The Board Brief

July 17, 2023

This edition of The Board Brief is a summary of the information presented and actions taken at the Board of Education's Called Meeting on July 17, 2023.

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Watch the Presentation

Watch the Bibb County Board of Education Called Board Meeting held on July 17, 2023.



Information

Board Reviews Millage Rate Proposals

On Monday, July 17, Chief Financial Officer Sharon Roberts presented Board members with an overview of possible millage rate options for FY 2024 based on the Macon-Bibb County Preliminary Tax Digest.

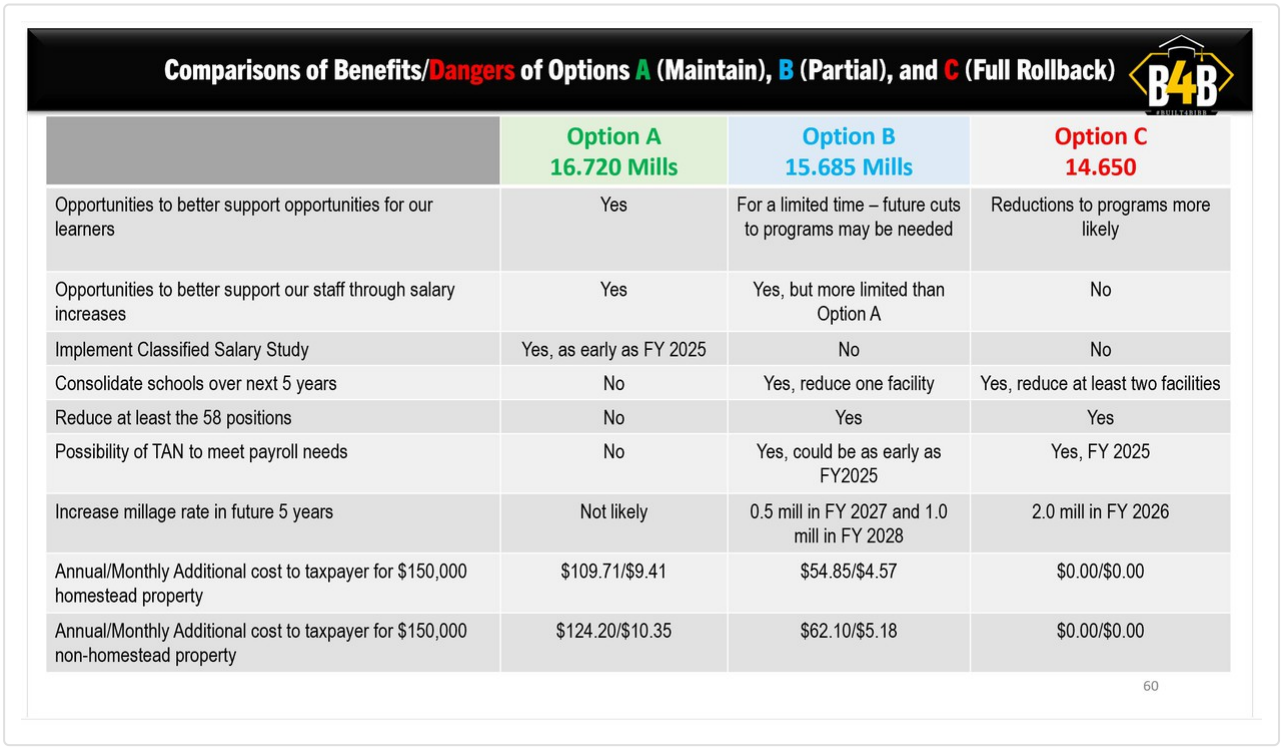
The purpose of the presentation was to share the preliminary digest numbers and preliminary rollback millage rate with the Bibb County Board of Education. The Board was presented with three options - A, B, and C - for millage rates. Option A maintains the current millage rate. Option B includes half of the rollback millage rate. Option C is the full rollback millage rate. The options provided show the corresponding implications for future budgets and financial stability of the District.

The Bibb County School District's millage rate has experienced a rollback for 6 consecutive years prior to this year. The current millage rate for the most recent year was 16.720 mills, which is lower than that in 2012, which was 17.945 mills.

- Under Option A, maintaining the current millage rate, the millage rate would be 16.720 mills. Three Public Hearings would be held prior to a final vote.
- Under Option B, the District would conduct a 1.035 mill rollback (half of the rollback millage rate) for a total millage rate of 15.685 mills. Three Public Hearings would be held prior to a final vote.
- Under Option C, which includes a full rollback of the millage rate by 2.070 mills, the millage rate would be 14.650 mills. No Public Hearings would be required for Option C.

