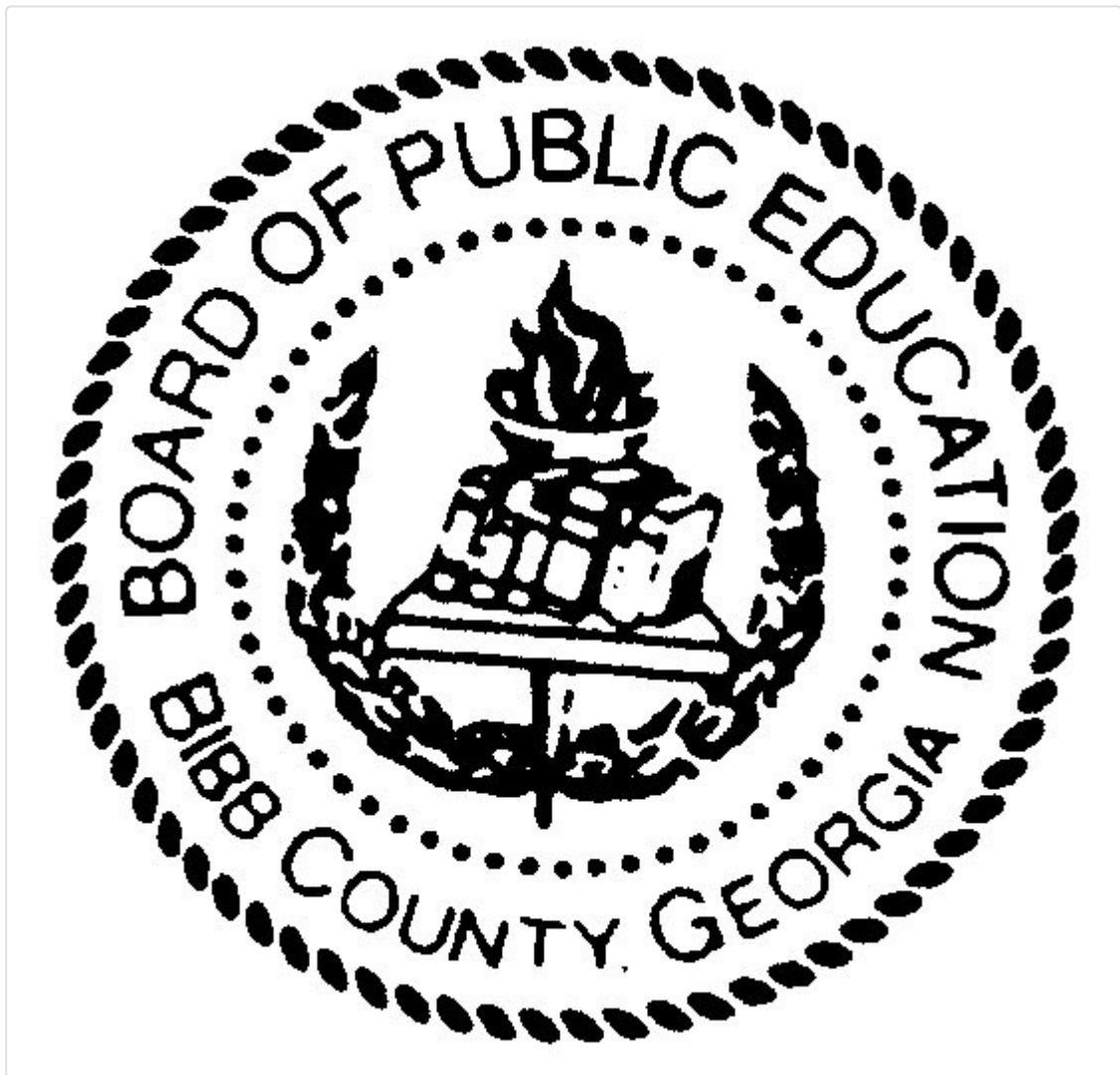


The Board Brief

October 20, 2022



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 20, 2022.

