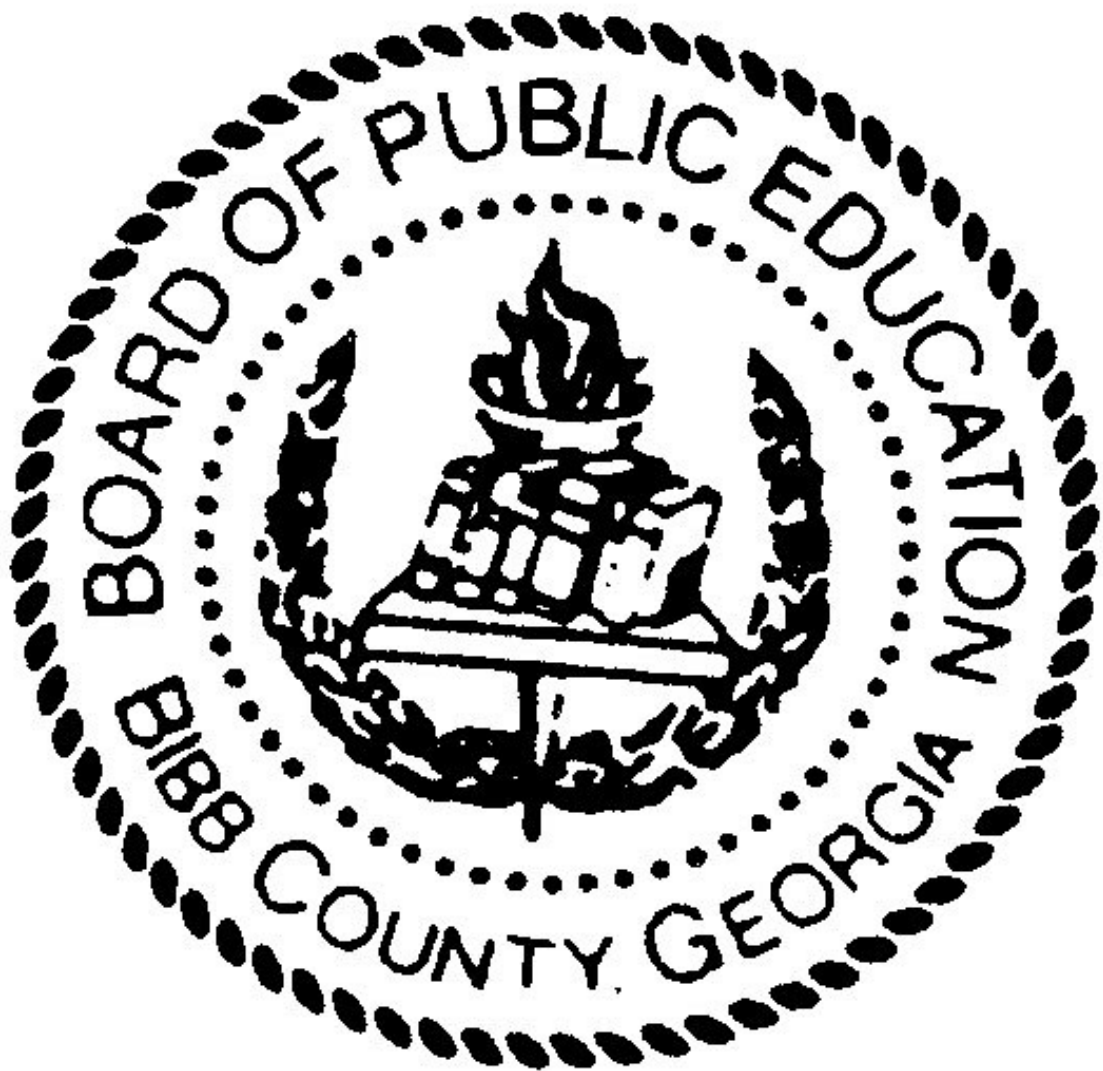


The Board Brief

December 14, 2023



The Board Brief

The Board Brief newsletter is a summary of the information presented and actions taken at Bibb County Board of Education meetings for Bibb County School District in Macon, Ga. Review meeting agendas, district policies, Board member contact information and more on Simbli at

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Index.aspx?S=4013>.

Superintendent's Report

Each month, Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims presents highlights happening within schools and the District. Here are just a few of the recent highlights from the past month.

