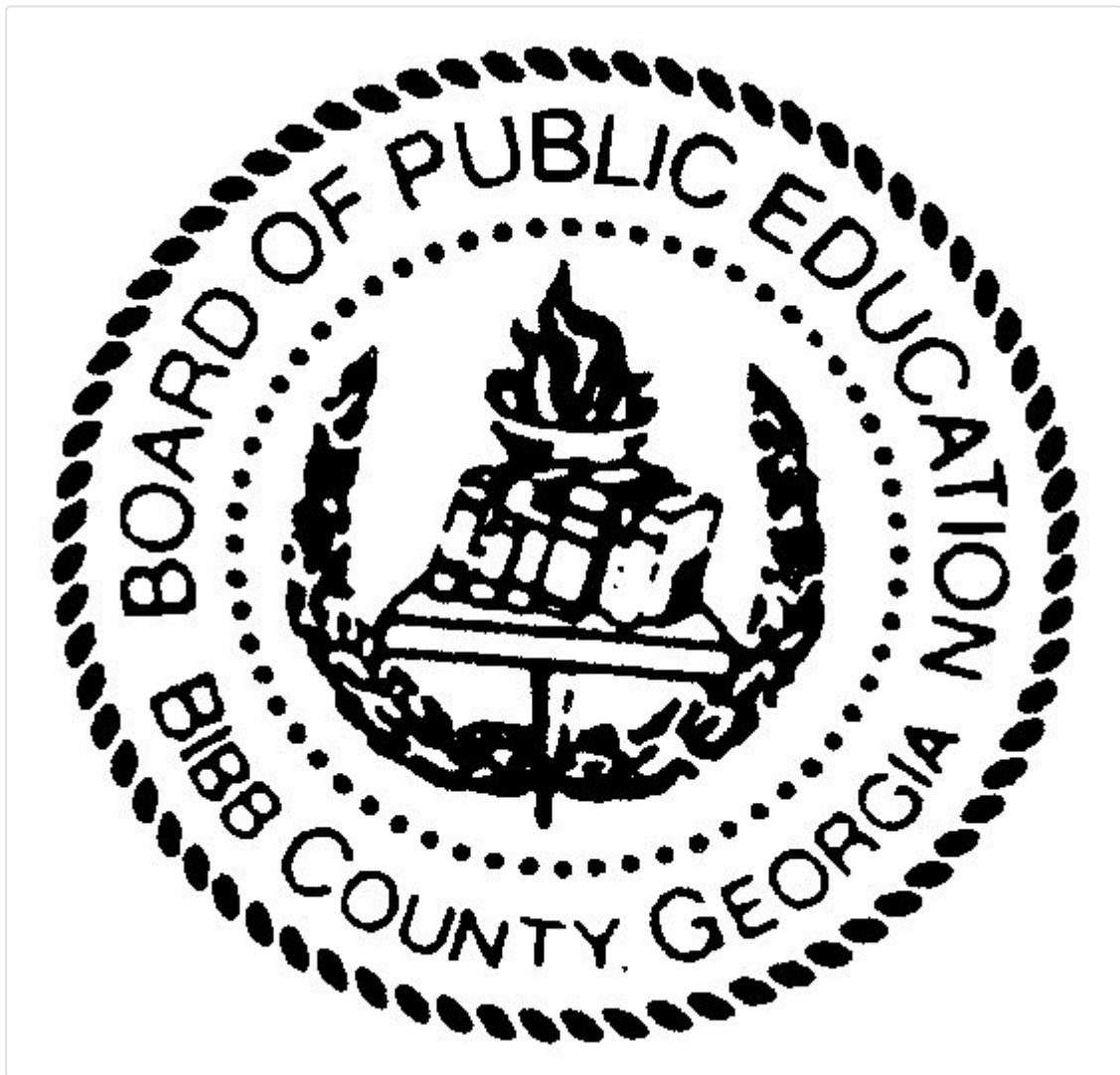


The Board Brief

October 19, 2023



This edition of The Board Brief is a summary of the information presented and actions taken at the Board of Education's meetings on October 19, 2023.

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Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims shared a few of the highlights from the past month.