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Superintendent's Report

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

- **ARTWORK:** Thank you to Heard Elementary School! Heard Elementary provided Board members with some of their favorite sights and smells of the season. They hope the FALL artwork created by Heard students and staff will help Board members get ready for the season. Led by art teacher Tracy Wheeler, they used many mediums to create their artwork, including watercolor, oil pastel, and torn paper.
- **GRADUATION RATE:** The Bibb County School District's graduation rate increased in 2022 to 80.98% – an all-time high for the District! Bibb County's graduation rate has increased by almost 30 percentage points in the past decade, up from an overall District graduation rate of 52.3% in 2012.
- **DR. RODGERS RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD:** Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lori Ward-Rodgers was named the recipient of the Communities In Schools All In for Students Education Partner Award! She recognized this week in Washington, D.C., where she was introduced by Former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and heard from First Lady Jill Biden.
- **EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION:** It has been a month filled with employee recognitions and celebrations, and we must always stop to thank team members for their dedication.
- This week, we are celebrating National School Bus Safety Week. Thanks to our Transportation Department and our bus drivers who work hard to make safety a priority every single day and for LITERALLY giving us reasons to come to work!
- We also celebrated National School Lunch Week recently! These team members deserve a special thanks for all of the love they put into our meals each day!
- Happy National Principals Month to all our amazing principals leading our schools!
- September 20 was National IT Professionals Day, and the District is fortunate to have a wonderful team of technology professionals. These individuals are a crucial part of the #Built4Bibb mission, and everything we do is made possible because of their work!
- Thank you once again to our outstanding custodians for keeping our schools beautiful, clean, and inviting! It's always a pleasure to celebrate our custodians and maintenance workers. Thank you to Eddie Montgomery for cooking out for these important members of our #Built4Bibb team for Custodial Appreciation Week!
- We also celebrated Coaches Week recently. Athletic AND academic coaches are key to our work! Keep coaching our students and teachers to greatness!
- Thanks to employees and students for participating in our efforts to raise awareness in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month! Hats off to all our Bibb County heroes who continue to stand strong as Breast Cancer Survivors!
- **HISPANIC HERITAGE:** It has been great to watch the excitement brought to the school experience through Hispanic Heritage Month and PBIS Celebrations!
- **ATHLETICS:** Last week marked the first flag football matchup in the history of Bibb County schools, with Westside High School taking on Rutland High School at the Ed DeFore Sports Complex. Westside took home the win 21-6. The girls flag football program is funded thanks to generous donations by the Atlanta Falcons Foundation and the NFL Foundation.
- Congratulations go out to Westside High School Head Football Coach Sheddric Spoon Risper on his 100th game win!! What an accomplishment, and in his 25th year as coach!
- On the same note, thank you to the Westside Seminole athletes who started a mentoring program this year with the Heroes at Veterans Elementary School. This group of senior

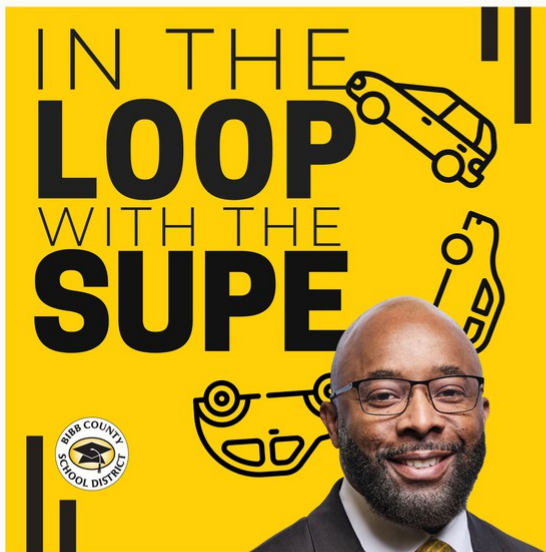
and junior athletes will be mentoring a group of 4th and 5th graders during the school year with a weekly visit to check in and work on sharpening the saw.

