

On Monday, May 1, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Interim Superintendent Dr. Anthony W. Smith joined the Clayton County Board of Education (CCBOE) in honoring students, staff, and administrators for a series of accomplishments as well as in recognition of special events!

Kicking off the recognition portion of the Clayton County Board of Education meeting, the Board and Interim Superintendent welcomed Clayton County Solicitor General Mr. Charles Brooks to the stage. Mr. Brooks presented laptop computers to the Class of 2023 Valedictorians and Salutatorians - the top-ranked students academically at their respective schools. Those seniors receiving computers were (Valedictorian is listed first, Salutatorian is listed second for each school):

- Charles R. Drew - Fatou Tunkara, Jeraldi Martinez and Thusnay Onpheng;
- Elite Scholars - Ava Makenzie Flanigan & Amy Pham;
- Forest Park - Eduardo Gopar Gopar & Giang Tran;
- Jonesboro - Lillian Huynh & Chukwuagozie Onyinanya;
- Lovejoy - Antoinette Robinson & Zamaria Wallace;
- Morrow - Tina Ngo & Jenna Nguyen;
- Mt. Zion - Justis Mileo Simmonds, Tochi Emmanuel Azubuike and Kevin Tran Ho;
- Mundy's Mill - Aniyah Patterson & Sanyla Clark;
- North Clayton - Danielle Cofield & Unique Ward;
- Riverdale - Jenny Adams and Bralon Burgess, Jessica Nguyen;
- M.E Stilwell - Courtney Johnson & Barbara Simmons;
- Perry Career - Tanasia S. Hulett & Alvin W. Brown

Next, the BOE welcomed Clayton County District Attorney, Ms. Tasha Mosley, for the purpose of awarding the Tasha Mosley Technical Awards to 24 seniors who were recommended by their respective schools. Each student received a laptop and a desktop printer to serve as resources for their post-secondary educational endeavors! Those receiving the Tasha Mosley Technical Awards were:

- Charles R. Drew - Danisha Winfield and Maya Beckett;
- Elite Scholars - Anum Juma and Reyli Olivo;
- Forest Park - Inioluwa Victoria Akinola and Wilson Nguyen;
- Jonesboro - Aarione Jackson and Royce Holloway;
- Lovejoy - Briyana Panton and Godswill Ijale;
- Morrow - Rickie Tarver and Jamir Sweet-Parham;
- Mt. Zion - Nevaeh Jones and Teddy Bien-Aimé;
- Mundy's Mill - Reagan Qualls and Jaiden Edwards;
- North Clayton - Solinee Crawford and Devyn Cuadra;
- Riverdale - Lau'Ryn-Ashley Stephens and Kennedy Pintard;
- M.E Stilwell - Ryan Leaks and Eric Ortiz-Hernandez; and
- Perry Career - Mixee Quezada Cervantes and Asiayunna A. Wingfield

In connection with the Class of 2023 and graduation, the first cohort of the CCPS REACH Georgia program to graduate was honored by the Board and the district's administration.

Members of the cohort present were given their graduation cords. Upon graduation later this month, each of these students will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Seniors recognized were:

- Danielle Cofield, North Clayton High School;
- Eduardo Gopar Gopar, Forest Park High School;
- Shania Swan, M.E. Stilwell School of the Arts

Other members of the cohort are:

- Jasmine Hill and Kaitlyn Richards, Charles Drew High School;
- Nyla Hambrick, Lovejoy High School;
- Skakiya Harp, Riverdale High School

Continuing the recognition portion, Mr. Mitch Johnson of Primerica announced the winners of the Sixth Annual Perfect Pitch Competition. Held in March 2023, student teams from the district's high schools competed to deliver the perfect elevator pitch. Judging was based on a rubric scored by community business leaders. Awards were in the form of trophies and cash prizes. Third place went to Forest Park High School, with each student receiving \$75 and its coach getting \$100. Second place was won by Jonesboro High School. Each student received \$150 with the Coach receiving \$100. First place was won by Elite Scholars Academy. Students Phillip Abraham, Isa Bah, Alison Gomez-Cortes, Josiah Lowery, and Taylor Malone each received \$300 and coach Mariah Balwin was awarded \$175. The winner of the Overall Individual prize of \$300 was Emily Espin-Madriral of Forest Park High School.

