

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

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Video highlights from the August 12 Board Meeting from Public Information Manager Sheila Blanco. Click [here](#) to watch.

2020-21 Reopening Plan Update: Services for Students with Disabilities, ESOL, and Gifted

At the August 12 Informal Meeting of the Board, Board members were presented with information on the Return to Learn planning for Specialized Instruction, ESOL and Gifted students. SCCPSS is dedicated to providing quality education to all students during the virtual learning period. To see more specifics on the way teaching and learning will be tailored for these groups, view the full presentation here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BRRUB67A5B14>

Tracking Attendance and Participation

At the August 12 Informal Meeting of the Board, Data and Accountability Chief David Feliciano provided information on how attendance and participation of students will be tracked during virtual learning. Attendance is determined by participation in the student's set schedule. Participation is defined using the following criteria: Attendance during live virtual instruction, submission of assignments or tasks, engagement in group activities, direct daily interaction with a certified instructional staff member (online, email, or phone And/or itslearning student logins and activity

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BRRUBT7AB5DD>

SCCPSS Virtual Instruction Model to Continue

On July 16, the Board approved delay of the academic calendar start date allowed us time to prepare, train, and ready for virtual instruction. At that time, we were hopeful that transmission rates would be reduced to a safe level for a possible return to face to face operation by Labor Day. Based on the most recent data, it does not appear that the pandemic is slowing at a rate fast enough to return to in-person teaching and learning by September 8, 2020. As a result, virtual learning will continue. See the new calendar [here](#).

Parent Guide for Virtual Learning Now Available

The Board was presented with an overview of the new Parent Guidance Booklet that was released to the public. This will be a living document that will be updated as conditions change and is available through a button on the front page of SCCPSS.com.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BS8JXA4F49A9>

iPads Purchase Approved for Young Students

The Board approved the purchase of 7,000 iPads from Apple, Inc., from the Statewide Contract in the amount of \$2,505,605.00. The iPads will be distributed to PreK through 2nd grade students across the district for virtual learning.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BSCQP76A1E0D>

Budget Adopted

The Board voted to approve the final adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for All Funds. This Budget consists of five components: General Fund Budget, General Obligation Debt Budget, Special Revenue Funds Budget, Capital Projects Funds Budget, and Other Funds Budget. The Final budget under consideration reflects no millage increase for a total combined millage of 18.881 mills.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BRRUAH7A3E25>

Memorandum of Understanding: SCCPSS and Chatham County e911 Call Center

The Board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between Chatham County and the School District to improve emergency response and safety objectives. Under this Agreement, Campus Police employees will be directly embedded in the County's integrated E911 Call Center. The placement of campus police staff in this call center is aligned with best practices to ensure expedited emergency response capacity and integrated emergency service delivery.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BS8M2Q58741B>

Intergovernmental Agreement: SCCPSS and City of Savannah - Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program FY 2020 Formula Grant Program

The Board approved a formal agreement between the City of Savannah and the District that has been developed for the subaward of grant monies to the School District in the amount of \$30,000 through the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program for the use of preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. The City of Savannah shall serve as the fiscal agent of this award.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BS8M2R587529>

Memorandum of Understanding: SCCPSS and Chatham Co. Board of Elections

The Board approved a formal MOU between the Chatham County Board of Elections and the District to ensure a process is in place for school site use as polling locations. The primary purpose of this agreement is to ensure that when SCCPSS facilities are used as polling locations, they will be cleaned by the Board of Elections in an appropriate manner that does not interfere with the regular and intended use of SCCPSS facilities.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BS8M3A58B567>

WiFi On Wheels Set to Roll September 1st

In an effort to provide WiFi access to students who don't have access at home, SCCPSS school busses equipped with WiFi hotspots began operation September 1. The district has outfitted 10 transportation buses with technology that will provide mobile Internet access for our students. The busses will make two stops daily at locations throughout the county.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/WiFi-On-Wheels-Set-to-Roll-September-1st.aspx>

Meal Delivery During Virtual Learning

Throughout virtual learning, school meals will be provided at designated bus stops at designated times. ***Families coming to meal service locations are asked to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 - make sure to wear a mask and adhere to socially distance guidelines while waiting in line.*** Meals will be delivered Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. An updated list of routes and times can be viewed online. Two days of meals (breakfast and lunch) will be delivered on both Monday and Wednesday, one day's breakfast and lunch will be delivered Friday.
<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Meal-Delivery-During-Virtual-Learning.aspx>

