

BOARD MEETING BRIEF

District Mission - "To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels."



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

Savannah-Chatham Co.
Public School System
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Highlights from the June 3, 2020 Board Meeting

Tentative Millage Rate Adopted

The Board tentatively approved a General Fund Tax of 18.881 mills, a G.O. Bond Debt Tax of 0 mills, and an aggregate millage rate of 18.881 mills in the Year of 2020 (Fiscal Year 2021) for the support and maintenance of public education. This represents no increase in the millage rate.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNTM5B7D02>

Virtual Learning Options Discussed for the 2020-21 School Year

At the Informal Meeting of the Board, the Academic Affairs Department presented a report on Virtual Learning Options for the 2020-21 SY. The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System has a virtual learning plan that addresses various scenarios where a shift from the traditional brick and mortar learning environment to a remote learning environment is needed.

The virtual learning plan requires SCCPSS teachers to use the district learning management system wherein they would house lessons and provide instruction to students, while also using various technology tools for enhanced virtual communication. In addition, the Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy (SCELA) is under development as a stand-alone school that uses an online instructional model as its major approach. The school includes a curriculum provided through a state aligned, high-quality online learning platform and is supported by certified teachers who also provide direct instruction. For more information, read the full report here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZTWH71077E>

Virtual Instructional Platform Support

The Data and Accountability Division presented a report on efforts to support technology access for students and staff who are learning and working remotely. The department has worked with Academic Affairs to develop the Learning Management System, is working to purchase and deploy devices to support a 1:1 student to technology ratio, has upgraded cyber safety and security, and continues work on upgrading administrative and business systems. For details:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZTWM71138D>

Chromebooks Purchase Approved

At the Formal Meeting of the Board, Members ratified the purchase of 14,000 student devices under RFP 18-06 Chrome Device Hardware, Software and Installation Services (Annual Contract) from Arey Jones Educational Solutions in the amount of \$3,284,260.00.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNSX5B7CEC>

Staffing Management in the time of Coronavirus

The SCCPSS Division of Human Resources updated the Board on planning for reopening schools and facilities with a focus on student and staff well-being. The division is taking many factors into consideration to achieve that goal including strict enforcement of wearing PPE and following CDC guidelines, expanded EAP options and the purchase of 400 handheld Forehead/Wrist thermometers. The district anticipates hiring 300 new teachers by July.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZTWP71145C>

SCHOOL BOARD

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Keeping Staff and the Community Informed

The SCCPSS Division of Communications gave a presentation to the Board on the myriad of efforts made to keep all stakeholders informed of district operations during the Coronavirus crisis and resulting upheaval of normal operations. Unique efforts have included the launch of SCCPSS-TV on Comcast Channel 195, the uploading of nearly 200 teacher lessons and educational programs to the district's YouTube Channel, and donated Billboards used to congratulate the Class of 2020 on their graduation. Ongoing efforts include the ICYMI newsletter sent to external stakeholders monthly, the Media Roundup – a bi-weekly wrap up of SCCPSS in the news, and postings on the district's Facebook and Twitter channels – which have seen unprecedented growth. Growth was also seen in the number of subscribers to the district's YouTube Channel which was driven in large part by the livestreaming of virtual graduations. The Communications Division is also looking ahead to plan communication that will be needed in advance of school reopening. For details:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZTWQ711539>

District Operational Update

During the Formal Meeting of the Board, Superintendent Dr. Ann Levett provided an update on the District's work and key focus areas for operation under the continuing conditions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNNG5B7C5D>

Policy Matters

Approval of the Relaxation of Policy JCDB: Student Dress Code – Non-Uniform Day Option

The Board approved the relaxation of Policy JCDB: Student Dress Code, to allow families the option to follow the student dress code requirements, when necessary, for non-uniform school days during the 2020-2021 school year.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNNW5B7C6B>