Next, the Board recognized CCPS students who were winners at the 2023 Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. Amy Pham from Elite Scholars Academy won the Wesleyan College Math & Science Award and Best in Category for the Senior Division in Physical Science. Darion Ayoola from Elite Scholars Academy won first place in the Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Biotechnology Award and is one of the Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenges Nominees. He is a recipient of the University of Georgia Department of Cellular Biology Award and won best in category for Life Science in the Junior Division. To top it all off, Darion Ayoola won the Georgia Science & Engineering Fair Outstanding 7th Grade Project. Nia Barlow came in second place at the Georgia Science & Engineering Fair in the category: Georgia Society of Professional Engineers Best Use of Engineering Skills Award. The Board also recognized winners in the 2023 K-5 Georgia College Science and Engineering State Fair competition. Students honored were Ayelen-Heli Dominguez, Bella Williams, Denise Gaspar Gonzalez, Amy Pham, Cairo Lembrick, Vanessa Neal, Taryn Fleming, and Gabriel Burtt. Teacher Rajini Sundararaj of the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts was announced as a state finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Moving along through the recognition portion of the meeting, the Board honored Adamson Middle School students for earning the right to represent Clayton County and the state of Georgia at the National History Day National Competition at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland. Their category is Junior Group Performance and their topic is Analyzing The Historical Impact on Minorities During The Spanish Flu of 1918-1920. Team members are Litzy Sanchez, Candessa Barker, Breonne Fuller, Lauren Dang, and Kyrie Dial. Mr. Johnny Walker is their teacher advisor/coach.

The Board and Interim Superintendent recognized three staff members for their accomplishments within the district and beyond. Ms. Andrea Wade of Swint Elementary School has been named CCPS Media Specialist of the Year. She will represent the district during state-level competition. Ms. Kasheria Guy Robinson has been named the Georgia School Social Worker of the Year by the School Social Workers Association of Georgia. Ms. Robinson has worked for CCPS for 19 years and has been a key contributor to all facets of School Social Work throughout the district. Ms. Janis McCalister of Lee Street Elementary has been named to the 50 Professional National Educators Association Global Fellowship Cohort. She will visit South Africa in July 2023. In June, Ms. McCalister will visit Ghana for the Center 4 TransAtlantic Leadership and Progressive Studies.

As recognitions neared an end, the Board recognized the winners of the Elementary School Basketball and Cheerleading competition. Cheering teams honored were:

- Novice Champions: McGarrah Elementary;
- Intermediate Champions: Kilpatrick Elementary;
- Advanced Champions: Smith Elementary

It was announced that Smith Elementary was named Grand Champion of the Cheering competition. The Board then welcomed the winner of the basketball tournament, Thurgood Marshall Elementary School.

As the final recognition of this portion of the meeting, the Board recognized the 2023 Hear Our Voices (HOV) winners. Hear Our Voices is the district literary competition that requires students to create original works of literature in the genres of narrative, poetry, essay, multimedia, spoken word, or speech. Through HOV, students are able to strengthen literacy skills and utilize them beyond the academic setting. All 70 Hear Our Voices winners are featured in the annual *Hear Our Voices* magazine. The Department of English Language Arts has scheduled a reception, on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, to recognize and honor all winners.

Lastly, as part of this Board Meeting, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Anthony W. Smith recommended and received approval for the appointments below of district leaders to aid the district in achieving the goal of “Building a Better Tomorrow, Today!”

- ❖ Dr. Pamela Pitts, Executive Director of Career, Technical & Agricultural Education (CTAE) in the Teaching & Learning and Strategic Improvement Division
- ❖ Dr. Wakea Brown, Director of Staff Development in Teaching & Learning and Strategic Improvement Division
- ❖ Dr. William Greene, Director of Staff Development in Teaching & Learning and Strategic Improvement Division

To view or rewatch the Clayton County Board of Education Board Meeting, please visit the following link to access the rebroadcast of the Monday, May 1, 2023, meeting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXUVej13RyQ>.

To view photos taken during the meeting, please visit <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sjvzitkacll3i77/AAB2DK1QgiA570cCco4r-okZa?dl=0>.

Please join us as we congratulate these individuals on these amazing accomplishments and on receiving these recognitions as well as commend each of them for their excellent representation of Clayton County Public Schools!