



# Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

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## ADVISORY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

December 6, 2023

### CCPS Shares December 4 BOE Meeting Recognitions Recap

**JONESBORO** - On Monday, December 4, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Dr. Anthony W. Smith joined the Clayton County Board of Education (CCBOE) in honoring students, teachers, community stakeholders, and administrators for a series of accomplishments as well as in recognition of special events!

As the recognition portion of the meeting got underway, the Board and Superintendent recognized individuals who received ASPIRE Awards for 2023 as presented by the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs. ASPIRE stands for Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education and honors individuals and organizations who have significantly contributed to the physical, social, and intellectual well-being of children and adolescents with physical disabilities and impairments through the power of athletics. The following were honored during the ceremony: Outstanding Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year - Kila-Ray Brown; Senior Athlete Of the Year - Tadaisia Hillman; Adapted Sports Team of the Year - Clayton County Eagles – Clayton County Public Schools. The adapted sports team of the year consists of scholars from various schools and are as follows: Jonesboro High School - Jaedin Lowe, Kila-Ray Brown, Edward Rhone, Erika Ramotar, Jose Aguirre, and Andrew Dotson; Mundy's Mill High School - Brandon Ellis and Gary Woodruff; Mundy's Mill Middle School - Laniya Jones; and North Clayton Middle School - Abriya Douglas.

Continuing the recognitions, the next honorarium was provided to the North Clayton Middle School Football team as they defeated John Lewis Middle School of Atlanta Public Schools to claim the 2023 Middle School State Championship! This is the second consecutive State Championship earned by North Clayton Middle School. Additionally, the team earned the 2023 Clayton County Middle School Football Championship. North Clayton Middle School Tigers, under the leadership of Coach Corey Washington, are now on an incredible 22-game winning streak. As recognitions continued, district leaders honored winners of the first-ever Helen Ruffin Picture Book Reading Bowl! While this is the seventh annual picture book reading competition held within CCPS since being created by Media and Libraries Services Coordinator, Mr. Craig Coleman, 2023 is the first year that the organizers of the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl have included the picture book (kindergarten through 3rd grade competition) as part of its offerings with the intent of expanding to regional and national level competitions in future years. Following the same format at the annual Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, teams from 25 CCPS Elementary Schools competed using quizzing buzzers to answer questions about the twenty picture books nominated for the Georgia Picture Book Award. Earning first place, were students of Kay R. Pace Elementary School; second place winners were Jackson Elementary School; and third place was Tara Elementary School.

Next, the Board and Superintendent honored the winners of the district's first-ever Spanish Spelling Bee Competition which was held in November. Nearly 30 fourth through sixth-grade students, representing 13 elementary and middle schools participated in this historic event.

The students, who were determined in school-wide or class-based competitions, were asked to spell words, in Spanish. The bee lasted 11 rounds before a winner was declared. The winning word was espárrago. Winners of the first annual Spanish Spelling Bee Competition include Champion - Johana Martinez-Ramirez - Grade 5 - Fountain Elementary; 1st runner up - Oliver Del Amo - Grade 5 - Haynie Elementary; 2nd runner up - Johny Garcia - Grade 4 - Kilpatrick Elementary; and 3rd runner up - Ailish Chim-Santay - Grade 5 - Marshall Elementary.

Moving through recognitions, the next honorarium was presented to Lindsey Blackwell, a senior at Stilwell School of the Arts, as she was selected as a Coca-Cola Scholarship semi-finalist! Selected as one of 1,514 high school seniors across the country, her selection was based on her academic excellence, leadership, and service demonstrated in school and community activities. This selection puts her in the running for one of 150 college scholarships worth \$20,000. Additionally, the Clayton County Board of Education recognized Dr. Terry Young, Principal of the Perry Career Academy, as the Georgia Association for Alternative Educators (GAAE) Administrator of the Year! He has been part of CCPS for 20 years and has served as the Executive Director/Principal of the Perry Career Academy since 2012, providing students in CCPS an opportunity to earn a high school diploma in a nontraditional setting!

As recognitions neared an end, two special recognitions were presented by Ms. Jessie Goree - Chair of the Clayton County Board of Education and representative of District 3. The first was presented to Dr. Maude Turnipseed, in appreciation for her continued support of the school district and community and for her donation of 100 pairs of athletic shoes that have been given to the students throughout the district. The second was presented to Ms. Maria Rosario Herrera, who is a former participant in the district's Even Start Program led by Board Chair Goree. This program was designed for individuals who learned to speak English. Ms. Herrera was honored for becoming a U.S. citizen. Following this recognition, the Board of Education members recognized the district's earning of a Leading Edge Award for 2023, as presented by the Georgia School Boards Association. This honor is presented to school districts that are leading the way in ensuring students are competitive in an ever-changing global market! Lastly, attendees of the meeting saluted the Clayton County Board of Education for achieving the status of an Exemplary School Board as recognized by the Georgia School Boards Association. This is the highest level of achievement given by the organization and has been earned by the Board of Education every year since 2015.

Please join us as we congratulate these individuals on these amazing accomplishments and on receiving these recognitions and commend each of them for their excellent representation of Clayton County Public Schools! They exemplify our aspiration of "building a better tomorrow, day." In addition, we thank the Kay R. Pace Elementary School the Arts "Pace Performers" Choral Group, and the M.D. Roberts Middle School of the Arts Orchestra for providing seasonal entertainment at the start of the meeting for attendees.

To view images from the Board of Education Meeting recognitions, please click the following link:

<https://ccpscommunications.client-gallery.com/gallery/boe-december-regular-meeting>

**-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-**

**About Clayton County Public Schools:** Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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