- Thank you to Springdale Elementary School for providing the artwork for the December Board meeting. The theme for this month is Artist Leaders in us ALL. Art teacher Cindy Quan Hong shared that Springdale students have designed beautiful pieces of art inspired from 4 favorite artists (Van Gogh, Piet Mondrian, Kadinsky and Romero Britto) and the holiday season. The structure of the tabletop tree reflects the 4 major cardinal points of the leadership compass and is fully interactive – giving viewers 360-degree insight into Springdale's Artist Leaders. The tree rotates, and viewers are encouraged to be part of this immersive experience. The students' life-size version can be seen at the Museum of Arts and Sciences at the Festival of Trees exhibit.
- Board members were proud to accept the GSBA Leading Edge Award for the Bibb County School District during the Georgia School Boards Association Conference this month. This unique achievement recognizes the innovative design and implementation of projects and programs by the Bibb County School District that are having a significant and positive impact on students. This award, recognizing the District's Community-Inspired Strategic Plan Development Process, demonstrates the District is truly leading the way in student achievement and engagement. Thank you to Georgia School Boards Association for recognizing these accomplishments. Bibb County Board members also accepted the GSBA Exemplary Board Award, which was celebrated last month. Congratulations, Board members!
- Students throughout the District participated in Hour of Code early December. The Hour of Code is an introduction to computer science through fun activities and videos for learners of all skill levels.
- PBIS Awareness Week helped shine a light on the District's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program. PBIS is an evidence-based three-tiered framework to improve and integrate all of the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. PBIS creates schools where all students succeed. Shout out to Bibb County School District for being well represented at the 2023 Georgia PBIS Conference this month! Rosa Taylor Elementary School, Elam Alexander Academy, Rutland High School, and Bibb PBIS Coordinator Curlandra Smith all presented during the conference!
- Two District leaders are retiring this month. Thank you to Chief Financial Officer Sharon Roberts and Executive Director of Supplemental Services Dr. Nancy Thorne Forde, for your many years of service to public education!
- This month, Pre-K students participated in an annual districtwide snow-themed literacy event. Special guests visited Pre-K classrooms throughout the District to read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's First Winter*, lead activities in which students made snow, and present each student with a copy of the book for their home library!
- Thank you to Mercer University Athletics for hosting Bibb County School District fourth graders for Education Day this month! Fourth graders attended a Mercer basketball game and had an opportunity to see a university campus in person.
- Bibb County School District third graders were treated to a special visit to the Grand Opera House, where they watched a performance of *The Nutcracker* of Middle Georgia, which even featured some Bibb County School District dancers!

- Friends and family continue to honor the memory of Debora "Mz. Taz" Patterson-Curry, a former Bibb County School District employee who died in a traffic accident in 2015. An annual Coat and Sock Drive is led by Patterson-Curry's daughter, Demeiko Vaughn, Dean of Students at Southwest High School, along with the G-Riderz Motorcycle Club, of which Patterson-Curry was a member. Different schools are selected each year to receive the donations. This year, donations were presented to Bruce Elementary and Williams Elementary. Thank you to those who help to honor the memory of Mz. Taz each year!
- On Thursday, November 30, Union Elementary School fifth graders participated in the school's first Student Mock Elections to learn about the voting process and civic engagement. Candidates campaigned with posters and campaign videos for the following positions: Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Student House Representative, Student Senate Representative, Student Supreme Court Representative, and Student Local Courts Representative. Voting booths were set up in the gym where students used Microsoft Forms to cast their votes. Winners were announced on the morning news the next day. This was a great real-life voting experience that helped teach students about the importance of community engagement and civic responsibility.
- The Bibb County School District is proud to celebrate the newest cohort of REACH Georgia Scholars! Scholars and their parents committed to the REACH Scholarship process during a signing ceremony on December 13. The REACH Scholarship Program is a needs-based mentorship and scholarship program designed to encourage students, starting in middle school, to persist in their educational pursuits. Students are provided with the academic, social and financial support needed to graduate from high school, attend college, achieve post-secondary success and be prepared for the 21st century workforce.
- On the horizon: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School is kicking off a new tradition next month. The school will be celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. the entire week of January 15 – 19. Students and family members will participate in the school's first MLK5K Fun Run, one of various activities throughout the week. The week will culminate with a PARADE on January 19.
- Thank you to Devonta Jackson, a fourth grader at Heritage Elementary School. Devonta's artwork (below) was one of so many beautiful art pieces created by talented students this year and it is featured on the annual Superintendent's Holiday Card. As for the holiday break, schools will be closed beginning Wednesday, December 20. On behalf of the Bibb County School District, have a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends, special memories, and joy. Students will return for second semester on Thursday, January 4.



Actions

Leadership Appointment and Personnel Items Approved

Board members approved one administrative appointment on Thursday, as well as various personnel items.

