

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

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



Video highlights from the December 9 Board Meeting from Public Information Manager Sheila Blanco. Click [here](#) to watch.



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SCCPSS's record-setting graduation rate surpasses Georgia's for 6th straight year

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System's graduation rate went up nearly 2% last academic year. The rise from 87.8% to 89.7% during the 2019-2020 school year surpasses Georgia's graduation rate for the sixth year in a row. Bernadette Ball-Oliver, SCCPSS's associate superintendent of secondary schools and athletics, attributes the school system's success to the hard work of principals, counselors, teachers and advisors.

<https://www.wsav.com/news/education/sccpsss-record-setting-graduation-rate-surpasses-georgias-for-6th-straight-year/>

9 students announced as Savannah-Chatham REACH scholars

"It offers our students a chance to make a dream of theirs come true, by going to college and having part of that financial burden lifted off of them and their families," Joy Key-Smith said.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/11/17/students-announced-savannah-chatham-reach-scholars/>

Nine SCCPSS students recognized as Georgia REACH scholars

Nine middle school students in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System are one step closer to their college careers. They were recognized as Georgia REACH scholars Tuesday.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/nine-sccpss-students-recognized-as-georgia-reach-scholars>

Second Semester Operational Updates

Also, at the Informal Meeting, Maintenance and Operations provided an overview of Transportation, Facility Protocols, and Meal Services for the second semester which will begin in a continued Phase III Expanded Hybrid Learning Model. To view the presentation on Operations in the Second Semester:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVJS2N6F6934>

Choice Programs Info & Updates

At the Informal Meeting of the Board, members were provided an update on how Choice program information and applications will be handled this year since the traditional Student Success Expo has been cancelled due to the pandemic. This year a Digital Expo will replace that event. Test scores have been removed from the Choice eligibility criteria for the 2021-22 school year and four new Choice programs have been added! The new Choice programs include the Innovative Learning Academy at Hubert, Cinematic Studies at Southwest Middle, STEAM at Marshpoint and a Drone Pilot Prep Program at Windsor Forest High. To learn more:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVJS2J6F6930>

Administrative Regulation Policy IHA - Grading System

At the Formal meeting of the Board, members were presented an update regarding the implementation of the District's Grading Policy that was relaxed due to the impacts of COVID-19. Per Board requirement the policy examination was scheduled before the start of second semester. Board members supported the administration's recommendation that the relaxation remain for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVJRRD6EDCE4>

District SY 2020-21 Assessment Calendar Amendment Approved

Due to the Georgia DOE's implementation of SB 367 and the COVID-19 pandemic, several updates were necessary to the assessment calendar after the July 2020 published date. These adjustments are being made to decrease the number of high-stakes testing and to provide schools with greater flexibility to meet the needs of students and teachers throughout the period of remote and hybrid instruction.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVX3WD6DB355>**2021**

Legislative Priorities Adopted

Following a discussion at the November Board Meeting, at the December meeting, the Board adopted the 2021 Legislative Priorities. These priorities will be used as a framework for advancing the needs of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System to ensure a high-quality education is provided for every student. The primary priority of the Board for 2021 is Hold Harmless - Ensure the Georgia General Assembly PROVIDES PANDEMIC FUNDING RELIEF by holding school systems harmless for temporary drops in enrollment on FTE reporting during the FY21 year for the purposes of determining the QBE funding allotments for FY22 and FY23. See the full list of Legislative Priorities here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVJRRN6EDCED>

District Accountability System Navigation Plan for SY 2020-21

The Board approved a one-year District Accountability System Return to Learn Navigation Plan for school year 2020-21. The one-year plan was necessary based on the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19 on district instructional and operational resources. Due to those impacts, the district has tabled the work on The Way Forward 2025 strategic plan in order to address the urgent needs and concerns regarding the pandemic. School year 2020-2021 has become a transition year between the previous five-year Passport to Excellence Strategic Plan to the Superintendent's strategic plan, The Way Forward 2025 (TWF2025).

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVJRRR6EDCF0>

SCELA Update

At the Regular meeting of the Board, members received an update on the Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy which began operation as a virtual school option for families this school year. The school has 846 students currently enrolled with plans to expand over the next couple of years to 1700 students. For more information on SCELA's success this year:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scgs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVX3WD6DB355>

COVID Protocol Expenditure

The Board approved the award of Bid 21-21 Non-Contact Thermal Temperature System (Annual Contract) to Raptor PPE, LLC for a one (1) year contract with the option to renew for two (2) additional one-year renewals. Raptor PPE will provide non-contact thermal temperature systems to automatically measure temperatures of individuals entering district buildings at an estimated cost of \$300,000.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scgs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVJRUJ6EDD54>

ESPLOST UPDATES

K-12 Multi-Campus Project

The Board approved a contract with Terracon Consultants, Inc. for material testing and special inspections services including NPDES Services for the construction of the new K-12 Multi-Campus project in the total amount of \$388,629.00.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scgs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVWKTU530E4B>

New Hampstead K-8 Construction Management

The Board approved a contract with Pat Mathis Construction Company, Inc. for Construction Management Agent services for New Hampstead K-8 for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scgs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVJRUJ6EDD57>

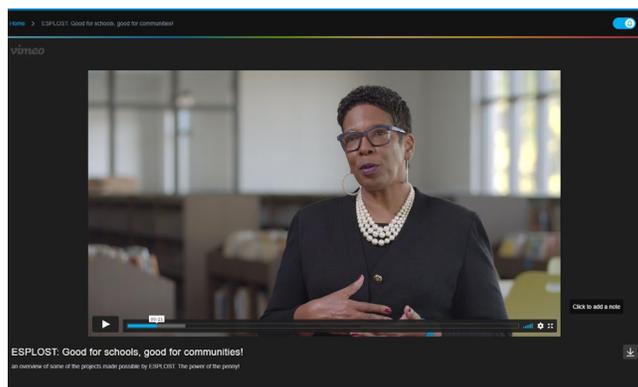
New Hampstead K-8 Construction Contract Awarded

The Board approved the award of Bid C21-01 (ESPLOST) K-12 Multi-Campus (New Construction) to CPPI of Georgia, LLC at a total cost of \$103,073,007.00.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scgs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BVJRU86EDD3F>

Project Updates

The Operations Division presented an update to the Board on ESPLOST projects throughout the District. [Here's a short video](#) describing what those ESPLOST pennies have done throughout ESPOST III.



