There was no Work Session held this month.
The Decatur County Board of Education met for its regular monthly meeting November 10, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Decatur County Schools Support Center. Members present were: Dr. Sydney Cochran, Chairman, Mr. Bobby Barber, Jr., Mr. Kelvin Bouie, Sr., Mr. Jacky Grubbs, Mr. Keith Lyle and Mr. Winston Rollins.

Dr. Cochran called the meeting to order. Mr. Jacky Grubbs gave the invocation. The inspirational message was provided by West Bainbridge Elementary School Essay Contest Winners which were: Juliana Siler, Kourtlyn Bryant, Olivia Griner, Hallie Donalson, and Brianna Edwards. The winners read their essay entitled, *What Thanksgiving Means to Me*. The winners were introduced by West Bainbridge Elementary Principal, Mr. Jamie Ard and Student Council Sponsor, Ms. Natalie Howard. Mr. Ard recognized all Veterans in the audience by having them stand.

Mr. Winston Rollins made a motion to accept the agenda. Mr. Jacky Grubbs gave a second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kelvin Bouie made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Bobby Barber made the second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION and PRESENTATIONS:**

Superintendent Cochran presented:
- **BMS - DOE Student Advisory Council Participant** – Superintendent Cochran along with Bainbridge Middle School Principal, Mr. John Wooden recognized BMS student Corbin Austin as a Department of Education Student Advisory Council Participant whom will represent Decatur County Schools.
- **BMS Cookbook - Shape Grant STEM Product** - Superintendent Cochran along with Bainbridge Middle School Teacher, Ms. Tabitha Spooner, recognized Bainbridge Middle School students Briuna Anderson, Kaelyn Knight, Aerial McDaniel, and Aushjua Walden whom authored a STEM Cookbook. Copies of the cookbook were given to Board Members.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

As there was no Work Session Superintendent Cochran reviewed the Superintendent Informational Item Sheet as follows:
- Board Meeting Dates for 2017
- System Overview
No Work Session for December Board Meeting

Thanksgiving Holidays – Monday through Friday, November 21-25, 2016

GSBA Annual Conference – December 2-3, 2016, Renaissance Waverly Hotel, 2450 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta GA

I. Administrative Services Report:

A. Financial: Tim Matthews, Chief Financial Officer reported that with 33% of the school year completed, we are 1% under budget. ESPLOST receipts for October were $288,000.00 which is down from the prior month. Mr. Matthews noted that we are at 24% on Revenue and 32% on Expenditures of the System’s Budget.

B. School Food Service: Mrs. Debbie Purcell, SFS Director reported that with 33% of the year complete, SFS had expended 30% of their budget. Mrs. Purcell complimented Bainbridge Middle School on serving the Thanksgiving lunch today. Mrs. Purcell also reported that our annual Thanksgiving lunches were served today in all of the school cafeterias.

C. Maintenance: Jerry Mills, Maintenance Director – No report.

D. Transportation: Steve Caulder, Transportation Director, reported that the Transportation Department will continue to monitor routes and prepare for winterizing buses.

E. Kathy Varner, Federal Programs Director, reported that the Regional Parent Involvement Meeting (PIC) will be held in January, 2017 at the Kirbo Center with Decatur County Schools serving as the host. She also reported that on November 14, 2016, the Dr. Seuss Early Learning Literacy workshop partnering with the CAFÉ’ Project, Family Connections and Gilbert H. Gragg Library will be held at Elcan-King Elementary School at 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Varner also noted that Short Term Action Plans (STAPs) for School Improvement will be held in the next two weeks to review school goals. Also, she stated that the Migrant PAC Night had been held.

F. Dr. April Aldridge, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning reported that all schools are continuing to work on teaching non-negotiables. The system is increasing teacher collaboration with instructional rounds focusing on literacy and math. Numerous engaging opportunities for students are happening throughout our schools. BASF will be at West Bainbridge Elementary School tomorrow for their STEM Partnership.

G. Catherine Gossett, Exceptional Education Director, reported good news from the Department of Education District Determination Statistics. For the fifth straight year our department has received a “meets requirements” in accordance with compliance regulations as required by the law that governs special education. Mrs. Gossett further stated that our system’s graduation rate for students that receive special education services improved. In FY 15, our annual event rate was 42.2%. In FY16- last year, our
rate was 76.7%. Our graduation level and event grad rate has increased to 76% which is above the state average. Mrs. Gossett also commented that this improvement is due to the hard work of regular and special education teachers, paraprofessional staff, and administrators across this system.

H. Steve Dunn, Technology Director – No report.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Recommendation First Reading of Board Policy IHF. Mr. Kelvin Bouie made a motion to accept the first reading of Board Policy IHF which will remain on the table for 30 days.

2. Adoption of SPLOST Resolution for March 2017. Resolution to continue a One Percent Sale and Use Tax for Education. Mr. Bobby Barber made a motion to recommend approval of the SPLOST Resolution for March 2017. Mr. Kelvin Bouie gave the second. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Recommend Approval of Out of Town/Overnight Field Trips – (No cost to BOE).
   (2) BHS Student Initiative Leadership Conference – Thomas University, Thomasville, Georgia, November 11 – 12, 2016. Mr. Winston Rollins made a motion to accept the Out of Town/Overnight Field Trip requests. Mr. Bobby Barber made a second to the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

4. Recommendation of Personnel – Superintendent Cochran presented the Board with the November 2016 personnel recommendations and resignations. Mr. Kelvin Bouie made a motion to accept the personnel recommendations and resignations. Mr. Jacky Grubbs made a second to the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bobby Barber made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jacky Grubbs made a second to the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned.

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J. Sydney Cochran
Chair or Presiding Officer

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Tim Cochran
Secretary