

Elbert County Schools—Board Brief

Summary of the April 8th and 15th, 2019 Meetings

Highlights of Presentation and Discussion Items

The following items were presented to the Board:

- **Finance Report** - Excess Revenue over Expenditures as of March 31, 2019 was \$1,000,753. The Cash Balance as of March 31, 2019 was \$7,216,552. The Fund Balance as of March 31, 2019 was 7,472,299 pending closing entries. Energy cost to date at the end of March was \$576,941. SPLOST revenue for March 2019 was \$169,347. The FY20 Budget hearings will be held on May 13, 2019, May 20th, 2019, June 10th, 2019 and the final approval will be at the June 17, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- **Teaching and Learning** - Through a power point presentation Fran Floyd and Tanya Long explained early learning challenges and action steps. The achievement gap was defined as the situation whereas students come into school scoring significantly lower on standardized tests than their peers from different backgrounds (Foster, 2007). The District is focusing on the early level to close the gap ensuring the students are mastering the foundational skills. Students are entering kindergarten with language development issues including limited vocabulary, limited background experiences, lack of printed material in their environment, and a general lack of engaging students in meaningful conversations. 65% of kindergarten students are entering behind based on literacy and math. Every student receives intervention if needed. Early learning action steps were reviewed for 2019-2020.
- **Operations and Facilities** - Paving has been completed at the bus shop parking area, front parking at ECPS, and the Granite Bowl. New fencing at the Granite Bowl entrance will include two granite columns at the gate donated by Mr. Dell Willis. The Gym floor at ECMS was sanded and repainted. The gas leak at ECCHS science lab was repaired and all valves were replaced. Work is continuing to renovate the softball field dugout and constructing a storage building. For next year a temporary trailer with two classrooms will be moved to ECPS. It will be and will house music and academic tutors.
- **Safety Meeting** - A safety meeting was conducted on March 27 with representatives from the Sheriff's department, Police Department, EMS, and the BOE. They participated in a safety scenario involving a direct tornado in our district. They discussed how to respond if one or two of the schools had to be closed during the day and the use of coordinating services from surrounding counties. Evacuation and reunification areas were reviewed. The safety of severely handicap students, gang activities, and behavior health issues were discussed.
- **Technology** - Over spring break fiber was installed at ECMS and ECES. It was tested and certified. Summer projects include upgrading labs and a separate network for the security system at ECCHS. One to one for 4th and 5th grade students is being considered but is contingent on necessary funding resources.
- **Conditions for Success** - Superintendent Bell shared a flier showing Conditions for Success, Our District by the Numbers, Points of Pride, Budget, and the Climate survey results. The District has 455 full time personnel and 3,046 students which is 1,100 less students than in 1998.
- **Superintendent's Report by the Numbers** -The economic impact for March showed BOE payroll of \$1,631,474. Employee leave and student attendance was reviewed. Attendance is an issue the District will continue to address. ECCHS is planning a new attendance policy for next year bringing about more accountability. The number of discipline referrals at each school was reviewed and the District will continue to track because it impacts student performance. GA Milestone testing will begin the week of April 15, 2019. More information on testing is available at www.gaexperienceonline.
- **Classified Employee of the Month** - The Classified Employee of the month was recognized as Eloise McCarty, paraprofessional at ECPS. She was presented a plaque of recognition and a certificate for \$50.00 incentive pay.

The following items were approved:

- **Personnel Resignations & Retirement** - The Board approved four Personnel Resignations and one Personnel Retirement.
- **Personnel Recommendations** - The Board approved seven Personnel Recommendations.
- **Resolution** - The Board approved a Resolution to amend exhibits C and D of the Strategic Waivers School System Contract.