- Thank you to Howard Middle School for providing the artwork for the October Board meeting. Howard Middle wanted to celebrate a few themes that mean the most to Huskies in October, and those 3 themes include Breast Cancer Awareness, Halloween, and Fall. Howard Middle created an array of artwork to depict the importance of these themes. Howard is showing its support of Breast Cancer Awareness while welcoming the fall season and celebrating the holidays.
- October is a time filled with celebrations and schools are helping show appreciation for employees and recognition and awareness of special events. Some of the October recognitions include National Principals Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, Learning Disabilities Awareness Month, National Custodian Appreciation Day, Georgia Pre-K Week, Athletic Coaches Appreciation Week, Instructional Coach Appreciation Day, Fire Prevention Week, National School Lunch Week, National School Bus Safety Week, School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day, Red Ribbon Week, Lights On Afterschool, and Read for the Record.
- Twelve cadets – 2 from each high school – flew to Washington, DC, on September 25 to represent Bibb County JROTC programs. Cadets representing the Army, Air Force, and Marine JROTC programs toured the Pentagon and engaged in open discussion with Brig. Gen. Terrence A. Adams, the Director of the Air Force Cyberspace Operations and Warfighter Communications Command. Cadets participated in a panel of mid-career officers from across the services and learned about leadership roles from uniform to community, cyber awareness, and defense in the rise of A.I. Thank you to Dr. Cassandra Washington and Macon-Bibb County Commissioner Paul Bronson for coordinating the trip. Thank you to the Bibb County Sheriff's Office for providing students with an escort and to lunch sponsors Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and Urban CEO Director Dominique Johnson.
- Thank you to the 100 Black Men of Macon-Middle Georgia for sponsoring Bruce Elementary School's September literacy incentive. Nine young men who have attended the A.I.R. 100 reading program on Saturdays and 14 students who had the highest word count were eligible to celebrate with a trip to the Georgia National Fair during Fall Break.
- Currently, 16 Bibb County students are visiting Macon's sister city of Kurobe, Japan, as part of a cultural exchange program. The students are staying with host families and students who visited Macon last fall, while learning about the beautiful customs and culture of our sister city. Thank you to partners Macon-Bibb County Government, Communities in Schools of Central Georgia, YKK, and Atrium Health Navicent for supporting this phenomenal experience.
- Dr. Sims was honored to participate in Macon-Bibb's annual Hispanic Heritage Festival this month. Congratulations to Howard High School student Rufino Durham Jr., the winner of the festival's poster art contest.
- Congratulations to Bibb County Campus Police Officer Angelo Bellamy, who is currently assigned to the Southwest High School Zone. Officer Bellamy was presented with the Earl Evans Award, an award bestowed annually to a deserving School Resource Officer who best exemplifies Officer Evans' spirit, values and work ethic. Officer Evans honorably served Bibb County Campus Police with distinction from 1995-2017, and even after his retirement he continued to serve as a Reserve Officer for the department until his passing in April 2021. Officer Evans joined the department following his military service and retirement from the U.S. Air Force. Even in times of illness and going through personal hardships, he remained loyal to Bibb's students. He was the epitome of what is expected

from a dedicated School Resource Officer and this award honors his sense of community, commitment, drive, teamwork, effort and proactive determination. Deputy Chief Stephanie Prater said Officer Bellamy was selected as the first recipient of this award for exemplifying what it means to push through adversity. With the support of mentors and his leadership team, Officer Bellamy continued to stay focused on what is important to Bibb Schools – our students. He has continued to guide and motivate students, to be a role model, team player, and has represented us with the same hard work, dedication and spirit that Officer Evans displayed, regardless of what was thrown his way.

