

# Elbert County Schools—Board Brief

## Summary of the August 31, September 14, & 18 Meetings

---

### Highlights of Presentation and Discussion Items

#### The following items were presented to the Board:

- **Finance Report** - The General Fund Revenue for the month of August was \$926,104. The General Fund Expenditures for the month of August were \$2,301,974. The Cash Balance as of August 31, 2017 was \$3,896,714. The Projected Fund Balance for June 30, 2018 is \$4,639,302. SPLOST for August was \$166,704. Two surveys were taken to determine how many employees would be interested in participating in a sick leave bank. Only 17% of the employees that responded were interested in the sick leave bank which is not enough to be viable.
- **2017-2018 Continuous Improvement Processes**-Superintendent Bell led a [presentation on the district's continuous improvement processes](#). The presentation focused on the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, The "Core Essentials," each of our school improvement plans, and this year's professional learning focus. District-wide goals are targeted on raising the graduation rate and narrowing the achievement gaps between white students, African American students, and students with disabilities. Additional goals are in place for integrating technology in teaching and learning processes, developing professional learning teams (PLTs) at all schools, and building quality assessments for learning in all grades and content areas.
- **STEM and STEAM** - Tanya Long, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Clint Winter, Instructional Technology Coordinator, presented an update to the Board on STEM/STEAM efforts in the district. They are currently working to build student and teacher interest through 1) STEM exploration 2) [Hour of Code](#), and 3) RESA STEAM collaboration. Two teachers from each school will attend RESA training. The focus is to engage students in real world problems using the teacher as the facilitator. "The Hour of Code" will be implemented in December exposing students to computer coding through hands on learning.
- **Technology Report** - The District is working to become a Google District and will purchase additional Chromebooks between now and Christmas. The wireless infrastructure at ECPS and ECMS will be upgraded for better coverage.
- **Facilities Update** - Carroll Daniel Construction and RLR Architects and Engineers, provided the Board with updated information on the ECMS track project. They shared a master plan of the site with Phase One including the track and track stadium. Plans are to have a final design by the end of October.
- **"By the Numbers"** - [Superintendent Bell's "By the Numbers" report](#) for September showed SPLOST was up \$12,000 compared to August 2016. The millage rate was updated to 16.942 showing one mil equals \$497,500. The Economic Impact for August 2017 was \$1,554,621 close to August 2016 at \$1,523,530. Employee leave days were down compared with last year.
- **Classified Employee of the Month** - Fran Veal, paraprofessional at ECPS, was recognized as the Classified Employee of the Month. Superintendent Bell presented her with a plaque of recognition.
- **Public Comment** - Gary Jones addressed the Board concerning the local newspaper's access to the new Elbert County radio system.
- **City of Bowman Lease for Use of Gym** - Jon Jarvis led a discussion on a possible secondary lease agreement with the City of Bowman to lease the Gymnasium at the former Bowman Elementary School. The Mountain Education Charter High School would have first rights for the gym. Superintendent Bell presented the lease. The Board reviewed the lease and recommended one change. The lease will be presented for approval at the October Work Session.
- **Inclement Weather Days** - School closure days due to the eclipse and hurricane were discussed. Under the Strategic Waiver System, the Superintendent and the Board will decide if the days need to be made-up. Superintendent Bell recommended waiting until after the winter to evaluate how many inclement weather days had been used to determine if any will need to be made-up.
- **The following items were approved:**
- **Personnel Recommendations** - The Board approved two Personnel Recommendations.
- **Local Board Training Plan** - The Board approved the Local Board Training Plan for FY18.