

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

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



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

Julie M. Wade
District 1

Dr. Dionne Hoskins-Brown
Vice President
District 2

Cornelia H. Hall
District 3

Shawn A. Kachmar
District 4

Irene Hines
Vice President Pro-Tempore
District 5

Dr. David Bringman
District 6

Michael Johnson
District 7

Dr. Tonia Howard-Hall
District 8



Video highlights from the October 7 Board Meeting from Public Information Manager Sheila Blanco. Click [here](#) to watch.

Board Votes to Move Forward with October 26th Phase III Return Plan

Following a report on District Operations by Superintendent Dr. Ann Levett and a lengthy discussion of the need for more teachers willing to return to the classroom in person, the Board voted to move forward to offer an in-person hybrid option for all remaining grade levels to start on October 26th.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTXTEF7682C8>

Board Workshop on ESPLOST IV

The Board's Informal Meeting WAS devoted to a workshop on planning for ESPLOST IV. Board members evaluated potential projects that could be included in an ESPLOST IV plan by looking at facility assessments, economic impact analysis, enrollment projections and revenue projections. The district is in year 4 of EPLOST III. ESPLOST IV, would be a continuation of the penny sales tax to fund school district construction, technology, safety and other projects. The continuation would require the approval of Chatham county citizens by referendum at a scheduled vote in 2021.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTXTAU7672C4>

ESPLOST UPDATES

Savannah High School Stadium Construction Contract Approved

The Board approved the award of Bid C21-06 (ESPLOST) Savannah High School Stadium (New Construction) to R.W. Allen Construction, LLC at a total cost of \$5,215,165.00; and that a transfer of \$800,000 from ESPLOST II - Unallocated budget to Savannah HS Athletic Facility.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTXTGY768319>

Lighting Contract Approved for Savannah High Multipurpose Field

The Board approved a contract with Georgia Power for field lighting at the Savannah High School multipurpose field for a total cost of \$287,235.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTXTH676831F>

FY 2022 Budget Update

District Finance Division staff provided the Board with the Tentative Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2022. The tentative calendar calls for beginning enrollment projections in November, getting staff input, adopting legislative priorities in December and beginning staffing projections in January. Items of concern in the coming budget year include:

- Enrollment Stability
- COVID-19 Impacts
- State Budget/Austerity Reductions
- Modified Compensation Plan – Year 4/5
- Cost Sharing (School Food Service, etc.)
- Continued Financial Stability

See the report here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTXTJZ76835A>

2021 Instructional Support Person of the Year Announced!

Each year the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System recognizes support staff such as nurses, paraprofessional, custodians, cafeteria workers, media clerks, counselor clerks and secretaries. The announcement of this year's Instructional Support Person of the Year was delayed due to the COVID-19 school closure and mass gathering restrictions. Superintendent Dr. Ann Levett announced that Melvin Nesbitt, Para Intervention Special Educator at Brock Elementary School has been named the District ISPY for the 2020-21 School Year. Congratulations Mr. Nesbitt!!!

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTXTQ878700A>

National School Lunch Week

In recognition of the importance of the SCCPSS School Nutrition Program and the dedicated employees who work tirelessly to provide healthy meals to the students of our great school system, the Board proclaimed the week of October 12-16, 2020 as National School Lunch Week.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTXTES7682D3>

School Bus Safety and Transportation Appreciation Week

In recognition of the importance of the SCCPSS transportation workers who travel millions of miles every year and who work tirelessly to provide safe transportation to the students of our great school system, the Board proclaimed the week of October 19-23, 2020 as School Bus Safety and Transportation Appreciation Week.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTXTEV7682D6>

National Custodial Worker's Day

In recognition of the importance of the SCCPSS Custodial Staff and the dedicated employees who, for the health and safety of all, work daily to ensure staff and students have clean and safe work and instructional environments, the Board recognized and proclaimed October 2, 2020 as National Custodial Worker's Day.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTXTEY7682D9>

Savannah Toyota donates tablets to SCCPSS students

WTOC, September 21

A donation from a dealership is expected to help public school children learn from home.

Savannah-Toyota as well as other businesses donated tablets and \$10,000 to the Educate Chatham Foundation. The devices and funding will go towards Savannah-Chatham public school students who are having to learn virtually from home amid the pandemic.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/09/21/savannah-toyota-donates-tablets-sccpss-students/>

SCCPSS working on childcare plan to help employees

WTOC, September 21

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System employees are going to get some additional childcare help as they begin their phased approach to in-person learning.

The district is working to provide an instructional support center to help staff with children.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/09/21/sccpss-working-childcare-plan-help-employees/>

SCCPSS nurses prepared for student return; receiving help from Coastal Health District

WTGS, September 25

With students heading back to the classroom soon, Savannah-Chatham school nurse officials say they are ready for any medical issues to arise. With 55 active school nurses in the district, District Nursing Administrator Lisa Wilson said they're well prepared for student return.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/sccpss-nurses-prepared-for-student-return-receiving-help-from-coastal-health-district>

Vaden Automotive donates to New Hampstead Football Team

YouTube, September 24

<https://youtu.be/z8NSOS5dRUI>

Parker's gives large donation to the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

WTOC, September 28

"We will of course use the funds to support the work that we're doing, that we did not plan for this year. But we also want to take a few moments to let the community, as well as Parkers to know how much we appreciate their support," said Dr. Levett.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/09/28/parkers-gives-large-donation-savannah-chatham-county-public-school-system/>

'It's in their best interest': Some Savannah-area teachers preparing for in-person learning

WJCL, September 28

SCCPSS Teacher of the Year, Cherie Dennis, said that she respects any student's wish to remain virtual, but feels the learning is more impactful in the classroom.

