

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

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

Video highlights from the September 7 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
(912) 395-5600

SCHOOL BOARD

Dr. Joe Buck
President

Mrs. Denise R. Grabowski
District 1

Dr. Dionne Hoskins-Brown
District 2

Cornelia H. Hall
District 3

Shawn A. Kachmar
District 4

Irene Hines
District 5

Dr. David Bringman
Vice President Pro-Tempore
District 6

Michael Johnson
District 7

Dr. Tonia Howard-Hall
Vice President
District 8



Community Business Partner Spotlight

Ms. Ashely Dubois, of Members First Credit Union was in attendance at the Regular Meeting of the Board to receive recognition for her organization as a long-time business partner. Members First has supported Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools for many years, providing everything from annual planners to sponsorships for our community engagement programs like Books, Blankets and Family Fun. They attend and participate in nearly every event we do, whether district wide or at individual schools, helping us provide financial literacy to our staff and students. In the next month, through the support of Members First, we will enhance the Financial Literacy pathway at Woodville Tompkins with the launch of a student run credit union office right on campus!

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CHTQHY6952E6>



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 and Instructional Support Person of the Year.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CHTQHW6952E4>

Student of the Month Recognized



The Superintendent's Student of the Month for August is Reese Stainback, a Senior from Savannah Arts Academy. Congratulations, Reese!

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scps/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CHTSRK6D3E78>

Contract Approved with Georgia Power for Lighting Improvements

The Board approved a contract with Georgia Power for Phase III LED Interior Lighting for a lump sum cost of \$4,404,100.00 through the use of ESPLOST funds. The contract came about following the September 9, 2020, award of RFP C21-03 to Georgia Power to provide Energy Management Consulting Services for the school district. At that time, Board Approval was granted to proceed with a Zero Dollar Cost preliminary audit which resulted in the development of the recommendation for potential savings. Georgia Power has completed the Phase III study and has developed a final proposal for the board that can be self-funded through energy savings generated by the improvements which consist of LED Lighting Renovations at 15 sites.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scps/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CHTQL3695329>

The project will be paid for with ESPLOST Funds. The transfer of those funds was also approved at the meeting.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scps/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CHTQL469532A>

GOOD NEWS FROM SCCPSS!

SCCPSS Specialized Instruction Community Liaison Named Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

sccpss.com, August 16

Family and Community Liaison in the SCCPSS Department of Specialized Instruction, Juliet Hardeman, has been voted in as Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Ms. Hardeman was appointed to the SRC by Governor Brian Kemp in September 2021 and will serve on the council until 2024.

[https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Specialized-Instruction-Community-Liaison-Named-chair-of-the-State-Rehabilitation-Council-\(SRC\).aspx](https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Specialized-Instruction-Community-Liaison-Named-chair-of-the-State-Rehabilitation-Council-(SRC).aspx)

SCCPSS high schools gearing up for the 2022-23 football season

WTGS, August 16

Savannah Chatham Area football teams and coaches said they're ready to get back to the field. Michael Ellison III plays football for Johnson High School, and he said his team is chomping at the bit for the season to start.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/sccpss-athletics-department-gears-up-for-football-season-covid-friday-discipline-field>

Port City Logistics Donates Book Bags with Supplies To SCCPSS

sccpss.com, August 17

[Port City Logistics](https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Port-City-Logistics-Donates-Book-Bags-with-Supplies-To-SCCPSS-.aspx) donated 250 packed book bags to the school system for grades Pre-K through 6 grades just in time for the start of school. The book bags, stuffed with supplies for students, were made possible through the generosity of the employees and management of the company.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Port-City-Logistics-Donates-Book-Bags-with-Supplies-To-SCCPSS-.aspx>



Agreement passes for SCCPSS to purchase Garden City recreation center

WTOC, August 16

"It's a win win for the school system. Think of all of these kids, athletes, can practice right on school grounds and not bussed to another location and my understanding the only other location the school board was considering was Port Wentworth."

<https://www.wtoc.com/2022/08/17/agreement-passes-sccpss-purchase-garden-city-recreation-center/>

SCCPSS discusses resolving teacher burnout at annual fall retreat

WTGS, August 18

Superintendent Ann Levett said one of the biggest problems is the national teacher shortage and the impact it's having on Savannah-Chatham County schools.

"There is more and more and more laid at the feet of the teacher," said Levett. "We are expecting them to do everything, and at some point, we are going to have to balance that out."

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/sccpsb-discusses-teacher-burnout-at-fall-retreat>

Savannah-Chatham Co. school board begins retreat

WTOC, August 18

They began their two-day retreat today by discussing teacher burnout and retention.

The 2022 Georgia Teacher of The Year and Hesse K-8 teacher, Cherie Goldman sits on the Teacher Burnout Taskforce and shared a presentation highlighting the issue.