- Dr. Shandra Yarbrough, Executive Director of Supplemental Services

To view all personnel items, [click here](#).



CONGRATS, NEW LEADER!

DR. SHANDRA YARBROUGH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES



Board Sets FY 2025 Budget and CY 2024 Millage Rate Calendar

Board members approved the District's FY 2025 Budget and CY 2024 Millage Rate Calendar. For more information and to view the dates, [click here](#).

Board Approves Weapons Detection System Award

Board members approved a contract with CTI Communications Technologies Inc. to purchase 82 machines for weapons detection for each district location and school. Funds will come from the District's designated Georgia School Safety Grant, provided by the Georgia Department of Education, as well as general funds. For more information, [click here](#).

Construction Projects Moving Forward

Board members approved construction managers for various renovation projects. For more information, [click here](#).

As part of CTAE pathway expansions, the Bibb County Board of Education previously approved renovations to the former Butler Collision Center. The Board authorized the District to enter into contract with Warren Associates Inc. to provide Construction Manager AtRisk Services for this renovation project. The project will be paid for with ESSER funds.

As part of the 2021 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) building program, the Board approved the renovations of Rutland Middle and Rutland High Schools. Board members authorized the District to enter into contract with International City Builders Inc. to provide Construction Manager At-Risk Services for renovations to Rutland Middle and Rutland High Schools. The funds will be paid out of 2021 ESPLOST.

Board Members Approve Workers Compensation Excess Insurance Policy Renewal

Board members renewed the school district workers' compensation excess insurance policy with Star Insurance Co. for the policy period January 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025. The school district

maintains a workers' compensation self-insured retention of \$750,000 per claim. This is budgeted to come from general funds. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Meeting Calendar for 2024 Approved

Board members voted to approve the proposed schedule of regular Committee and Board meetings for February 2024 through January 2025. Monthly meetings will take place at the Professional Learning Center, 2003 Riverside Drive, Macon, unless otherwise noted. For more information, [click here](#).

- Thursday, January 18, 2024
- Thursday, February 15, 2024
- Thursday, March 21, 2024
- Thursday, April 18, 2024
- Thursday, May 16, 2024
- Thursday, June 20, 2024
- Thursday, July 18, 2024
- Thursday, August 15, 2024
- Thursday, September 19, 2024
- Thursday, October 17, 2024
- Thursday, November 21, 2024
- Thursday, December 19, 2024
- Thursday, January 16, 2025

Meeting agendas will be posted prior to meetings on Simbli at <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Index.aspx?S=4013>. Anyone wishing to address the Board at its 6:30 p.m. monthly meeting should arrive 30 minutes prior to the meeting (6 p.m.) to submit a request form. The Board provides a maximum 30-minute public comment session at each regular monthly Board meeting to allow individuals an opportunity to address the Board. Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by the student's parent/guardian. Speakers shall have a maximum of 3 minutes each and must stop speaking promptly when their time is up. An individual may not sign up for another person to speak. Board members will not respond to comments from speakers. The Board President or presiding officer will refer speakers to the Superintendent and District staff, as necessary, for further resolution. For additional protocols to address the Board, see Policy BCBI at <https://bit.ly/3c4WiAC>.

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

- Policy GAEB, Sexual Harassment of Employees (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy JR, Student Records (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy KL, Public Use of School Records (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy DFLA, General Fund Investment (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy DFN, Property Sales (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy IDCH, Dual Enrollment (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy Regulation KG-R (1), Use of School Facilities (INFORMATION)

Stakeholders are encouraged to review policies posted after first reading and make public

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.

Information

Supporting the Success of Students with Disabilities

Board members reviewed a presentation designed to increase understanding of the Program for Exceptional Children and the Georgia Department of Education changes impacting the District. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Support and Resources Provided by Mentors Project of Bibb County

Board members reviewed a presentation providing an overview of the Mentors Project of Bibb County's initiatives and achievements in Bibb County schools. The Mentors Project Provides one-on-one mentoring and wrap-around services to Bibb County students in middle and high school. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Monthly Financial Reports Presented; MBCIA 2023 PILOT Payment Presented

Monthly financial reports were reported to the Board of Education as information during the meeting. Board members also recognized Chief Financial Officer Sharon Roberts as this was her final meeting prior to retirement. Eric Bush, Executive Director of Accounting, will serve as Interim Chief Financial Officer. For more information, [click here](#).