- **MERCER GENERATE:** We are honored to partner with Mercer University's Tift College of Education and four other school districts on a three-year, \$9.6 million U.S. Department of Education grant project aimed at strengthening the teacher pipeline in order to increase and diversify the teaching workforce. The grant project, titled Georgia Educators Networking to Revolutionize and Transform Education or GENERATE, will develop a residency program for career changers to obtain Master of Arts in Teaching degrees, become certified teachers in Georgia and teach in high-need content areas within our district.
- **CTAE STUDENTS TAKE DC:** A few of our SkillsUSA student members traveled to Washington, D.C., recently to advocate for Georgia CTAE and CTSOs. While touring Washington, D.C., SkillsUSA State Officer Lathan Theodore even had an opportunity to meet U.S. Sen. Reverend Raphael Warnock, who represents Georgia! We are so proud of these student leaders!
- **ALEX II CELEBRATES 120 YEARS:** Alexander II Magnet School celebrated 120 years with a block party! We had the BEST time at the 120-year celebration. A HUGE thank you to Alexander II PTA, Principal Walsetta Miller, Alex II faculty and staff, parents, and students.
- **CAMPUS POLICE:** Campus Police team members are dedicated to student achievement! Campus Police Sgt. Latricia Gittens started teaching Rocket's SENSE OF SAFETY & Beyond to first graders at Sonny Carter Elementary School this fall. This activity book and classroom guide teaches children how to make smart split-second decisions in the event of an emergency or dangerous situation by learning to stay safe using their 6 senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch and their 6th sense-intuition).
- Thank you to the dedicated officers, Campus Police team members, and Crossing Guards who keep our students and staff safe each day!
- **SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS:** This month, the District participated in the annual Fire Prevention Week Ceremony, a partnership with the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department. Students from across the District were recognized for their participation in the Louise Poe Fire Safety Essay and Poster Contest, with several high school students receiving scholarships.
- Thank you to the Macon Water Authority for partnering with the District on Water Education Day with special activities during each science class. Working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Macon Water Authority, Water Education Day was all about helping students understand how to make good choices related to water use, pollution, and runoff and how individual choices can ensure clean water for the future.
- **LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL:** Thank you to Macon-Bibb County read a proclamation on October 6 to recognize Lights On Afterschool. Lights On Afterschool is being celebrated nationally TODAY – it is an annual recognition of the importance of afterschool programs in schools.
- **NEW COMMUNITY PATHWAY AT MLK:** Dr. Sims participated in his first Bibb County ribbon-cutting ceremony as the District commemorated the opening of a new walking pathway from Eastview Avenue to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School campus. This pathway was the result of community requests for a safer walk to school for students and was funded with ESPLOST dollars.

- **CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE NEWS:** Congratulations to Central High School Principal Dr. Chendra Dupree on being accepted into the AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy! This program prepares and supports leaders who will ensure equitable access and opportunity for continued 21st century innovation and advancement.
- Some of our Central alums have also been highlighted for their talent recently. Sasha Hutchings performed on The Late Late Show with James Corden this month. Sasha is currently starring in the Oklahoma! National Tour! And just this week, Roderick Cox returned to Macon to serve as the guest conductor for the Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra season-opening concert! This was such a breathtaking moment to experience, and I was honored to meet his mother who was truly proud. Big shout out to the organization for providing free tickets for our students to experience this momentous occasion!
- **ON THE HORIZON:** These are just a few of the highlights that have happened the past few weeks! Here's a quick peek at what's coming up.
- We will be sharing ways for the community to participate in focus groups and summits as we kick off the design process for our Strategic Plan! Please look for this information soon and come out to provide your feedback if you can! We are also continuing to dive into our student and staff engagement feedback through Gallup. This will be beneficial in our school climate and culture development.
- Shout out to Southwest junior James May for being named to State School Superintendent Richard Woods' 2022-2023 Student Advisory Council.
- The Bibb Retired Educators Association will celebrate Retired Educators on Georgia Retired Educators Day on Sunday, November 6, at Macedonia Baptist Church. Dr. Sims will be the guest speaker and invited everyone to come out and join the celebration. The Worship Service will begin at 10 A.M.
- Dr. Sims continues meeting with students, staff and parents as part of our advisory councils. We'll be starting a Principals Advisory Council soon, and he is scheduled to meet with our parent team again next week.
- Dr. Sims was "thrilled" to have participated in the Thriller dance video with Board member Juawn Jackson and the dance team led by Terra Hitchcock at Veterans Elementary. This video was promoting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia's annual classic Thriller event. The Thriller Night Run is slated to occur tomorrow night! This was such a fun way to help support an organization that supports our students!
- Read for the Record is right around the corner, and we want you to sign up! Each October, millions of adults and children read the same book on the same day, creating an intergenerational community. Come read *Nigel and the Moon* with us on October 27! Sign up through United Way's website: <https://unitedwaycg.givepulse.com/group/691272-read-united>.

To view the full slideshow, [click here](#).

LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST!