ESPLOST UPDATES

School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High Stadium Project Change

On November 6, 2019, the Board approved Cogdell & Mendrala Architects to provide design services for the new Savannah High School Stadium project based on a site adapted prototype design used at the Islands High Athletic Complex. In development of the new stadium and facilities for the project, the site design was found to be unpractical and a new layout for the team rooms, public restrooms, concessions, and ticketing buildings was developed which will respond better to parking and traffic flow around and throughout the stadium. At the Regular Meeting of the Board approved an additional design fee with Cogdell & Mendrala for the new project in the amount of \$109,446.
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BRRU9E7A3E02>

Artificial Turf Purchase – School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High

The Board approved the contract to furnish and install artificial turf and an 8 lane all weather polyurethane running track at the School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High School for a cost of \$1,390,550.
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BS8M4658F2A5>

Beach High Parking Lot Construction Contract Approved

The Board approved the award of Bid C20-26 Beach High School Parking Lot Construction to JW Oliver Construction, Inc. at a total cost of \$665,615.00
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BS8M4T591614>

School nurses, teachers, social-emotional training aim to keep Savannah-Chatham students, staff safe

Savannah Morning News, June 26

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System is the fifth largest district in Georgia and one of the few that has a nurse at every school site. School nurses will work to keep students and staff safe from COVID-19.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20200626/school-nurses-teachers-social-emotional-training-aim-to-keep-savannah-chatham-students-staff-safe>

Two SCCPSS Students Tapped for Summer Leadership Experience

SCCPSS.com, July 14

Two Savannah high school students have been selected as Student Leaders in the Bank of American Student Leadership program. Randall Jenkins and Nguyen Pham have started their paid summer internship experience of leadership, civic engagement, and workforce skills-building.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Two-SCCPSS-Students-Tapped-for-Summer-Leadership-Experience.aspx>

OPINION: Savannah's Town Square: School reopening plan

Savannah Morning News, July 17

As the parent of two teenagers, I want my kids back in school. The spring term was tough. Trying to work while also ensuring the kids actually did their schoolwork was frustrating beyond comprehension.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/opinion/20200717/savannahsquotst-town-square-school-reopening-plan>

Kevin Evans takes over as basketball coach at Groves, his alma mater

Savannah Morning News July 20

"Kevin is a great guy and he definitely has the support of the community," Woods said. "Coaching at his old school makes it personal to him, and when he came on as an assistant, we got a lot more people showing up at the games. He got the community more involved. He's had a lot of responsibility and showed he can basically run the program by himself over the last year and a half."

<https://www.savannahnow.com/sports/20200720/kevin-evans-takes-over-as-basketball-coach-at-groves-his-alma-mater>

The Commute: SCCPSS School Board President Joe Buck on school reopening

Savannah Morning News, July 20

<https://omny.fm/shows/from-the-newsroom-savannah-now/playlists/the-commute-with-adam-van-brimmer/embed?style=cover>

When Can Kids Go Back To School? Leaders Say 'As Soon As It's Safe'

NPR, July 21

Levett had hoped to welcome students back on Aug. 5, right on schedule, but says she can't do that safely while COVID-19 continues to spread in Georgia — and many nearby states. Every day, Levett wakes up and checks the numbers. "And I'm like, 'Please, please let them go down. Please let them go down. And they're not going down.' "

<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/21/893221346/when-can-kids-go-back-to-school-leaders-say-as-soon-as-it-s-safe>

SCCPSS staff answer questions about back-to-school plan

WTOC, July 21

"It is very important because the first day of school is not going to be the same as it used to be where we would dedicate labs for parents to come in and register their child. Everything now has changed because of COVID-19 so it is very vital for parents to register their child online, the whole thing can be done without having to enter the building."

