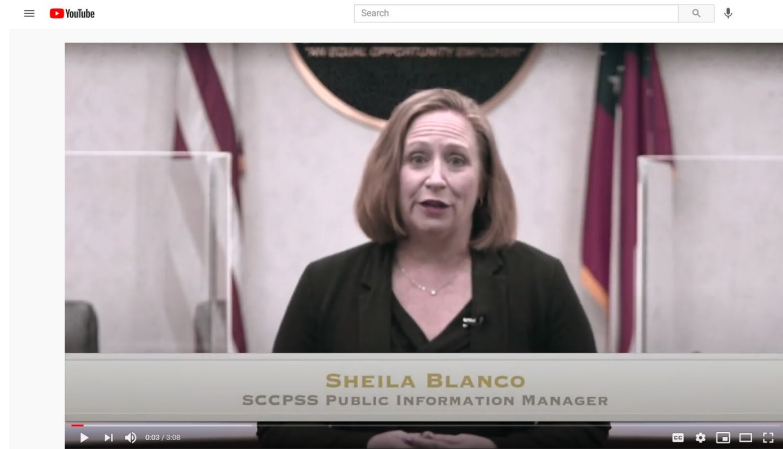


# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

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



Video highlights from the April 14 Board Meeting from Public Information Manager Sheila Blanco. Click [here](#) to watch.



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### SCHOOL BOARD

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### **New Hampstead K-8 Officially Named**

In accordance with Policy FDC and Administrative Regulation FDC-R, Naming Facilities, a team was appointed by the Superintendent to provide three proposed names for the new K-8 School constructed in western Chatham County. Three proposed names were read at the March Board Meeting and were voted on at the April meeting. The school's official new name will be New Hampstead K-8.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZ9KYC53DE86>

### **New Hampstead K-8 Opening Update**

The Board also received an update on the opening of the new school. It was scheduled to open in time to receive students for the 2021-22 SY. Unfortunately, construction has been significantly impacted by both weather and the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, opening of the school facility will be delayed and is now projected for opening in the second semester of the 2021-22 SY. In the meantime, students identified for attendance at the new school will come together in a "Swing Site" on the Godley Station K-8 Campus for the fall semester before moving to their new school in January of 2022.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZUPQS659C8F>

### **New Hampstead K-8 Attendance Zone Set**

The Board approved the proposed attendance zone modifications for Bloomingdale Elementary, West Chatham Middle, and Godley Station K-8 to create a new attendance zone for the New Hampstead K-8 School. Godley Station K-8 includes the largest number of students identified for the new attendance zone. This approach aligns with the District's goal to address capacity concerns at that school.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZUPQU659EA8>

### **SCCPSS Seeking Community Feedback**

SCCPSS has partnered with the Georgia School Board Association to create a strategic plan that will guide the District through the next five years. Part of this process involves receiving feedback from all members of the community so that we can ensure that every voice is heard, and all perspectives are considered. Please take a minute to fill out the survey at this link.

[https://savannahchatham.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4Ux5eQZDgKAfst8](https://savannahchatham.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Ux5eQZDgKAfst8)

### **Extended Learning Opportunities – Summer Learning**

At the Informal Meeting, the Board learned more about the District's Summer Learning Plan and the opportunity for our students to "EMBRACE Learning". It will be the most robust summer learning program the district has ever offered, encompassing Credit Acquisition, Acceleration and Enrichment for all students.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZTTMA7801F3>

Also...check out the promotional video for the EMBRACE Summer Learning Program - <https://youtu.be/FVI4Jj4cglc>

### **Budget Workshop**

Also at the Informal Meeting, the Board received an update on expected impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the district in the next school year and beyond. Information about CARES Act I and II, and the American Rescue Plan Act funds were shared along with top investment priorities which include addressing learning loss, purchasing technology and other activities to maintain continuity of K-12 services.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZ9KET508C88>

### **Superintendent's Operational Update**

An Operational Update was provided during the Superintendent's Report to the Board to include District planning to have students back in the classroom five days a week when the 2021-22 SY starts on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZ9KME5253DE>

### **A Return to In-Person Graduations!**

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools are planning to hold in-person graduation ceremonies this year after holding virtual ceremonies last school year due to the pandemic. Board members were provided an update on the schedule for the ceremonies to be held at T.A. Wright Stadium in May.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZTTNU783D44>

2021 Graduation Video Message - <https://youtu.be/1D8JUAJZ20o>

### **District Lead Nurse Lisa Wilson Honored**

Ms. Christine Doran, Territory Manager of AED Brands, presented an award to District Lead Nurse Lisa Wilson for her ceaseless efforts in promoting, implementing, and managing AED response programs and making Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools and our surrounding communities a safer place. Nurse Wilson is the first to receive the newly created “In It For Life” award!