APPLE



SPOTIFY



In the Loop with the Supe: Graduation Rate

It's time for another episode of "In the Loop with the Supe," and this time we're celebrating graduation rates. Join Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims as he chats with Central High School principal Dr. Chendra Dupree about the school's grad rate success, as well as how parents can help keep it going!

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN ON APPLE.](#)

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN ON SPOTIFY.](#)

Actions

Academic Calendars for 2023-24 and 2024-25 Approved

On Thursday, October 20, Board members approved the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic calendars as presented. To view the calendars, [click here](#).

To view all academic calendars, [click here](#).

The proposed academic calendars for 2023-24 and 2024-25 include 180 instructional days for students and 190 contract days for teachers. In both academic calendars proposed, school begins in August and ends in May. Asynchronous days are still included in these calendar

versions to ensure the integrity of utilizing one-to-one technology devices and new digital instructional platforms such as Canvas. Additionally, Professional Learning days are included to allow the District to provide continued development for staff throughout the school year. Also similar to the current academic calendar, these calendar options allow teachers to complete their contract by May 31, which is preferred for retirement purposes.

The primary difference between these academic calendar options and the current academic calendar is the move of Spring Break to later in the spring. Feedback from teachers and staff regarding end-of-year burnout led to this change. Moving Spring Break to a more midway point between Winter Break and the end of the school year will provide more balance to the calendar and, we hope, ease some of the feelings of burnout at the end of the school year.

Also different in these proposed calendars is the return to 180 instructional days from 178 instructional days. In the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic calendars, the District applied for waivers to the instructional requirement of 180 days in order to provide teachers with additional professional development, specifically related to technology, during and post-COVID. Moving forward, teachers and students are now experienced in the District's technology platforms and the District would like to return to 180 instructional days to ensure students are receiving as much instructional time as possible throughout the year. Asynchronous Days will still be utilized throughout the school year as professional development opportunities for staff.

Feedback on these proposed calendars was sought from principals as well as the Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council, which includes a teacher representative from each school, the Counselor of the Year and the Media Specialist of the Year. Of principals polled, 95 percent were in overall favor of the proposed academic calendars. Of the 24 Teacher Advisory Council members who provided feedback, 100 percent were in overall favor of both proposed academic calendars.

DRAFT 2023-2024

July 4, 2023	Independence Day (District Closed)
July 25 - 31	Pre-Planning
August 1	First Day of School
September 4	Labor Day
September 5	Professional Learning (No Students)
October 6	Asynchronous Learning Day
October 9 - 13	Fall Break
November 17	Asynchronous Learning Day
November 20 - 24	Thanksgiving Break
December 19	Last Day of the Semester
December 20 - January 2	Holiday Break
January 3, 2024	Professional Learning (No Students)
January 4	Second Semester Begins
January 15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 19 - 20	Winter Break
February 21	Inclement Weather Make-up Professional Learning (No Students)
March 15	Inclement Weather Make-up Asynchronous Learning Day
April 1 - 5	Spring Break
May 22	Last Day of School (½ Day for Students)
May 22 - 24	High School Graduation
May 23 - 24	Post-Planning
May 27	Memorial Day (District Closed)
June 19	Juneteenth (District Closed)

First and Last Day of the Semester
Holidays
Pre/Post-Planning and Professional Learning
Asynchronous Learning for Students / Prof. Learning for Staff

First semester: 89 days | Second semester: 91 days | Revised: 9/13/2022

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DRAFT 2024-2025

July 4, 2024	Independence Day (District Closed)
July 25 - 31	Pre-Planning
August 1	First Day of School
September 2	Labor Day
September 3	Professional Learning (No Students)
October 4	Asynchronous Learning Day
October 7 - 11	Fall Break
November 22	Asynchronous Learning Day
November 25 - 29	Thanksgiving Break
December 20	Last Day of the Semester
December 23 - January 3	Holiday Break
January 6, 2025	Professional Learning (No Students)
January 7	Second Semester Begins
January 20	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 17 - 18	Winter Break
February 19	Inclement Weather Make-up Professional Learning (No Students)
March 14	Inclement Weather Make-up Asynchronous Learning Day
March 31 - April 4	Spring Break
May 21 - 23	High School Graduation
May 23	Last Day of School (½ Day for Students)
May 27 - 28	Post-Planning
May 26	Memorial Day (District Closed)
June 19	Juneteenth (District Closed)

First and Last Day of the Semester
Holidays
Pre/Post-Planning and Professional Learning
Asynchronous Learning for Students / Prof. Learning for Staff

First semester: 90 days | Second semester: 90 days | Revised: 9/13/2022

JULY 2024						
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Board Authorizes Funds for Additional Sensory Rooms

On Thursday, October 20, Board members authorized the District to issue purchase orders to Sensory Room Solutions to begin installation of 23 sensory rooms throughout the District. The purchase orders will be funded through IDEA ARP and IDEA Flow Thru at cost of \$738,870 and General Funds cost of \$47,000.

