



BCS News & Notes

A newsletter for parents, students, staff and community

Oct. 14, 2011

Board approves fiscal 2012 budget

The Birmingham Board of Education approved the budget for the district for the 2012 fiscal year at a special called meeting Oct. 13.

The general fund budget is \$202.5 million. "In order to balance this budget, we looked at everything," said Chief Financial Officer Arthur Watts.

One key factor was the district's ability to cut costs in fiscal 2011 and end that fiscal year with a small surplus. "We are projecting that we ended the 2011 fiscal year with approximately a \$2.7 million balance," Watts said. "That is a huge accomplishment."

The \$2.7 million is being rolled over into fiscal 2012, and the budget also includes \$2.5 million in proceeds from the sale of surplus real estate.

In addition, the budget assumes that there will be no proration of the state education trust fund in fiscal 2012.

The fiscal 2012 budget is \$32 million lower than the 2011 version. The district has lost nearly \$10 million in state funding and \$23 million in federal funds.

Watts said the Birmingham City School System is in better financial condition than many in the state that ended fiscal 2011 in the red. The Birmingham district also has no short- or long-term debt.



City Councilman Jay Roberson is surrounded by student leaders at Phillips Academy as he speaks about the "Keep It 100" campaign for 100 days of non-violence. He enlisted the students to help with the initiative.

Ribbon cutting scheduled for Ramsay

Birmingham City School System officials will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovations and additions at Ramsay High School at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 27.

The project included a new competition gymnasium, a new fine arts wing, new science classrooms and a new kitchen and cafeteria. Areas such as the courtyard and boys' and girls' locker rooms were renovated as part of the \$18.5 million construction.

District-wide open house set

The Birmingham City Schools will have its second district-wide open house Tuesday, Nov. 15.

All stakeholders -- not just parents but community members, business leaders, grandparents and others -- are being encouraged to participate. Visitors may go to any school in the district between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to take a tour, visit classrooms or even eat lunch.

The open house is being done as part of the district's observation of American Education Week.



Students at Daniel Payne Middle School tour the tornado intercept vehicle, which was on display along with the Doppler on Wheels research truck. The McWane Center and the Discovery Channel teamed up to make a presentation at the school that included a special 3D showing of "Tornado Alley."



Did you know that the Birmingham City School System has more than 1,000 gifted students in grades three through eight? That's the number revealed by the recent Child Count information sent to the Alabama State Department of Education. Third- through fifth-graders participate in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program one day a week. Tamara Williams, left, is a new GATE teacher for fourth grade students in the Southwest Cluster. Robert Martindale, right, is a new GATE teacher for fifth-graders in the Central Cluster.

Wenonah students participate in summit

Students from Wenonah High School participated in the Keystone Center Youth Policy Summit held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens during the summer.

The summit was an intramural collaborative effort to discuss problems and discover some solutions regarding the use of Alabama's water resources.

Wenonah environmental science teacher Ruqayyah Aqeel and students Mercedes Moore, Jamila Mims and Adyneshia Carter participated.

To read the Final Policy Recommendations Report, go to http://www.youthpolicysummit.org/images/Reports/Alabama_2011_Final_Recommendations.pdf.

Board to meet at Wilkerson Oct. 25

The Birmingham Board of Education will have a regularly scheduled meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, at Wilkerson Middle School, 116 11th Court North.

Ad hoc committee to meet

The Birmingham Board of Education Ad Hoc Committee on Extracurricular Activities will meet at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, in the board room of the Administration Building, 2015 Park Place.

Policy Committee sets meeting

The Policy Committee of the Birmingham Board of Education will meet at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, in the board room of the Administration Building, 2015 Park Place.



Students from Minor Elementary School participate in a free XO laptop computer workshop during the summer. The UAB Department of Sociology and Social work sponsored a workshop for students and teachers from select schools from the Birmingham system through a grant from the National Science Foundation. Teachers are participating in ongoing professional development through November.

Stories needed for newsletter

If you know of something good happening in the Birmingham City Schools and you want to tell others the news, write a few paragraphs for BCS News & Notes and e-mail the information to Michaelle Chapman, director of communications, at mchapman@bhm.k12.al.us. Digital photos also are needed. Ms. Chapman is editor of "BCS News & Notes."