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=BVJRR36EDCDA>

District 1 Board Member Julie Wade Recognized for Board Service

Board members bid farewell to District 1 Representative Julie Wade as she is leaving the Board at the end of the year. Ms. Wade was presented with several mementos recognizing her time on the Board.



BOEPD Chief Enoch Recognized for Service to United Way

Campus Police Chief Terry Enoch was recognized by the Board for his service to the United Way of the Coastal Empire. Chief Enoch served as the Fundraising Chairman of this year's United Way Campaign. The campaign exceeded its 8-million-dollar goal despite unique challenges presented by the global pandemic. Congratulations Chief!



MEDIA ROUNDUP

Here are a few stories about SCCPSS that you might have missed! There are good news stories ALL OVER the District! We hope you will share these stories with your friends, colleagues and families. If you'd like to subscribe to our GOOD NEWS: MEDIA ROUNDUP, click [here!](#)

Student Information Services Shows Love to Information Specialists

SCCPSS.com, December 17, 2020

Student Information Services, and her department showed appreciation to the district information specialists with a one-hour holiday drive thru. Each SIS member had a theme and a gift item to provide. "They stood out in the rain, dressed up and passed out goodies!" said Cookie Brookshire, information specialist at Hesse K-8. "In these stressful times it sure was a great feeling of positivity and warmth. They are truly the best support we have had in my 22 years of working with the board."

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Student-Information-Services-Shows-Love-to-Information-Specialists.aspx>

Professional Learning Days of Caring and Sharing

SCCPSS.com, December 11

During the month of December, the Professional Learning Department has been engaged in the "Merry Days of Caring and Sharing."

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Professional-Learning-Days-of-Caring-and-Sharing-.aspx>

SCCPSS Receives 2020 GASPA Best in Class Awards

Savannah CEO, December 10

Dr. Heather Bilton, Director of Employment - Certified Staffing, says, "We are proud to be recognized by GASPA for the innovative strategies we have implemented to get the best teachers for our students in SCCPSS."

<http://savannahceo.com/news/2020/12/sccpss-receives-2020-gaspa-best-class-awards/>

SCCPSS custodial staff on the frontlines of COVID-19 pandemic

WSAV, November 19

The custodial staff within the Savannah-Chatham County School System (SCCPSS) has been hard at work deep cleaning more than they ever have before. "In my eyes, all of the custodians are real heroes," Executive Director of Maintenance and Operations Ashok Batra said.

<https://www.wsav.com/news/coronavirus/sccpss-custodial-staff-on-the-frontlines-of-covid-19-pandemic/>

Two SCCPSS Leaders Tapped for Adviser Excellence Awards

SCCPSS.com, November 19

"Each year we recognize one teacher and one community adviser in SLP," said Chris Nowicki, Public Affairs and Community Investment Consultant, Gulfstream. "We look for advisers who are energetic, committed and engaged with the program and students. Bettina and Jeffrey are most deserving of this award."

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Two-SCCPSS-Leaders-Tapped-for-Adviser-Excellence-Awards.aspx>

Meet the man behind United Way of the Coastal Empire's life-changing campaign during COVID

Savannah Morning News, November 20

"Chief Terry Enoch is a true servant leader, a dynamic speaker and a genuinely good and kind person," said Brynn Grant, United Way of the Coastal Empire's president and CEO. "It has been a great pleasure working with him through this campaign. He was the perfect person at the perfect time."

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20201120/meet-man-behind-united-way-of-coastal-empirersquos-life-changing-campaign-during-covid>

Ready, player? Game coding introduces students to fun, rewarding career

Savannah Morning News, November 23

Thanks to a two-year, \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and a partnership with Georgia Southern University, DeRenne Middle School is one of six schools in Georgia where teachers are learning how to teach computer game coding.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20201123/ready-player-game-coding-introduces-students-to-fun-rewarding-career>

Spectacular Learning Experiences Arranged for Students in Twilight Learning

SCCPSS.com, November 23, 2020

Musical Explorers visited our Kindergarten students in Twilight learning for a special program. Musical Explorers connects elementary students to diverse musical communities – whether they are learning in-person or online.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Spectacular-Learning-Experiences-Arranged-for-Students-in-Twilight-Learning.aspx>

November is Family Engagement Month

SCCPSS.cpm, November 10

November is Family Engagement Month and the Georgia Department of Education, Family-School Partnership Program asked schools, families, and communities to come together and showcase their message of RESILIENCY. Two Savannah Chatham County Schools' films were selected for the contest. Congratulations to Rice Creek Elementary and Largo-Tibet Elementary!

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/November-is-Family-Engagement-Month.aspx>

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 13, 2021

Board Meeting

Informal: 11:00 a.m.; Regular: 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.

January 21, 2021

Capital Improvement Committee

9:00 a.m.

Whitney Board Room, 2 Laura Avenue

Meeting will be held via Zoom