This project will result in all Bibb County schools having a sensory room and equipment to assist student with emotional behavioral regulation. Sensory rooms are specially designed spaces created to support students with sensory deficits. The rooms will be equipped with various specialized equipment, including items such as: specialized lighting, items with various textures, swings, and mini trampolines along with other items specifically requested by each school. The purpose of developing sensory rooms is to provide sensory and behavioral regulation. For more information, [click here](#).

Phase 2 Renovations for Thompson Stadium Move Forward

On Thursday, October 20, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order for Phase 2 renovations at Thompson Stadium with a guaranteed maximum price of \$5,726,750. The project will be funded by the 2021 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST). For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Personnel Items

On Thursday, October 20, Board members approved various personnel items. To view personnel items, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

Board members reviewed various policies for first or second reading on October 20. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To review the policies, [click here](#).

- Policy DFK – Gifts and Bequests (ACTION)
- Policy GAAA – Equal Employment Opportunity (ACTION)
- Policy JAA – Equal Educational Opportunities (ACTION)
- Policy JGCC – Infectious Diseases (INFORMATION)
- Policy IKBC – Materials Harmful to Minors Complaint Resolution Process (INFORMATION)
- Policy JRB – Parents' Bill of Rights (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.

Information

Strategic Plan Development Kicks Off in November with Community Input

On Thursday, October 20, Board members learned more about the upcoming strategic planning

the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. The District is set to launch the community input portion of the strategic planning process for the new plan, #Built4Bibb, next month.

The strategic planning process will result in a comprehensive five-year plan that outlines the strategic goals, mission, and vision that will help guide the District's priorities while incorporating student data, extensive research on best practices, and on-going engagement opportunities with all district stakeholders.

To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Bibb Students to Participate in Entrepreneurship Training with FLEX

On Thursday, October 20, Board members learned more about how Bibb County School District's Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Department is partnering to host a competition and workshop series to help students become entrepreneurs.

One way to measure student achievement is to ensure when students graduate from high school they are 3EReady. Meaning students are equipped with the necessary tools to be successful if entering a 2-year or 4-year post-secondary institution, going directly to work in their selected career, or enlisted in one of the military branches. With 31 million entrepreneurs in the U.S. and 582 million worldwide, it is only fitting to adjust 3EReady to include the overarching E of entrepreneurship.

As such, the Bibb County School District and the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce were selected to participate in the 2022-2023 Georgia FLEX competition. The goal of the Georgia Foundational Leadership and Entrepreneurship Experience (FLEX) is to create prosperity and revitalize rural entrepreneurial ecosystems by educating students on the rewards, sacrifices, and processes incurred in establishing small businesses.

A combination of educational guidance, incentives, and mentor opportunities will inspire Bibb students to launch their successful small businesses, eventually leading to a more vibrant, robust local economy for the Macon-Bibb community.

The hope is that locally FLEX will spark an entrepreneurial spirit in the students of the Bibb County School District. Selected students will compete in three rounds of competition, with the final round culminating in a "Shark Tank" style presentation given before a panel of judges to announce the winners. The rules of the competition are simple, and the prizes are significant – up to \$5,000 for the winning student-owned company – making this competition fun and competitive for all students who enter. This student will then move to the state competition with the opportunity to win up to \$10,000.

To view the presentation, [click here](#). To watch a video, [click here](#).

Summary of 2021-22 COVID-19 Testing Program

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) with input from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) designed a school-based COVID-19 testing program. The testing program allowed Georgia school districts the opportunity to provide free COVID-19 testing for students and staff at each school and district office.

School-based COVID-19 testing was implemented to help prevent COVID-19 spread in schools, build confidence among families and staff returning to school, and protect the broader community. By partnering with DPH, the Bibb County School District was able to test consenting students and staff on a weekly basis.