### **Student of the Month Recognized**

**The Superintendent’s Student of the Month for March** is Ash’ana Burns, a Senior from Grove High School. Congratulations, Ash’ana!

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZ9KMP5253E7>



### **Bell Time Schedule for SY 2021-22 Approved**

In support of the Board’s effort to maximize resource efficiency within the District’s Pupil Transportation program, staff is proposing bell time modifications beginning in the 2021- 22 School Year for Heard, May Howard, Marshpoint, and Jacob G. Smith Elementary Schools to better align them with other elementary schools in their geographic area. In addition, a bell time of 7:50am to 2:50pm has been established for the New Hampstead K-8 to align it with the school’s neighboring high school.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZTTVZ79342F>

### **GSBA Legislative Priorities Endorsed**

The Board voted to endorse positions that the Georgia School Boards Association has taken on a variety of issues that would require Legislative Action.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZ9KY953DDA2>

### **Summer Food Service Program**

The Board approved the School Nutrition Program's opportunity to provide meals for the City of Savannah Recreation Department's Summer Feeding Program. It is anticipated the summer program will provide an estimated 40,000 meals over a thirty-eight (38) day period.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZTU5J7A61A1>

### **SCCPSS and Garden City Intergovernmental Agreement Approved**

The Board approved the District entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the city of Garden City. The agreement provides the parameters of the cooperation between the City and SCCPSS for the development of property located within Garden City formerly housing the Groves High School facility. The full performance of this agreement will result in, among other things, a Multi-School Project including Groves High School and athletic facilities pursuant to a Master Plan.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZTU5L7A6377>

### **International Teacher Recruitment Services (Annual Contract) – Renewal**

The Board approved the renewal of contracts issued under RFP 20-33 International Teacher Recruitment Services (Annual Contract) to the firm Intalage, Inc. as the primary provider, and the firm TPG Cultural Exchange, LLC as the secondary provider with an estimated annual expenditure of \$3,000,000 for School Year 2021-2022

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZTUCM7B6E19>

### **Good News from SCCPSS**

Here are some GOOD NEWS stories you may have missed!

### **STEM Academy Students' Science Fair Project Nominated for Broadcom MASTERS**

Two STEM Academy eighth graders have been nominated for the Broadcom MASTERS for their Science Fair project." Nominees Zoe Chow and Samantha Dong are among the top 10% of sixth, seventh and eighth grade competitors at a Society for Science-affiliated science and engineering fairs in the United States.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/STEM-Academy-Students%E2%80%99-Science-Fair-Project-Nominated-for-Broadcom-MASTERS.aspx>

### **Georgia Council on Economic Education Names SCCPSS Educator as March Featured Teacher**

The Georgia Council on Economic Education named Alex Seidensticker as Featured Teacher for March. Mr. Seidensticker, a teacher at the School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High School, was recognized for his efforts to make economics and personal finance interesting subjects to study by connecting what he teaches in his classroom to the daily lives of his students.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Georgia-Council-on-Economic-Education-Names-SCCPSS-Educator-as-March-Featured-Teacher.aspx>

## **Winners of Leopold's Ice Cream Creative Writing Challenge honored at Savannah City Hall**

Six of the eight winners of the 11th annual challenge were from Savannah-Chatham County public schools. The creative writing contest sponsored by Leopold's Ice Cream and the Live Oak Public Libraries asked students to compose a poem of 20 lines with the theme "Friends and Family." The contest was open to students in all schools within Chatham, Bryan, Effingham and Liberty counties.

