



GCPS SCENE

School-to-Community Education News, Etc.

February 2012

FY2013 budget-setting process begins



GCPS engages in a five-month **budget process** that involves citizens and educators. The system's focus on teaching and learning is evident in its budget, shown by the fact that the vast majority of the General Fund goes toward instruction. Prior to the adoption of the budget, the school system holds numerous public hearings to engage parents, educators, and community members. The Superintendent's recommended budget will go to the Board in March. The Board will consider the budget in two work sessions in April. Copies of the recommended budget will be available for review on April 17. Two public hearings are set for May 10 and May 17, with final budget adoption expected May 17. Typically, the Board adopts the millage rate in June.

BOE elects officers, conducts annual business

At the first School Board meeting of 2012, the Gwinnett County Board of Education elected Louise Radloff (District V) and Carole Boyce (District I) as 2012 Board chair and vice chair, respectively. The Board also set meeting dates for the rest of the calendar year: Feb. 9, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, and Dec. 13. The Board will hold oversight workshops in the following areas during 2012: Business and Finance— March 15, Construction Management/Facilities Maintenance— July 19, Information Management— Sept. 20, Human Resources— Nov. 15, and School Nutrition— Dec. 13. In other annual business, the Board designated the *Gwinnett Daily Post* as the school system's official media organ, and the law firm of Thompson & Sweeny will continue as the Board's legal counsel. At the meeting, it was noted that District II Board member Daniel Seckinger was involved in a motorcycle accident in December and is making a steady recovery. He is looking forward to resuming his Board duties in full at the earliest possible date.

BOE denies Ivy Prep charter applications as submitted, offers 30-day extension for revised submission

On Jan. 19, the Gwinnett County Board of Education acted on two start-up charter applications— the current Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett and Ivy Preparatory Young Men's Leadership Academy— denying them as submitted but offering a 30-day extension to resubmit revised applications addressing identified deficiencies. In 2011, GCPS provided a one-year contract to help serve students affected by Ivy Preparatory Academy's transition from its status as a Commission Charter School. (A state court decision last May dissolved the Georgia Charter School Commission and shuttered Commission-chartered schools.) The current contract expires June 30, 2012. Concerns with the applications included the fact that petitioners did not differentiate the curriculum or offer anything different from what is offered in existing schools other than being single gender, that they did not outline curriculum or four-year planning to ensure students would meet graduation requirements, and that the budgets provided in the applications were based on income greater than the state charter school law provides.

A Publication of Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)

Questions? Call GCPS Department of Communication & Media Relations at (678) 301-6020.



Leadership appointments

William “Will” Bishop
Juanita Daunoy
Maryanne Grimes
Dr. Eric Parker
Julie Peyton

Norcross High, principal
 Meadowcreek Elementary, principal
 Central Gwinnett High, principal
 Shiloh High, principal
 Ferguson Elementary, principal

School Board extends Superintendent’s contract

The Board of Education approved an extension of CEO/Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks’ contract at the January Board meeting. The superintendent’s new two-year term commences July 1, 2012, and expires June 30, 2014. Legislation limits a Gwinnett County school superintendent’s contract to two years. Under the terms of the new contract, Mr. Wilbanks’ base salary will be the same as last year’s salary. He will see an increase in the amount contributed to the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), as determined by TRS. Mr. Wilbanks has served as Gwinnett’s superintendent since March of 1996.

Registration opens for 2012 summer classes, continues for GOC through Feb. 29

High school students can use the summer session to make up a failed class or get ahead. Some rising 9th graders choose to take PE and health during the summer to make more room in their schedules for fine arts, technical education, or other electives.

- Face-to-face summer classes will be offered at three locations— **Mountain View High, Peachtree Ridge High, and South Gwinnett High.** Students may register for face-to-face classes online at www.mypaymentsplus.com, or in person on May 31 at Peachtree Ridge High.
- Students also may register for online summer classes through **Gwinnett County Online Campus (GOC)** at www.gwinnettonlinecampus.com.

Both programs will follow a Monday-to-Thursday schedule for the 17-day session. Morning and afternoon sessions are offered for face-to-face students. Summer school registration is open online through June 4. Face-to-face classes run June 12–July 11, while online classes run June 11–July 10. Summer graduation is set for July 12.

Registration for Gwinnett Online Campus (GOC) for the 2012–13 school year runs through Feb. 29. Next year, Gwinnett Online Campus, the district’s virtual school, will be in its second year as a diploma-granting, fully accredited Gwinnett charter high school for students in grades 9–12. The online school will expand its reach in 2012–13 when Online Campus’ Middle School program opens in August to serve students in grades 6–8. Students now in grades 5–11 are eligible to enroll for 2012–13. Enrolling students do not have to be currently enrolled in a Gwinnett County school but must be a resident of the county. More information and a registration packet may be found on the Online Campus website.