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/its-in-their-best-interest-some-savannah-area-teachers-preparing-for-in-person-learning/34197785>

SCCPSS teachers return to the classroom Monday

WTOC, September 28

"I want the parents to know that every day we plan to serve our children in the best way that we possibly can. We want you to know that the children and our families in Savannah-Chatham County public schools, they mean so very, very much to us and everything we do we think about the children first because schools exist for children," said Dr. Vallerie.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/09/28/sccpss-teachers-return-classroom-monday/>

How One School District Is Ramping up PPE and Safety Procedures

Education and Career News, September 29

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System has implemented a growing number of procedural changes to ensure the safety of our students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures are based on guidance from our public health partners.

https://www.educationandcareernews.com/empowering-our-educators/how-one-school-district-is-ramping-up-ppe-and-safety-procedures/?fbclid=IwAR3Xjhx8p4tnoD5mnQ9b5ldA_vmmw0fwFZXHHzVav1unYIL-FUXvf-YA3Y

Savannah company donates \$27,000 to SCCPSS

WTGS, September 29

Parker's, a Savannah-based convenience store company with locations across southeast Georgia and the South Carolina Lowcountry, has donated \$27,000 to the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) as part of the company's Fueling the Community program, the company announced Tuesday.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/savannah-company-donates-27000-to-sccpss>

SCCPSS announces stadium capacity, ticket sales guidelines

WTGS, September 30

With teams set to take the field Friday night, The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) has announced its requirements for spectators looking to attend high school football games this season.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/sccpss-announces-football-stadium-capacity-ticket-sales>

Savannah business donates reusable water bottles to SCCPSS schools

WTGS, October 1

"At ServiceMaster of Savannah, our business revolves around helping the community through disasters; during these challenging times, supporting each other and our community is more important than ever," said Deidre Weiss, owner of ServiceMaster of Savannah.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/savannah-business-donates-reusable-water-bottles-to-sccpss-schools>

SCCPSS to spotlight National School Lunch Week

WTGS, October 1

"School lunches are healthier than ever; the district provides more offerings of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and meets federal nutrition standards limiting fat, calories and sodium," said Onetha Bonaparte, school nutrition director.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/sccpss-to-celebrate-national-school-lunch-week>

The Eichholz Law Firm Recognizes Bloomingdale Kindergarten Teacher

Facebook, October 2

"There is nowhere else I would rather be than in the classroom," says Ms. Summerour.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheEichholzLawFirm/photos/a.115342565164984/3664076533624885>

Prize patrol surprises virtual learners at Building Bridges Academy

WTOC, October 2

This isn't the start of a typical school day for Building Bridges Academy High School staff. They hit the road, stop at Little Caesar's and they are off for a surprise visit. This is their Prize Patrol. Every week they make house calls to students who go above and beyond while virtual learning.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/10/02/prize-patrol-surprises-virtual-learners-building-bridges-academy/>

Some SCCPSS students, teachers return to classroom for hybrid learning

WTOC, October 5

"Despite our worries and not being able to sleep last night I think we did a great job this morning and the parents were very supportive, and I think that we're off to a good run," said Godley Station Principal Troy Brown.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/10/05/some-sccpss-students-teachers-return-classroom-hybrid-learning/>

SCCPSS starts hybrid learning model

WTGS, October 5

Savannah-Chatham schools were provided with a list of students who chose to return to the classroom, and on Monday they got to welcome them with open arms and social distancing.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/sccpss-starts-hybrid-learning-model>

Savannah-Chatham welcomes nearly 3,000 students to in-person learning

Savannah Morning News, October 6

It was the First Day of School, Take 2. Well, Phase II, as Savannah-Chatham County schools welcomed kindergarten, first- and second-grade students, sixth-grade, first-time ninth-grade students and "least independent learners" back to in-person learning.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20201005/savannah-chatham-welcomes-nearly-3000-students-to-in-person-learning>

Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy Students Qualify for National Student Astronaut Challenge Finals

sccpss.com, October 9

SCCPSS middle school students attending the Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy recently competed against some of the best middle school engineering/aerospace schools in the south and qualified in the Top 11 for the Student Astronaut Challenge National Finals.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Savannah-Chatham-E-Learning-Academy-Students-Qualify-for-National-Student-Astronaut-Challenge-Finals.aspx>

DeRenne Middle Teachers to Participate in Pilot Program for Game Creation and Coding

sccpss.com, October 9

Six teachers from Bulloch, Candler, Chatham and Screven Counties – including two teachers from DeRenne Middle School, Darria Campbell and Victor Myles – will be participants in a pilot program that kicked off in August.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/DeRenne-Middle-Teachers-to-Participate-in-Pilot-Program-for-Game-Creation-and-Coding.aspx>

SCCPSS Superintendent Dr. Ann Levett Chosen to Participate in Fellowship for Public Education Leadership

Sccpss.com, October 9

The Fellowship for Public Education Leadership is a tuition-free executive leadership program for senior-level public education leaders from across the country who are dedicated to strengthening public school systems and the communities they serve.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Superintendent-Dr.-Ann-Levett-Chosen-to-Participate-in-Fellowship-for-Public-Education-Leadership.aspx>

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 4, 2020

Informal Session 11:00 a.m.

Regular Board Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Whitney Board Room, 2 Laura Avenue

Space will be limited due to social distance requirements. A livestream will be provided for public access