- Westside High School Seminole student athletes started a fresh year of mentoring the Heroes of Veterans Elementary School during the Heroes “Spirit Week.” Westside mentors will spend time visiting Veterans Elementary on a regular basis to support and encourage up-and-coming Seminole student cohorts!
- The District welcomed its newest business partner to 484 Mulberry Street this month. Recent VIP Academy and W.S. Hutchings College and Career Academy graduate MyKayla Whitehead celebrated the ribbon-cutting of her storefront for her business, Brittinique – Be Unique, this month. Last spring, MyKayla earned second place in the Georgia Foundational Leadership and Entrepreneurship Experience (FLEX) Competition. She is now a member of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and a freshman at Fort Valley State University.
- Congratulations to Bibb County School District’s Communications Team for bringing home state awards! Team members, including Stephanie Hartley, Jeremy Timmerman, Brooke Moore, Clarence Powell, and Kim Pelt, were recognized with 11 awards total for Newsletter or Magazine, Photography, Image or Identity Package, Social Media, Special Event, and Videography or Electronic Media.
- The Bibb County School District has experienced a great turnout for the zoned #Built4Bibb Student Success Expos. The purpose of these parent engagement events is to engage, empower, and support families in being successful with every student’s academic performance. Bibb County families are invited to receive academic information and resources supporting the whole child and family. We’ve held events at Tattnall Square Park, Middle Georgia State University, Frank Johnson Center, and Rosa Jackson Recreational Center. Families are invited to join the District next week for zone meetings at Wesleyan College on Tuesday from 5-7 p.m., and then on Thursday from 5-7 p.m. at South Bibb Recreational Center.
- The Bibb County School District will celebrate its Teachers of the Year on Monday, October 30, at the Grand Opera House. The evening is set to begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception catered by the students and faculty from W.S. Hutchings College and Career Academy. At 6:30 p.m., the celebration will move to the main theater. This year’s District Teacher of the Year, Kimberly Barton of Vineville Academy of the Arts, will be honored alongside all of our schools’ Teachers of the Year, our Media Specialist of the Year, Counselor of the Year, and Social Worker of the Year.

Actions

Personnel Items Approved

On Thursday, October 19, Board members approved various personnel actions.

To view all personnel items from the Board meeting, [click here](#).

Agreement to Lease Former Butler Collision Center Will Support CTAE Pathways

On Thursday, October 19, Board members approved a lease agreement of \$10 per year for 50 years with Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority (UDA) to lease about 25,000 square feet of building space located at 2122 Eisenhower Parkway. The space, identified as the former Butler Collision Center, will be used for future design and use of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) pathways. As part of this new project and partnership, Board members authorized the use of ESSER funding for the design, development and facility needs for this project.

Additionally, Board members approved a contract with WM2A Architects to provide architectural services for renovations to the space.

For more information on the project or to review the memorandum of the lease agreement, [click here](#).

Board Approves Architectural Services for Rutland High/Middle Renovations

On Thursday, October 19, Board members approved SP Design Group to provide architectural services for renovations at Rutland Middle and High Schools. The funds will be paid out of 2021 ESPLOST (Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax), a one percent sales tax approved by voters in 2019. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Purchase

On Thursday, October 19, Board members approved the purchase of 72 Automated External Defibrillators from AED Brands LLC in an amount not to exceed \$195,000. Fifty-five AEDs will be funded through each school's state safety grant, and 17 AEDs will be funded through General Funds. This amount includes delivery and any additional fees that may occur.

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a lightweight, portable device used to assist those at risk of experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, which occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating regularly. If not treated within minutes, cardiac arrest quickly leads to death. Immediate CPR and AED use can double or triple a person's chance of survival.

For more information, [click here](#).

Milk and Dairy Purchase Authorized

On Thursday, October 19, Board members authorized a purchase order to Thomaston Milk Co. Inc. for milk and dairy products for FY 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$900,000. This cost will be funded through the School Nutrition Fund. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

Board members reviewed various policies for first or second reading. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To view more information, [click here](#).

- Policy GAG, Staff Conflict of Interest (ACTION)
- Policy IDDC, Homebound Instruction Program (ACTION)

- Policy JBC (1), Homeless Students (ACTION)
- Policy JBCE, Transfers and Withdrawals (INFORMATION)
- Policy JE, Guidance Program (INFORMATION)
- Policy JBCCA (2), Unsafe School Choice Options (INFORMATION)

Stakeholders are encouraged to review policies posted after first reading and make public comment via Simbli before the proposed policies are brought back before the Board for action the following month. Simbli may be accessed through the District's website, www.bcsdk12.net, under "About Us" and "Simbli." On [Simbli](#), "Pending Policies" will appear on the right side of the screen.