Regional Science and Engineering Fair and Career Expo set for Feb. 24

This K-16 community event showcases student research, innovation, creativity, and technical expertise. The event will be held at the Gwinnett Center from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Key GCPS dates



- Feb. 9** School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Instructional Support Center
- Feb. 17** Student/Staff Holiday or Snow Make-up Day (Priority 1)
- Feb. 20** Student/Staff Holiday
- Feb. 27 & 28** Early Release for ES and MS schools for parent-teacher conferences
- Feb. 29** Last day for registration for Gwinnett Online Campus (2012–13 school year)
- March 12** Student Holiday and Staff Furlough Day
- March 15** School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., ISC

Good news from GCPS

The artwork of GCPS' talented students will be showcased during Tapestry 2012.

This year's Tapestry event will be held for three weeks at the Instructional Support Center (ISC) with opening nights on **March 5, 13,** and **20** at 7:30 p.m. The exhibit includes pottery, paintings, jewelry, and the like.

Week 1, opening March 5

The following clusters will exhibit student work: Central, Collins Hill, Dacula, Duluth, Mill Creek, Phoenix, and South Gwinnett

Week 2, opening March 13

The following clusters will exhibit student work: GIVE Centers, Oakland School, Grayson, Lanier, Mountain View, North Gwinnett, Parkview, Peachtree Ridge, and Shiloh

Week 3, opening March 19

The following clusters will exhibit student work: Archer, Berkmar, Brookwood, and Norcross

Exhibit hours:

Weekdays, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sundays, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- Marketing Education programs at **Brookwood, North Gwinnett,** and **Peachtree Ridge** high schools have earned industry certification from the American Marketing Association.
- Band directors **Brian Lambeth** of **North Gwinnett High;** **Dr. Tonya Millsap** of **Jones Middle;** **Frank Folds** and **Amanda Hertel** of **Crews Middle,** and **Mary Wilson** and **Hunter McRae** of **North Gwinnett Middle** all received the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association.
- **Debi West** of **North Gwinnett High** has been named National Art Honor Society Outstanding Sponsor of the Year for the US. **Ms. West** and **Dr. Bruce Bowman,** both of North Gwinnett High, also were recognized as Sponsors of the Year at the state level. The Georgia Art Education Association selected **Jackie Ellett** from **Duncan Creek Elementary** as Art Educator of the Year.
- **Sweetwater Middle's** WordMasters Team placed 1st in the nation with nine perfect scores.
- **Brookwood High's** literary magazine *Pegasus* earned 1st place for a magazine in its category from the American Scholastic Press Association. In addition, a 2011 graduate earned a 2011 Outstanding Art Award.
- The artwork of a **North Gwinnett High** student will be featured on the Youth Art Month flag as the overall winner of the competition and the student is invited to visit Washington, D.C., for the flag ceremony.
- **Pinckneyville Middle's** band performed at the Southeastern United States Middle School Band Clinic.
- **Peachtree Ridge High** Orchestra Teacher **Bernadette Scruggs** was named 2012 Teacher of the year by the Georgia American String Teacher Association.
- The Georgia Department of Education recognized **33 Gwinnett Schools** as **2012 Title I Distinguished Schools** for making Adequate Yearly Progress for three or more consecutive years under No Child Left Behind.
- **35 Gwinnett schools** were honored under the Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS), which recognizes Georgia schools for their continuous improvement in raising student achievement and closing achievement gaps on state curriculum tests and Adequate Yearly Progress.
- The **GCPS STEM Targeted Education Program Academy** at **Sweetwater Middle** received an Innovation Grant under Race to the Top. The STEP Academy uses accelerated coursework, mentoring, and a Biotechnology Research and Development career pathway program to serve at-risk, overage 8th grade students. GCPS is partnering with Gwinnett Technical College and the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce for the program.
- The Foreign Language Association of Georgia has named **Dr. Robert Patrick** of **Parkview High** as 2012 K–12 Teacher of the Year, and his daughter, **Miriam Patrick** of **Duluth High,** has been named the 2012 K–12 Teacher of Promise.
- A community member donated more than 1,200 books to **Rockbridge Elementary** students to celebrate her birthday. The books were “birthday presents” from friends and family.
- An alliance of robotics teams from **Brookwood High** and **Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology** took 1st place at a recent tournament to qualify for the World Championship in April.
- 41 **GCPS** educators have been selected for Cohort 3 of the Aspiring Leader Program.
- A **North Gwinnett High** student won a scholarship to the Savannah College of Art and Design for a 1st place entry in the Jewelry Challenge.
- The YMCA identified **Benefield Elementary** as a recipient of a grant benefitting Hispanic students to receive free, after school opportunities.
- The Lanier Cluster Education Foundation awarded **Lanier Middle** a \$5,000 Insuperity Grant to purchase eReaders and eBooks to promote reading.