

# Elbert County Schools—Board Brief

## Summary of the May 13th & 20th, 2019 Meetings

### Highlights of Presentation and Discussion Items

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

- **Finance Report** - The General Fund Revenue to date as of April 30, 2019 was \$23,007,592. The General Fund Expenditures to date as of April 30, 2019 was \$22,189,979. Excess revenue over expenditures was \$817,613. The Fund Balance at the end of April was \$7,288,761. As of April 30, 2019 the Cash Balance was \$6,081,561. Energy use to date at the end of April was \$628,361. SPLOST collections for April were high at \$204,712.71.
- **FY2- Budget Hearing** - The first and second FY20 Tentative Budget Hearings were held at the Work Session on May 13, 2019 and the Regular Meeting May 20, 2019. CFO Keith Martin explained the budget through a power point format. Highlights included: a balanced budget in the amount of \$30,477,073, 3% local supplement based on state salary scale, 180 day school calendar, staff allocations based on student enrollment, contract custodial services, school resource officers at each school, \$3,000 raise for certified staff and 2% raise for classified staff, allocations for instructional budget and furniture replacement, increases to energy budget, bus monitors and technology budgets based on actual spending needs and, increase of .23% in retirement (TRS) with no change in health rates. He reviewed the QBE over the years 2005-2019 and austerity cuts to QBE in the amount of \$22,023,317 from 2002 -2018. The tentative budget will be published in the local paper. Questions from the public were addressed. The third public hearing will be held at the Work Session on June 10, 2019 and final approval will be at the Regular Meeting June 17, 2019.
- **Teaching and Learning** - Tanya Long updated the Board on Teaching and Learning. All schools are using curriculum mapping. ECPS, ECES, and ECMS 5th grade will use Ready Math Implementation for the 2019-2020 school year. The gifted spring testing window resulted in 63 students being evaluated for the gifted program.
- **Operations and Facilities** - The Facilities Report was given by Jon Jarvis. The softball field dugout construction is complete. Fencing on the softball field will be replaced on May 22. Fencing at the Granite Bowl will be installed before graduation. Over the summer a mobile unit from Bowman will be moved to ECPS. It will be completely renovated and used as two classrooms. The State allocated \$30,000 to each school for safety which must be applied for to replace the cameras at ECES, ECPS, and PJBLC. Security doors and walls will be added to the ECMS entrance for security.
- **Technology** - Testing has been a major priority and has been very smooth only using 1/3 of the band width. Summer projects include beefing up cyber security and ensuring infrastructure is secure. Working on an offsite backup plan and creating the technology budget to determine needs for ECMS and ESSES.
- **Superintendent's Report by the Numbers** -The economic impact for April showed BDE payroll of \$1,615,268. Employee leave and student attendance was reviewed. In comparing numbers from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 absences have been reduced at all schools but will continue to be a major priority in reducing absences to improve student outcomes.
- **Superintendent's Report** - Superintendent Bell presented QBE (Quality Basic Education) revenue information to help better understand the tentative budget, 70% of funds are generated from the state by formulas and through population FTE counts. Local revenue is 28% of the budget with 71% from the state and 1% from federal funds. As a Strategic Waiver School System, each Elbert County school must annually increase its CCRPI score by 3% of the gap between the baseline year score and 100.
- **ECMS Aspiring Chef** - EGS Nutrition Director, Bridgette Matthews, and ECMS Ag Teacher, Dixie McCarty recognized four ECMS students and their recipe for "Loaded Corn." The chef team consisted of Thomas Barclay, Brody Howell, Andre Jagger, and Coy Tademy. The team developed the recipe and was awarded a place in the state's "Aspiring Chef's Recipe Book" and a certificate.
- **Track Teams** - The ECCHS Girls Track Team won the first ever state championship and the ECCHS Boys Track Team were the AA state runners up. The teams and coaches were committed to excellence and great accomplishments through total dedication.
- **RESA "Listening Tour"** - Dr. Adam Kurtz, Special Ed Director, attended a RESA Listening Tour that was a joint meeting between GADDE and GOSA. He shared with the Board that assessment was the most discussed topic. There were concerns about the negative impact the voucher bill would have on public schools, accountability concerns, increasing costs of dual enrollment, funding for transportation and social emotional learning, and the teacher carry law were all topics of discussion.

#### The following items were approved:

- **Certified Personnel Recommendations** - The Board approved three certified recommendations for 2019-2020 academic year.
- **Personnel Resignations & Retirement** - The Board approved ten Personnel Resignations and one Personnel Retirement.
- **Personnel Recommendations** - The Board approved ten Personnel Recommendations.
- **ECSD Lawn Bid** - The Board approved the ECSD Lawn Bid to Chris Lawn Care for 2019-2020, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, in the amount of \$51,800.