Bibb Graduation Rate at 87% for Class of 2023



Information

District's Graduation Rate Hits New High of 87.07%

Bibb County School District's high school graduation rate increased in 2023 to **87.07%** from 80.98% in 2022 – an all-time high for the District since the state began using the adjusted cohort calculation required by federal law with the Class of 2012. In fact, each of Bibb County's seven schools not only demonstrated increases in graduation rate in 2023 compared to 2022, but for the first time ever all seven schools scored a graduation rate of at least 80% or higher.

- Central High School - 96.41%
- Howard High School - 87.5%
- Northeast High School - 88.62%
- Rutland High School - 85.5%
- Southwest High School - 80.46%
- Westside High School - 84.52%
- VIP Academy - 88.5%

"I am super proud of all our schools and this entire district for our 87.07% graduation rate.

to get us to this fantastic graduation rate, and we're just excited as to what it means for those students who go on to do great things," said Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims.

For the first time ever, the Bibb County School District's graduation rate exceeded the state graduation rate! Georgia's graduation rate for the Class of 2023 is 84.4%. The District's overall graduation rate has increased about 35 percentage points in the past decade, up from an overall District graduation rate of 52.3% in 2012.

For more information about the graduation rate, [click here](#). To view the presentation, [click here](#).

District Supporting Students Through Response to Intervention (RtI)

On Thursday, October, 19, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Cleveland Johnson updated Board members on the District's support of students through Reponse to Intervention (RtI). This presentation provided a summary of the work occurring at the district, school, and classroom levels, to provide students with tiered supports around reading through the RtI framework. RTI is a multi-tiered framework designed to identify struggling students early, provide appropriate interventions, and monitor their progress. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

District Partnering with United Way for Read for the Record

The Bibb County School District and United Way of Central Georgia have once again partnered to participate in the 18th annual Read for the Record event on Thursday, October 26, 2023. Read for the Record is the world's largest shared reading experience that celebrates the importance of early language and social-emotional development. This year's book selection, With Lots of Love by Jenny Torres Sanchez and illustrated by Andre' Ceolin, is a story about family, finding ways to stay connected, and sharing love across distances.

Since 2008, Bibb County School District has collaborated with community partners to promote the importance of early literacy and community involvement through the Read for the Record event. For more information, [click here](#). To volunteer for Read for the Record, [click here](#).



87.07%

CLASS OF 2023
DISTRICT GRADUATION RATE



6 POINTS
FROM 2022

Highlights

District, Schools Celebrated for Top Graduation Rates

Bibb County School District's high school graduation rate increased in 2023 to 87.07% from 80.98% in 2022 – an all-time high for the District since the state began using the adjusted cohort calculation required by federal law with the Class of 2012. In fact, each of Bibb County's seven schools not only demonstrated increases in graduation rate in 2023 compared to 2022, but for the first time ever all seven schools scored a graduation rate of at least 80% or higher.

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Bibb Celebrates Retired Educators Day on November 5

Each year, the Bibb County School District takes time to recognize the Bibb Retired Educators Association and all retired educators for their dedication to the education profession. Not

only did these individuals dedicate their time as professionals, but many of them continue to return to the classroom and volunteer in our schools.

With November being Retired Educators Month and Sunday, November 5, serving as Retired Educators Day, the District recognized retired educators, including representatives of Bibb Retired Educators Association (BREA) and BREA President Vashti Pullen, with a resolution honoring the occasion.

Senior Analyst Receives National Excellence Award for Data Storytelling

During the recent ClassLink Learning Analytics Summit, a national event, ClassLink presented Awards of Excellence to individuals and teams that use data in innovative ways in their districts to enhance the experience for families, students and teachers. At the event, Senior Analyst Connie Chin was recognized with the Data Storyteller Award, a national level award. This honor "recognizes an individual who expertly uses data analysis to inform strategy and drive teaching and learning in their organization," according to a release from ClassLink.

Howard High Senior Selected for Ga. Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

Each year, State Superintendent Richard Woods selects students from a pool of applicants for his Student Advisory Council. This group of student leaders meets throughout the year to serve as a liaison between the Department of Education and the schools, and Howard High School senior Mitchell Zhang was one of just 69 students selected statewide. As a representative, Mitchell will help shape policy decisions across the state.

For 24th Consecutive Year, Finance Team Achieves Excellence in Financial Reporting

Chief Financial Officer Sharon Roberts and members of the Finance team were recognized with the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022. This is the 24th consecutive year the Bibb County School District was recognized with the award. This award honors the District's Finance team, which includes Accounting and Procurement, for comprehensive and transparent annual reports.