She gave some recommendations for the board and staff including reducing class sizes, giving teachers more support, and reevaluating the weight placed on state testing.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2022/08/18/savannah-chatham-co-school-board-begins-retreat/>



Southwest Middle Teacher Selected to Become a Civics Coach

sccpss.com, August 23

The Georgia Center for Civic Engagement has selected Southwest Middle School teacher Mr. Eric Allen to serve as a Civics Coach with the organization. GCCE provides youth programs and opportunities that promote self-esteem, leadership skills, and moral and civic responsibility, such as Mock Election, Model United Nations, and Youth Assembly.

<https://www.sccpss.com/Pages/Southwest-Middle-Teacher-Selected-to-Become-a-Civics-Coach.aspx>

SCCPSS holds 'topping out' ceremony at K-12 Multi-Campus site

WTGS, August 25

Savannah Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) leaders celebrated a construction milestone at the site of the K-12 Multi-Campus on Thursday. Board members and district staff joined construction workers for a “topping out” ceremony to commemorate the placement of the final beam at the school building in Garden City.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/sccpss-topping-out-campus-garden-city-school-superintendent-groves-mercer-gould-chatham>



New Hampstead K-8 school officially open in Chatham Co.

WTOC, August 31

“We really are a model for many states, many states around the nation but also many city around the state. They come to our area and just wonder how in the world have we been able to build a facility connected, and now serves in this building alone 800 scholars,” SCCPSS Superintendent Dr. Ann Levett said.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2022/08/31/new-hampstead-k-8-school-officially-open-chatham-co/>



School officials hold ribbon cutting ceremony at New Hampstead K-8 School

WTGS, August 31, 2022

The Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday to celebrate the completion of the New Hampstead K-8 school. The school officially opened its doors in January and has 93 classrooms that can accommodate 1,500 students.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/school-officials-hold-ribbon-cutting-ceremony-at-new-hampstead-k-8-school>

SCCPSS Financial Division Awarded Certificate of Excellence

sccpss.com, September 6

The Association of School Business Officials International has awarded the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. The school district earned the Certificate of Excellence for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2021. This is the 28th year that the SCCPSS Finance Division has won the award.

<https://www.sccpss.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Financial-Division-Awarded-Certificate-of-Excellence.aspx>

Elevate Savannah helping prepare middle schoolers for future

WSAV, September 1

Students at DeRenne Middle School are elevating their minds this school year, thanks to the expansion of a free mentoring program.

Elevate Savannah is teaching local students critical skills, for their next phases of life and learning. The lessons learned inside this classroom at Derenne Middle School go far beyond reading, writing and arithmetic.

<https://www.wsav.com/news/education/elevate-savannah-helping-prepare-middle-schoolers-for-future/>

OTHER NEWS FROM THE BOARD MEETING

Transportation Update

At the Informal Meeting of the Board, an update on Transportation was provided to Board Members. The report shows the district is still struggling with a shortage of drivers. There are currently only 214 active drivers, eight fewer than at the end of the 2021-22 SY. That staffing shortage is impacting the ability to provide on-time arrivals, departures, and drop-offs. The SCCPSS Transportation Department continues to assess routes and ridership to improve efficiency, and remains committed to implementing effective hiring strategies.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CHTSPH6CFCD8>

ESPLOST Update

Also at the Informal Meeting, an update on various ESPLOST projects currently underway was presented to the Board. Those updates included:

- K-12 Multi-School Campus: Work continues on roofing, enclosure, and exterior finishes. Mechanical and electrical rough in work in progress at enclosed areas. Terrazzo work scheduled to begin in August 2022. Work on the CTAE building also under construction.
- Windsor Forest High replacement: In the Design phase with schematic design in progress. Reviewing options for temporary parking both on and offsite. CMR bids scheduled for 1st Quarter 2023. Projected to have an August 2025 Opening.
- The Pulaski Elementary K-8 Conversion is currently in the design phase, as is the addition of classroom space at Godley Station K8 and planning for a new school for Jacob G. Elementary.
- Construction is continuing on the new kitchen and cafeteria at Savannah Arts Academy, with classroom renovations scheduled to begin this month.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CHTSPB6CF366>

Contract Approved for Professional Consulting Service for ESPLOST Projects

The Board approved the award of Contract # MC23002 to the firm of Eagle Creek Leadership Solutions, LLC for one (1) year period with two (2) additional one (1) year periods, in the amount of \$249,600.00. Due to the increased workload, staff have identified the need for consulting services that will bring support to concentrate on and manage the District's complex construction projects and services.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CHTQKD695313>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Capital Improvement Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 9:00 a.m.

Whitney Administrative Complex- Building G

Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 5

Informal Meeting, 11:00 a.m.

Regular Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

Whitney Administrative Complex- Building G