The decision in setting the CY 2023 millage rate will determine the level of funding the District has available to continue to support current and/or new educational programs, schools,

of Student Achievement, Staff Effectiveness and Stakeholder Engagement. It could position the District to better compete with surrounding Districts' salaries, which effect recruitment and retention efforts for FY 2024 and beyond.



Comparisons of Benefits/Dangers of Options A (Maintain), B (Partial), and C (Full Rollback)

	Option A 16.720 Mills	Option B 15.685 Mills	Option C 14.650
Opportunities to better support opportunities for our learners	Yes	For a limited time – future cuts to programs may be needed	Reductions to programs more likely
Opportunities to better support our staff through salary increases	Yes	Yes, but more limited than Option A	No
Implement Classified Salary Study	Yes, as early as FY 2025	No	No
Consolidate schools over next 5 years	No	Yes, reduce one facility	Yes, reduce at least two facilities
Reduce at least the 58 positions	No	Yes	Yes
Possibility of TAN to meet payroll needs	No	Yes, could be as early as FY2025	Yes, FY 2025
Increase millage rate in future 5 years	Not likely	0.5 mill in FY 2027 and 1.0 mill in FY 2028	2.0 mill in FY 2026
Annual/Monthly Additional cost to taxpayer for $150,000 homestead property	$109.71/$9.41	$54.85/$4.57	$0.00/$0.00
Annual/Monthly Additional cost to taxpayer for $150,000 non-homestead property	$124.20/$10.35	$62.10/$5.18	$0.00/$0.00

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Option A

- Option A of maintaining the millage rate at 16.72 mills adds additional revenue of $10.4 million to the FY 2024 budget and each following year, which results in the following:
- Provides opportunities to better support learning opportunities for our learners.
- Provides opportunities to better support our staff.
- Positions BCSD to offer more competitive salaries to our staff. This in turn will help with recruitment and retention issues.
- For a homeowner with a $150,000 home with homestead exemption, their annual taxes only increase by $109.71 or $9.14 a month.
- For a homeowner with a $150,000 home without homestead exemption, their annual taxes only increase by $124.20 or $10.35 a month.
- Even without having to consolidate schools or make major expenditure reductions the fund balance to expenditure ratio does not fall below 15% until FY 2027.
- With making the additional expenditure cuts of operating two less facilities and reducing 58 overall positions, we can fully implement the cost of the classified salary study in FY 2025 and still not drop the fund balance to expenditure ratio below 11.9% until FY 2030.

Option B

- Option B of approving the millage rate at 15.685 mills adds additional revenue of $4.9 million to the FY 2024 budget and each following year, which results in the following:
- Provides opportunities to better support learning opportunities for our learners.
- Provides opportunities to better support our staff.
- For a homeowner with a $150,000 home with homestead exemption, their annual taxes only increase by $54.85 or $4.57 a month.

- For a homeowner with a $150,000 home without homestead exemption, their annual taxes only increase by $62.10 or $5.18 a month.

Dangers of Option B

- Without consolidating schools or making major expenditure reductions the fund balance to expenditure ratio does fall below 15% in FY 2025 leading to potentially needing to borrow funds (TAN) to meet payroll. In FY 2027 the fiscal stability of the District would be in jeopardy.
- Even with making the additional expenditure cuts of operating two less facilities and reducing 58 overall positions, we still would not be able to implement the cost of the classified salary study in FY 2025.
- Millage rate would need to be adjusted by 0.5 mills in FY 2027 and by one additional mill in FY 2028 to keep the fiscal stability of the District secure.

Dangers of Option C

- Without consolidating schools or making major expenditure reductions the fund balance to expenditure ratio falls below 15% in FY 2025 leading to potentially needing to borrow funds (TAN) to meet payroll. In FY 2026 the fiscal stability of the District would be in jeopardy with a fund balance to expenditure ratio of less than 8%.
- Even with making the additional expenditure cuts of operating two less facilities and reducing 58 overall positions, we still would not be able to implement the cost of the classified salary study in FY 2025.
- Millage rate would need to be adjusted by 2.0 mills in FY 2026 to keep the fiscal stability of the District secure.
- DOES NOT provide opportunities to better support learning opportunities for our learners.
- DOES NOT provide opportunities to better support our staff.