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/07/21/watch-live-sccpss-staff-answer-questions-about-back-to-school-plan/>

OPINION: School Superintendent: Caution, flexibility keys to school reopening plan

Savannah Morning News, July 14

Unprecedented. That seems to be the word for 2020. We are in uncharted waters in many areas and education is no different. Reopening schools will be one step in defining the "new normal" for our community. Rest assured, there is no "one size fits all" plan for reopening. We must be prepared to pivot for any situation and stay abreast of what is happening across the nation and world.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/opinion/20200714/opinion-school-superintendent-caution-flexibility-keys-to-school-reopening-plan>

OPINION, Van Brimmer: School reopening strategy to challenge working parents

Savannah Morning News, July 24

With no school, or at least no school buildings, for Savannah's public-school children to go to, the early weeks of the new academic year promise to be difficult on working parents. What's more, those challenges come at a time when many families are struggling financially due to coronavirus-related economic fallout.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/opinion/20200724/opinion-van-brimmer-school-reopening-strategy-to-challenge-working-parents>

SCCPSS offers additional day of registration assistance

WTOC, July 25

Savannah-Chatham County schools are offering an additional day of registration assistance. It's for parents who need help with online registration ahead of the district's virtual start.

School leaders want parents to know they are here to make this process as easy as possible for them. They've implemented CDC and DPH guidelines to keep everyone safe.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/07/25/sccpss-offers-additional-day-registration-assistance/>

Virtual orientation for new SCCPSS employees

WTOC, July 28

"I'm grateful that because of technology we live in this time where we're still able to get out the important information and communication so that we're still able to do our jobs and serve the children in the upcoming school year," new SCCPSS teacher Matthew Duplessie said.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/07/28/virtual-orientation-new-sccpss-employees/>

Art off the Air: Ten years later, SCAD's donation has helped Garrison Elementary to flourish

Do Savannah, July 29

Esther F. Garrison Elementary School is resilient. A decade ago, the building and campus were in need of an overhaul. Then-Principal Lynette Angeloni partnered with Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) to reinvigorate the property with an investment totaling over \$200,000.

<https://www.dosavannah.com/news/20200729/art-off-air-ten-years-later-scadrsquos-donation-has-helped-garrison-elementary-to-flourish>

SCCPSS announces virtual open house dates

WTOC, July 29

While schools remain closed to the public, the virtual open houses will be offered to include, but not limited to, ZOOM Meetings, Google Classroom, and Video Message.

Families will receive information from your school about how to log on for the virtual open house format. They ask that you make sure to check your email, school website, or e-newsletters for additional information.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/07/29/sccpss-announces-virtual-open-house-dates/>

SCCPSS offering extra day for in-person registration assistance

WJCL, July 31

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) is offering an additional day of in-person registration assistance on Saturday. The SCCPSS notes that in-person registration is not required and is available online.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/sccpss-offering-extra-day-for-in-person-registration-assistance>

Savannah-Chatham holds virtual new-teacher orientation

Savannah Morning News, July 29

“To take that three-and-a-half day experience that they used to give and break it down into two days, (and do it) virtual, we had to filter through what is it that (new teachers) need to know,” Barron explained. “What’s the most critical at this time? And restructure our previous systems to make it work for the times that we’re in right now. We all took on different duties and responsibilities and we have been able to come up with something that we feel that our department can be proud of -- and that is supporting (our) teachers.”

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20200729/savannah-chatham-holds-virtual-new-teacher-orientation>

SCCPSS students able to exchange school supplies, pick up belongings

WTOC, July 31

About 500 students made their way back to school over the past three days to get their supplies that have sat inside the school for months, while also returning devices to prepare for the start of school in August. Staff gathered the items and created a drive-thru pick up while following CDC guidelines.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/07/31/sccpss-students-able-exchange-school-supplies-pick-up-belongings/>

Islands HS science teacher wins national STEM award

Savannah Morning News, August 5

“Teachers are selected based on their distinction in the classroom and dedication to improving science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. The award recognizes those teachers who have both deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas.”

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20200805/islands-hs-science-teacher-wins-national-stem-award>

SCCPSS board hears progress made on virtual-learning format

Savannah Morning News, August 11

All the new technology, sample class schedules, procedures for logging on and monitoring class participation are being finalized and will be ready on Aug. 19, according to district officials.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20200811/sccpss-board-hears-progress-made-on-virtual-learning-format>

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 9, 2020

Board Workshop 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Executive Session 12:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Whitney Board Room, 2 Laura Avenue