Budget Process Update FY 2021

Mr. Larry Jackson, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on the budget process for FY 2021. Topics included the Budget Calendar, General Fund Revenue and potential budget considerations for reopening during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNP75B7C74>

Regulation Update

Exhibit GBU-E (1) – Professional Personnel Ethics-Code of Ethics for Educators Exhibit GBU-E (1) Professional Personnel Ethics-Code of Ethics for Educators will be replaced by the updated Code of Ethics for Educators document dated October 15, 2019.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNNZ5B7C6E>

Resolution of Support for Educational Funding

The Board of Public Education adopted a resolution to urge the General Assembly to seek alternate scenarios for recouping lost revenues and to make budgetary decisions that will minimize the loss of funding for public school systems across the great state of Georgia.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BQ2NWR61B5CD>

Title 1 SIG Digital Learning Grant

The Board approved the expenditures and revenues created for the new Title 1 SIG Digital Learning grant. The Georgia Department of Education has awarded Chatham County \$1,236,400 for fiscal year 2020. The funds will be used for curriculum resources, software, professional development and technology items for eleven SCCPSS schools. Those schools are: Williams, Butler, Hodge, Low and Shuman elementary schools; Derenne, Hubert, Mercer and Myers middle schools, the School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High School and Susie King Taylor Community School.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNT25B7CEF>

Susie King Taylor Community School Grades 6-8 Site Approved

The Board of Education approved the Susie King Taylor Community School proposed facility for grades 6-8, located at 3400 Florance Street in Savannah. The documents will now be provided to the state for final approvals.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BQ7TAZ767DA3>

ESPLOST Update

At the Regular Meeting of the Board, the Operations Division presented a report on ESPLOST Updates. The report detailed projects that could be affected by reduced revenue projections based on the economic strains brought about by the Coronavirus Pandemic. The status of several on-going projects was also shared including White Bluff Elementary, Jenkins High School, the competition of the Islands High Sports Complex (stadium), New Hampstead K8 and many others. Operations also provided updates on the District's work to enhance safety and security through school the construction of school vestibules. An additional \$3.8 million dollars in funding is estimated to be needed to complete security vestibule upgrades at 41 school locations.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNT95B7CF6>

Groves High Demolition

The Board approved the award of Bid C20-23 (ESPLOST) Groves High School – Building Demolition to Complete Demolition Services, LLC at a total cost of \$491,000.00.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNRY5B7CCD>

Groves K-12 Roadway and Intersection Design

The Board approved the contract award to Moffatt & Nichol for Professional Civil Engineering Services for the Groves K-12 Multi-School Project – Roadway and Intersection Design under Contract #M20115 in the amount of \$176,296.00.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNS65B7CD3>

Memorandum of Agreement Revisions Approved

The Board approved revisions to the Memorandum of Agreement between Chatham County, CEMA and the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System for Critical Workforce Sheltering and Post Disaster Recovery Operations. The Memorandum of Agreement requires an update due to changes in FEMA's Public Assistance Policy and Procedures Guide. The changes streamline and accelerate the reimbursement process for the District in situations where the MOA is activated.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZNSF5B7CDC>

Spending Resolution Approved

The Board approved a resolution that the Superintendent may expend funds from all funds for the month of July 2020 not to exceed one-twelfth (1/12) of the final amended budget for all funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, plus debt service and capital expenditures known to be due in July and essential COVID-19 related expenditures.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BPZVZF832A04>

June Calendar Notes

PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE – By Videoconference

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

11:00AM

Whitney Administrative Complex

2 Laura Avenue

PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE – By Videoconference

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

6:00PM

Whitney Administrative Complex

2 Laura Avenue

PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE – By Videoconference

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

6:00PM

Whitney Administrative Complex

2 Laura Avenue

Board Special Called Meeting for the Adoption of the Millage Rate – By Videoconference

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

6:30PM

Whitney Administrative Complex

2 Laura Avenue