The Board will vote on a tentative millage rate on Thursday, July 20, during its Committee Meeting at 4 PM at the Professional Learning Center, 2003 Riverside Drive, Macon. If the Board chooses to set the rate at any level higher than a full rollback millage rate, Public Hearings will be held to receive feedback from Bibb taxpayers. The final vote on the millage rate is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2023.

For more information and to view the full presentation, click here.

Comparisons of Millage Rate Trends of Bibb County School District with Other School Districts

System	[1] 2013 Millage Rate	[1] 2014 Millage Rate	[1] 2015 Millage Rate	[1] 2016 Millage Rate	[1] 2017 Millage Rate	[1] 2018 Millage Rate	[1] 2019 Millage Rate	[1] 2020 Millage Rate	[1] 2021 Millage Rate	[1] 2022 Millage Rate	Variance CY2022 vs CY2021
Henry	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	23.628	23.628	0.0000
Muscogee	23.370	23.370	23.370	23.370	23.321	23.321	23.321	23.321	23.321	23.321	0.0000
Dekalb	23.980	23.980	23.730	23.380	23.280	23.180	23.080	23.080	23.080	23.080	0.0000
Rockdale	26.000	24.500	25.320	25.320	25.320	24.900	24.700	24.600	22.717	21.000	(1.7170)
Gwinnett	19.800	19.250	19.800	19.800	19.800	19.800	19.700	19.700	21.350	20.650	(0.7000)
Clayton	20.000	20.000	19.095	19.095	19.095	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	0.0000
Douglas	19.850	19.850	19.850	19.800	19.750	19.700	19.650	19.600	20.050	20.000	(0.0500)
Fayette	20.000	20.000	20.000	19.750	19.500	19.500	19.250	19.150	20.434	20.000	(0.4340)
Cobb	18.900	18.900	18.900	18.900	18.900	18.900	18.900	18.900	18.900	18.900	0.0000
Cherokee	19.450	19.450	19.450	19.450	18.950	18.950	18.450	18.450	18.200	17.950	(0.2500)
Paulding	18.879	18.910	18.879	18.879	18.879	18.879	18.750	18.750	18.750	17.750	(1.0000)
Richmond	19.982	19.110	19.972	19.754	19.736	19.965	19.794	18.419	19.312	17.650	(1.6620)
Chatham**	15.881	14.630	16.631	16.631	16.631	18.881	18.881	18.881	18.131	17.631	(0.5000)
Columbia	18.590	17.590	18.300	18.300	18.300	18.300	18.300	18.300	18.300	17.350	(0.9500)
Forsyth	16.300	16.300	17.300	17.300	17.300	17.300	17.300	17.300	17.300	17.300	0.0000
Fulton	18.502	18.502	18.502	18.483	18.546	18.546	17.796	17.796	17.590	17.240	(0.3500)
Newton	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	19.788	19.788	18.288	16.788	(1.5000)
Bibb	**17.945**	**17.945**	**17.945**	**19.945**	**19.814**	**19.314**	**18.814**	**18.493**	**18.099**	**16.720**	**(1.3790)**
Coweta	18.590	18.590	18.590	18.590	18.590	18.590	18.590	17.300	17.140	16.000	(1.1400)
Hall	19.250	18.490	18.800	18.800	18.500	18.200	17.550	17.550	16.485	15.990	(0.4950)
Houston*	13.340	13.340	13.340	13.340	13.320	13.297	13.297	13.297	13.183	13.183	0.0000
Total Mills Levied	408.609	402.707	407.774	408.887	407.532	409.523	405.911	402.675	404.258	378.948	
Average Mill Rate of 21 Selected Counties	18.573	18.305	18.535	18.586	18.524	18.615	18.451	18.303	18.375	17.824	

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**indicates grandfathered in OLOST in Houston County*

Recap of the FY 2024 Budget Process from Spring 2023

Board members voted earlier this summer to adopt the Superintendent's FY 2024 Recommended Budget. Throughout the FY 2024 Budget process in the spring, the District and Board reviewed potential ways to reduce expenditures, millage rate options and the impacts on projected budgets, and school capacity versus projected enrollment, as well as data on the average savings to operate one less facility.

Prior to voting to adopt the Fiscal Year Budget, Board members conducted three FY24 Budget Work Sessions in the spring.

- Budget Work Session 1, March 2023
- Budget Work Session 2, April 2023
- Budget Work Session 3, May 2023

To view the full presentation of the FY 2024 Budget, click here.

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