

The meeting kicked off with a group of Performing Arts teachers from the school district singing the National Anthem, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board member Dr. David Bringman, District Six, had a few passionate comments, explaining that the district does not receive state funding for SCCPSS's Arts programs, but that it's paid for through local taxes, expressing his gratitude to work on a Board that values the arts.

After approving the agenda, Board President Roger Moss made a number of announcements, listed remembrances, and held a brief moment of silence before moving on to the Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent Denise Watts started by awarding the September Student of the Month, a fourth grader from Gould Elementary named Steven Garcia. Garcia was sent home with a number of gifts from Board sponsors, and his ELA class all received copies of "Investigators" by John Patrick Green, donated by E. Shaver's.

Professional Senate Meeting Report

The board heard the report from the Professional Senate meeting, held on September 18th. In the meeting, teachers discussed the best practices and topics of concern from their schools. Some best practices included the utilization of apps that streamline processes, as well as school specific celebrations, while topics of concern were compensation for substitutes and lesson planning time.

The report then details the Superintendent's focus on increasing attendance and how teachers created lists of things to start, continue, and stop doing to promote attendance. Some proposed items were to start holding parents accountable for attendance, to stop changing the curriculum ever two years, and to continue daily attendance calls.

At the end, Mr. Derrick Butler proposed "C" Class absences, a work-from-home situation in which students would be allowed five "C" absences so long as they were completing their work. It was clarified that this would not be treated as a choice option, but was a way to provide flexibility in case of sickness or conflict. It was brought to a vote and supported by teachers and staff, specifically in middle and high schools.

Board Policies

Kurt Hetiger, Chief of Public Affairs/Admin. Services presented a number of board policies for review, though many required no Board action and only suggested minor changes in the language of the policy, not to the substance of the policy.

There were four reviewed policies, with two prompting questions from Board members concerning the language, but no policy was fundamentally changed. There was a lengthy conversation between Hetiger and Dr. Bringman regarding policy JGCD: Medication, and what staff would be considered a "trained professional" capable of providing medication to students. Other members of the board jumped in to discuss Georgia law regarding training to administer medication.

Hetiger resolved to provide the board with a list of each process of administering medication and training. Ultimately, there was no change to the policy.

Proclamations

There were five proclamations designating certain periods dedicated to various topics, such as School Bus Safety and Transportation Appreciation Week, National School Lunch Week, Custodial Workers Day, National School Principals Month, and Literacy Week in Chatham County. All of the proclamations were approved unanimously.

Mr. Paul Smith, representing District Five, presented the proclamation for School Bus Safety and Transportation Week. As an effort to recognize and celebrate “all transportation personnel as a vital point of a school system,” the Board set aside the week of October 21-25, 2024 as School Bus Safety and Transportation Appreciation Week.

Mr. Michael Johnson, District Seven, presented National School Lunch Week as a recognition of “valuable employees who provide nutritious meals daily to our students and who work to provide nutrition awareness for the health and well-being of our children.” National School Lunch Week is now recognized as October 14-18, 2024.

Dr. Dionne Hoskins-Brown, District Two, presented Custodial Workers Day next. Already celebrated nationally, this proclamation established Custodial Workers Day as a celebration in SCCPSS to recognize those “education professionals who work tirelessly to provide clean, well-maintained learning environments for every child we serve.” The day is October 2nd, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Tonia Howard-Hall, District Eight, presented the proclamation for National School Principals Month. Already advocated for nationally by the American Federation of School Administrators; the National Association of Elementary School Principals; and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, “the Board seeks to not only celebrate our heroes of education, but to pay tribute to all school principals for their noteworthy influence on the success and well-being of our nation’s students.” School Principals Month is celebrated in October.

Mrs. Denise R. Grabowski presented the final proclamation for Literacy Week in Chatham County. “In recognition of the importance of literacy and the great value of our collective work between teachers, staff, students, families, and the community who seek to ensure every child is powerfully literate and has all the tools needed to succeed and enjoy the benefits of a choice-filled life,” the Board designated October 15-19, 2024 as Literacy Week.

Oglethorpe Charter School

The OCS was founded in 1999, and has reached the last year of its charter. On July 15, 2024, the OCS submitted a charter renewal, but the SCCPSS Charter Review Committee found several areas it wanted clarified and/or revised. It was also concerned about the level of success OCS students were achieving. The OCS was receptive and made the appropriate

changes, and the Committee supported the charter renewal with certain recommendations intended for the duration of the charter renewal contract, including strategies for student growth, implementing instructional strategies, and developing a Professional Development Plan and a Board Training Plan.

Mr. Michael Johnson, District Seven, had a few comments before the vote, saying, "I'm going to support this, but this is your one get out of jail free card from District 7. I know you guys can do better because y'all have done better, but I am thankful that you guys are around and helping our kids."

Mr. Shawn A. Kachmar, District Four, noted that the school was heading "in the right direction" and voted in support. Dr. Tonia Howard-Hall, District Eight, commented on the positive things about the OCS, such as always having a wait-list and a high amount of parent involvement.

The board voted in favor of renewing the charter. The new charter will end on June 30, 2030.

Appointment

The board voted to appoint Stardacia Hudson as the Media Clerk for the Savannah Early College.

Consent Agenda

The Board is allowed to approve several consent agenda items in a single vote, and are provided documentation on all items well in advance to review. In this meeting, all members approved of the consent agenda items except for Mr. Shawn A. Kachmar, District Four, who abstained. The consent agenda for this meeting included items such as resignations, retirements, terminations, salary adjustments, and budget transfers.

Financials

At the end of the meeting, the Executive Director of Finance Rosalind Nathaniel presented the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the month of August, two months into the school year.

The board then voted on four different items regarding purchases for schools, such as the upgrades of Audio Enhancements for \$5,098,000; the purchase of Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment for the renovated Henderson E. Formey, Jr. Early Learning Center not expected to exceed \$941,616.56; Design Services for Georgetown K-8 Renovation & Addition with a fee of \$1,275,000.00; and a budget transfer to fund the West Chatham Elementary School Renovation in the amount of \$10,480,000.

All items were approved.