During the monthly financial presentation, Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority (MBCIA) representatives Robby Fountain, Stephen Adams and Dr. Cassandra Miller-Washington presented the District with its 2023 Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program check. The PILOT program is a tax incentive designed to restructure the burden for companies interested in relocating or expanding to the Macon-Bibb area. This, in turn, lowers the tax burden for the citizens of Macon-Bibb County and increases the quality of life. Companies benefiting from the PILOT program often take over undeveloped property that previously brought in little to no tax revenue for the county. In doing so, Macon-Bibb County benefits from a revenue source that otherwise would not exist.



Highlights

Meet the New Leaders

Board members were formally introduced to new leaders.

- Brian Butler, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning
- Curtis Adams, Chief of Campus Police
- Latoya Shannon, Director II, School Nutrition

Ocmulgee River Soil and Water Conservation District's Poster Contest

In September, the Ocmulgee River Soil and Water Conservation District held a poster contest. This contest included students from Bibb, Crawford, Dooly, Houston, Macon, Peach, Pulaski, Taylor and Wilcox counties and was an effort to educate students about water conservation. This year, Hannah Kim, a fourth grade student at Springdale Elementary School, won the Ocmulgee District contest. This means that in addition to a cash prize, Hannah's poster will advance to the state competition.

National STEM Academy 2023-2024 STEM Ambassadors of the Year

The National STEM Academy recognizes educators with STEM Ambassador awards to recognize their commitment to STEM education. STEM Ambassadors support and represent the National STEM Academy by making connections with educators, families and their communities. This year, Southwest High School teacher Cassandra Ashley was recognized as a STEM Educator Ambassador!

National Institute of Governmental Purchasing – Certified Procurement Professional

2023-2026 Certification - Elaine Wilson-Beverly, Executive Director of Procurement

NIGP, the Institute for Public Procurement, has been recognizing procurement professionals for decades, but began issuing Certified Procurement Professional certificates in 2020. This year, Mrs. Wilson-Beverly completed the requirements for this certification and is now a nationally recognized Certified Procurement Professional! This recognizes the quality of leadership we have at the top of an important function of our District.

Bibb County School District Football Passing Record

This year, Southwest High School student athlete Chase Dupree had a remarkable season for the Patriots. While his team advanced to the GHSA Class AA football playoffs and finished third in Region 2-AA with an overall record of 6-5 and 5-2 in region play, Chase set a Bibb County single-season passing record with 2,545 passing yards for the year. Additionally, Chase – the son of Southwest Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Joe Dupree and Central High School Principal Dr. Chendra Dupree – threw for seven touchdowns in a crucial win over the Academy for Classical Education. This total is tied for seventh all-time in the state of Georgia for a single game and helped lead to him being named region player of the year.

Area 1 Championship for GHSA Class 5A-6A, Advancing to State Playoffs

This year marked the second year of flag football in Bibb County and the second consecutive area championship for the Westside High School Flag Football Team. The Seminoles went 14-5, remaining undefeated in area play. The Seminoles also shut out Riverdale by a score of 30-0 in the GHSA state playoffs before falling to East Coweta in the second round. Many of these athletes play other sports and have added flag football to their repertoire as a way to use their athletic abilities to benefit their school.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elijah Malik Wright, an 8th grade student at Appling Middle School.

Board Members

The following Board Members were present at this meeting:

Dr. Juawn A. Jackson, District 4 - President

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

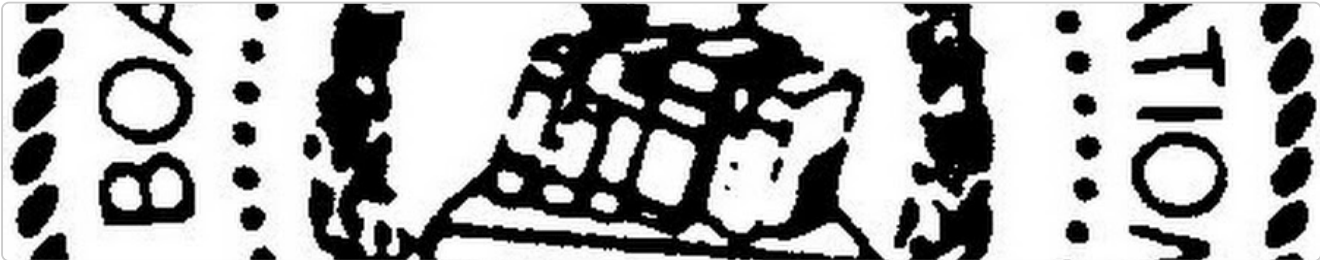
Mrs. Kristin C. Hanlon, District 3 - Treasurer

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

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bibbschools

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

[youtube.com](#)



Bibb County School District

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