Daniely Elected to Georgia Association for Alternative Education Board

For several years, Dr. Julia Daniely has served as the District's Director of Personalized Learning and Alternative Schooling. This service in the ever-growing area of alternative education has led her to be elected to the board for the Georgia Association for Alternative Education at a recent meeting. This election comes with a two-year term that will run through 2025 and will allow her an even greater voice for alternative education across the state.

Bibb Teacher Honored by Georgia Association for Alternative Education

Dr. Penny Jackson Walker of SOAR Academy Personalized Learning Center was recognized for achieving second place for the Georgia Association for Alternative Education's Teacher of the Year award. She was recognized during the association's annual conference in late September. This achievement comes after she was named a school-level teacher of the year at SOAR Academy for this school year.

Four Schools Identified as Title I Distinguished & Reward Schools

The Georgia Department of Education released the 2022-2023 lists of Distinguished and Reward Schools on October 2, 2023. The Distinguished Schools designation recognizes the highest-performing Title I schools in Georgia, while the Reward Schools designation recognizes Title I schools making the most significant improvements. A total of four Bibb schools received these designations:

- Alexander II Magnet School – Distinguished School & Reward School
- Carter Elementary School – Reward School
- Skyview Elementary School – Reward School
- Vineville Academy of the Arts – Reward School

The Georgia Department of Education has identified Alexander II Magnet School as a 2023 Title I Distinguished School. The school is now eligible to apply for the National ESEA Distinguished School Award. A Title I Distinguished School is recognized when they rank in the top 5% with the highest absolute performance for the all-students group based on combined ELA and Math content mastery scores for the most recent school year.

Reward Schools are among the greatest-improving 5% of Title I Schoolwide and Title I Targeted Assistance schools when comparing the content mastery scores from the most recent two years of statewide assessments. Schools must be Title I to be eligible for the Distinguished School and Reward School designations and must not currently be CSI or TSI support-identified schools.

A project of the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) publicly recognizes two schools receiving federal funds from each state for their outstanding achievements in education each year. These schools will be designated as FY23 National ESEA Distinguished Schools. Only two schools per state are selected as National ESEA Distinguished Schools.

15 Bibb Schools Recognized by State as 2022-2023 Distinguished PBIS Schools

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports system has been a game-changer in Bibb schools. In addition to improvements in discipline data and school climate, schools have become an exemplar for PBIS implementation across the state. Recently, 15 Bibb schools were recognized as Distinguished PBIS Schools for these implementation efforts. District PBIS Coordinator Curlanda Lightfoot Smith and these schools and their PBIS Coaches were recognized for coordinating the district's and schools' efforts with PBIS.

- Alexander II Magnet School
- Hartley Elementary School
- Heritage Elementary School
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School
- Skyview Elementary School
- Southfield Elementary School
- Springdale Elementary School
- Vineville Academy of the Arts
- Williams Elementary School
- Miller Magnet Middle School
- Weaver Middle School
- Westside High School

- Hutchings College & Career Academy
- Elam @ Southwest High School
- SOAR Academy

As a result of her great work with Bibb's PBIS Program, Mrs. Smith will be a featured speaker at the 2023 Georgia PBIS Conference at the Gas South District Convention Center in Duluth, GA on December 7-8.

Visit www.facebook.com/bibbschools for photos of highlights and recognitions.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Matthias Marion Brown, a fifth grade student at Alexander II Magnet School.

Board Members

The following Board Members were present at this meeting:

Mr. Juawn A. Jackson, District 4 - President (Attended Virtually)

Mrs. Myrtice C. Johnson, District 1 - Vice President

Mrs. Kristin C. Hanlon, District 3 - Treasurer

Dr. Thelma D. Dillard, District 2

Dr. Sundra M. Woodford, District 5

Mr. James M. Freeman, District 6

Mr. Daryl J. Morton, At-Large, Post 7

Dr. Lisa W. Garrett-Boyd, At-Large, Post 8

Watch the Board of Education Meetings



 **bibbschools**

[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/bibbschools)

The official channel for the Bibb County School District in Macon, Ga.