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/winners-of-leopolds-ice-cream-11th-annual-creative-writing-challenge-honored-at-savannah-georgia-city-hall>

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/2021/03/25/savannah-springfield-students-share-poems-leopolds-ice-cream/6981898002/>

## **SCELA Student Astronaut Team Wins National Championship in Lab Design at the 2021 National Student Astronaut Competition**

Last October, in Savannah Chatham E-Learning Academy's first year, the Student Astronaut Club (SCELAnauts) qualified for the Student Astronaut Challenge Finals, typically hosted at NASA in Cape Canaveral. Earlier this month, a virtual award ceremony was held where it was announced that the team placed FIRST and are National Champions in the Lab/Design Challenge. The SCELA team also competed in the Patch and Engineering Challenges – finishing 5th and 6th in those competitions.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/SCELA-Student-Astronaut-Team-Wins-National-Championship-in-Lab-Design-at-the-2021-National-Student-Astronaut-Competition.aspx>

## **Heard Elementary Students Win in State Science Fair**

Six students from Heard Elementary School brought home first place honors in their respective categories. One of those students, third grader Oliver Duncan, won Best Overall in Show – the TOP K-5 Science Fair project in the state! This is just the second year of competition for SCCPSS schools in the K-5 Georgia State Science Fair.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Six-Heard-Elementary-Students-Win-First-Place-Awards-in-State-Science-Fair,-3rd-Grader-Wins-First-Place-Overall.aspx>

## **SMF Jazz Academy to Broadcast Spring Virtual Performance**

Savannah Music Festival recently hosted a SMF Jazz Academy music performance featuring more than 25 SCCPSS students from the School of Humanities at Juliette Gordon Low Elementary, Oglethorpe Charter School, Godley Station School, Marshpoint Elementary School, STEM Academy at Bartlett, Savannah High School and Woodville Tompkins High School.

[https://www.savannahbusinessjournal.com/news/nonprofits/april-7---smf-jazz-academy-to-broadcast-spring-virtual-performance-showcasing-musical-talent/article\\_8571c1e6-979f-11eb-832d-9bffaf6c1c83.html](https://www.savannahbusinessjournal.com/news/nonprofits/april-7---smf-jazz-academy-to-broadcast-spring-virtual-performance-showcasing-musical-talent/article_8571c1e6-979f-11eb-832d-9bffaf6c1c83.html)

## **STEM Academy Student Wins Problem Solving Writing Contest**

Sixth grade STEM Academy student Keshavi Bathula recently won the Junior Division of Georgia's Future Problem-Solving Program's Scenario Writing Competition. Keshavi has been invited to participate in the 2021 Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) Conference this June and compete in the international scenario writing competition.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/STEM-Academy-Student-Wins-Georgia-Future-Problem-Solving-Program%E2%80%99s-Scenario-Writing-Contest.aspx>

## **SCCPSS Students Selected as 2021 Governor's Honors Program Finalists & Alternates**

Seven SCCPSS students have been chosen as finalists for the 2021 Governor's Honors Program this summer at Berry College. Two students were selected as alternates.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Students-Selected-as-2021-Governor's-Honors-Program-Finalists-&-Alternates-.aspx>

## **Graffiti in a Savannah middle school bathroom sends students to national competition**

Hubert Middle School FCCLA students competed in 5 events at the Georgia Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Virtual State Leadership Conference earlier this month and will advance to the national competition in Nashville. Three students placed first and one placed second in the competitions.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/2021/04/13/savannah-chatham-students-look-forward-national-competition/7126864002/>

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Hubert-Middle-Students-Advance-to-Nationals-from-FCCLA-State-Leadership-Conference.aspx>

## **Savannah-Chatham school library staff can't fly, but they are still tech super heroes**

Just like everything else in a school building, the library has entered the 21st century. There are still shelves of books organized by the Dewey Decimal System. Readers find the books they want via a computer program and not a card catalog.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/2021/04/14/library-super-heroes-unfreeze-computers-find-books-and-other-stuff-savannah/7140711002/>

## **SCCPSS "Virtual" District Achievement Showcase Spring 2021**

In a normal year, we gather quarterly for a District Achievement Showcase. This year that hasn't been possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, we believe it's long overdue to acknowledge some of the achievements seen over the past year.

<https://patch.com/georgia/savannah/sccpss-virtual-district-achievement-showcase-spring-2021>

## **Savannah Chatham Schools superintendent Ann Levett on student, teachers getting vaccines**

Podcast with Dr. Levett and Adam Van Brimmer from the Savannah Morning News

<https://www.savannahnow.com/videos/opinion/2021/03/18/savannah-chatham-schools-superintendent-ann-levett-student-teachers-getting-vaccines/4743184001/>

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, April 22, 2021 – 8:00am

Whitney Administrative Complex - Building G

2 Laura Avenue

### **BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 - 3:30 PM

Whitney Administrative Complex - Building G

2 Laura Avenue