

# November 2014

Conceive it,  
Believe it,  
Achieve it



Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## Candler County Board of Education Looks to Move to Charter System

Following a state mandate that school systems must choose from one of three status options, Candler County Board of Education opted in March to seek Charter School System Status. In presentations to local school and civic groups, Superintendent Tom Bigwood explained, "The Charter System choice provides broad-based flexibility in how the instruction is designed and delivered to our students. The Board of Education feels that this choice will lead to more engaging and innovative learning opportunities for our students." The other options available were Status Quo and IE2 (Excellence in Education). According to Bigwood, recent stakeholder surveys and interviews have revealed a desire to see the local school system more innovative in fine arts, career technology agriculture education (CTAE) and acceleration opportunities for students. *(continued below)*

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2 Daylight Savings Ends	3 MES School Council 12pm-1pm	4	5	6	7 PreK & 2nd Grade Turkey & Dressing Dinner	8
9	10	11 Teacher of the Year Banquet 6pm-8pm Veterans Day	12	13 MMS-Progress Reports Sent Home	14 MIS School Council 11am-12pm Kindergarten & 1st Grade Turkey & Dressing Dinner	15
16	17	18 MIS Family Read Night 6pm-7pm Board Workshop 8:00	19	20 MIS Picture Retakes MMS School Council 12pm-1pm Board Meeting 4:30	21 MIS Thanksgiving Dinner MES Heritage Day Cookout	22
23	24 School Holiday	25 School Holiday	26 School Holiday	27 Thanksgiving School Holiday	28 School Holiday	29
30	<p>The local board will seek additional input from community members, parents, other school systems, students, teachers and administrators regarding innovations that would help students achieve and excel in the workplace as well as in post-secondary training. The investigation of the Charter School System has been an ongoing process with the board members and staff. What are charter schools? "Charter schools," Bigwood explained, "are public schools with more flexibility, that are free from many of the regulations that govern traditional public schools and are based on partnerships with local communities and businesses. Under the charter system, a local district will be given flexibility from almost all Title 20, state BOE rules and GaDOE guidelines. With a charter, the district gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability. Schoolbased leadership and decision-making are features of the system as well." "The charter system is unique," Bigwood said, "in that the emphasis is on parent/community involvement, including a maximum school level governance and is approved by the local school board at a public meeting. By opting for the charter system, the board could experience possible savings through flexibility and regular QBE funding with more local school system expenditure controls as well as a possible \$87 pre-austerity cut per student." To offer input please email Dr. Tom Bigwood, superintendent at <a href="mailto:tbigwood@metter.org">tbigwood@metter.org</a>.</p>					