; and Ansley McKee, in Voice.

**The School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High** hosted a 3DE popup shop marketplace on March 25 that allowed their 3DE students to showcase their entrepreneurial talents. 3DE 11th-grade students have worked diligently to create business plans; engaging with business coaches while working through case studies to prepare for their yearlong projects.

Twenty-one SCCPSS elementary students were among the more than 300 Georgia students who participated in this year's State Science and Engineering Fair held at Georgia College in Milledgeville. Student projects were judged by professional scientists, engineers, teachers, and university students. Students from Windsor Forest Elementary, Garrison K8 and Heard Elementary School brought home the hardware! In addition, Emily von Khoblauch and Mahika Kayyar from Garrison K8 took first place honors for the **James Webb Space Telescope Engineering Design Challenge**. Their achievement earned them a star gazing party in September where professors and a NASA Astrophysicist will come and lead the effort in September. Stay tuned for details on that exciting event!



## **Georgia Power launches new education equity initiative with school districts in Albany, Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah**

The **Equity Through Education** grant is designed to support impactful local programs in communities of color and facilitate holistic generational change. The program, which also includes Clayton County Public Schools, Dougherty County School System, and Richmond County School System, represents a \$3 million investment that will address specific needs and opportunities identified by local school districts focused on improving career readiness and multigenerational economic stability. SCCPSS will use the funding to implement a grade K through 12 STEM/STEAM track, enhance early childhood learning, and address barriers that impede postsecondary and/or career success. The district will also improve alignment to regional workforce needs and expand student learning opportunities that include employability skills and training, transportation, and support to enhance work-based learning experiences. We are grateful to Georgia Power for this opportunity.

<https://yhoo.it/3jQJuh>

The eleven member **Jenkins delegation of the Model United Nations Team** attended the Georgia Southern High School Model United Nations (Virtual) Conference in January and was awarded the Honorable Mention School Award for their cumulative effort. The students debated critical world issues such as protecting cultural heritage in times of conflict, nuclear disarmament, digital privacy, and human rights during the pandemic, as well as participating in crises relating to Russia and the Ukraine, and Chinese suppression of the Uighurs. Senior David Minott was awarded Outstanding Delegate in the Security Council representing Vietnam, and Godwill Aghbehnou, Kyal Banas, Hayden Hartley, John Parks were all acknowledged as Distinguished Delegates. The Vietnam delegation consisting of Dan Ha and Jason Do, and the Spain delegation of Allen Zheng and Maitreya Kayyar were awarded Honorable Mention distinction. Felix Friedman and Samuel Velasquez participated in the Human Rights Council. The team was led by Head Delegate David Minott and Senior Delegates Godwill Aghbehonou and Kyal Banas. The advisor is Susan Mullis.

SCCPSS Nurse **Tiffany Fordham at White Bluff Elementary**, submitted a request to **Firehouse Subs**, and SCCPSS was awarded a grant for over \$23,000. When Nurse Fordham polled the nurses to determine what the district needs were, she learned that 11 of our clinics did not have AEDS in or near the clinic. She also learned that there was a need for updated CPR training equipment. The supplies will enhance our ability to provide safe sites for our staff and students.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Savannah-Chatham-County-Public-School-System-Awarded-Grant-from-Firehouse-Subs-Public-Safety-Foundation-for-Critical-Lifesa.aspx>

SCCPSS Awarded Multiple Opportunity Grants by the Georgia Department of Education

The Georgia Department of Education is awarding \$899,420 in Opportunity Grants to help school districts expand options and opportunities for their students. SCCPSS has been awarded multiple grants from those funds totaling \$31,044. The funds will support opportunities in world languages, fine arts, physical education, summer learning, and Advanced Placement.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Awarded-Multiple-Opportunity-Grants-by-the-Georgia-Department-of-Education.aspx>

### **Students learn about career opportunities during Navy Week**

Students in Savannah Chatham County schools are learning about career opportunities in the Navy for Navy Week. The Nimitz simulation students at Beach High School went through to get a feel for what being in the Navy is like. This is an opportunity to experience more options after high school. The capstone of the week was a visit by Rear Admiral Susan BryerJoyner, Navy Enterprise Networks & Cybersecurity Division Director. Rear Adm. BryerJoyner is a native of Savannah and a graduate of Hershel V. Jenkins High School, class of 1987! It was a spectacular week for our students to learn more about the Navy and its importance to our city, state, and nation.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2022/03/14/students-learn-about-career-opportunities-navy-week/>

### **WSAV and T-Mobile Show Appreciation for Teachers**

T-Mobile and WSAV came together to show love and appreciation for the teachers at Juliette Gordon Low Elementary School, Shuman Elementary, Jenkins High School and Mercer Middle School.

<https://www.wsav.com/shows/the-bridge/t-mobile-low-elementary-school/>

### **Class of 2022 Distinguished Graduates Honored in First Ever District Recognition Ceremony**

Valedictorians, Salutatorians, and STAR students from each of the eleven high schools in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System were honored in a recognition ceremony held at the Yamacraw Performing Arts Center on Thursday, April 7, 2022. Each of the Distinguished Graduates attending the invitation only ceremony and reception received an award representing the honor. Valedictorians and Salutatorians also received the medals they are permitted to wear as part of their graduation ceremony regalia.

<https://www.sccpss.com/Pages/Class-of-2022-Distinguished-Graduates-Honored-in-First-Ever-District-Recognition-Ceremony.aspx>

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **Board Accountability Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – 3:30 PM

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G 2 Laura Avenue

#### **Board of Public Education Meeting**

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

11:00 a.m. – Informal; 2:00 p.m. Regular

Whitney Administrative Complex, Building G 2 Laura Avenue