Thirteen Pilot Schools began testing in December 2021. The remaining schools began testing in January 2022. The COVID-19 Testing averaged 2,974 participants per month. Test results were reported to tested participants through a secured online portal. Overall, less than 2% of those tested were positive cases. The school nurses successfully contacted the participating students and their parents, following the COVID-19 protocol for positive cases as guided by the DPH.

Additionally, the DPH testing program provided compensation for each district and school that participated. The total compensation amount for Bibb County Schools and Central Office was \$509,100. School and Program funds were used to purchase approved items from the following categories: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as classified by the CDC, educational resources, books, computers, other IT purchases, classroom supplies, office supplies, tutoring, cleaning supplies, and other supplies or equipment directly related to education and/or COVID-19 testing or mitigation efforts for the Educational Entity. Central Office funds were used to purchase nursing supplies and equipment for a Central Office wellness room.

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

Quarterly Testing of Bi-Polar Ionization Continues

The Capital Programs Department submitted districtwide bi-polar ionization readings for review. As part of the data, target levels in conditioned spaces are to be above 1500 positive and above 1500 negative ions.

Bi-polar ionization is a process that kills harmful pathogens in the airstream, as well as clustering micron particles making them easier to filter through the air condition systems. The districtwide Bi-polar Ionization Project was completed in March 2021 and the installation contractor provided the initial air sampling results as part of the original contract.

As part of the ongoing testing process, Capital Programs committed to random quarterly testing at all facilities. Capital Programs will continue testing on a random basis to ensure compliance with targeted goals of the ionization project.

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

Board Reviews Monthly Financial Reports

On Thursday, October 20, Board members reviewed the District's monthly financial report. Board members reviewed a presentation about the Investments and Investment Income report as well as the monthly Bond report associated with 2020 project accounts. Additionally, Board members received a presentation in regards to the 2016 and 2021 Capital Improvement

Program, including information on expenditures and encumbrances. For more information, [click here](#).

Highlights and Recognitions



President's Honor: Southwest Alum Named 2022-2023 HBCU Scholar

A special recognition was bestowed on a Southwest High School Class of 2018 graduate as a President's Honor. This recognition highlights a Bibb County graduate or community member who has had made exceptional achievements that exemplify the positive work of Bibb County Schools. Almario Duehart was selected as a 2022-2023 HBCU Scholar! Almario graduated from Savannah State University with a Bachelor's in Political Science and is working on his Master's in Public Administration.

Over the next year, the FDIC will engage with HBCU Scholars through various activities and initiatives, including: a session at the 2022 National HBCU Week about using FDIC Smart Money resources to promote economic inclusion and support entrepreneurship; a November HBCU Scholars Master Class, "The Key to Understanding Your Communication Style for Greater Success"; and paid internship opportunities for students interested in accounting, business, finance, economics, law, information technology and other fields.



Superintendent Named GSCA Advocate of the Year

The Georgia School Counselor Association annually recognizes school and District leaders as their Advocates of the Year. These individuals are selected for their dedication and support of counseling services in schools. Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims. Dr. Sims was nominated for the Georgia School Counselor Association Advocate of the Year award by Atlanta Public Schools for his work there prior to becoming Bibb's Superintendent. He served six years in APS as an Associate Superintendent, leading principals and others to improve student achievement. Dr. Sims will be recognized with his award next month in Savannah.



Retired Educators Honored

The members of the Bibb Retired Educators Association (BREA) represent a valuable asset to the Macon-Bibb community. Not only are they formerly classroom educators, but their continued commitment to volunteer efforts in Bibb schools is crucial. As such, they are being recognized with Retired Educators Day on Sunday, November 6, and Retired Educators Month in November.



Bibb Retired Educators Association Partners with Central, Ballard-Hudson

Members of the Bibb Retired Educators Association (BREA) announced the recent recipients of the organization's school partnerships. BREA is excited to partner with Central High School, led by Principal Dr. Chendra Dupree, and Ballard-Hudson Middle School, led by Principal Dr. Latrina Pennamon-Nash.



Bruce Elementary Student Honored as Hurricane Hero

Around the start of the Rutland High School football game against Central High School on Sept. 15, Junior Fire Marshal Ja'Kayla Hardy, a Bruce Elementary School fourth grader, alerted Rutland Head Football Coach Jarmarcus Johnson that a parent had passed out under the bleachers. Ja'Kayla and Coach Johnson had previously discussed her role of junior fire marshal at the game, and the coach said that it would've been difficult for others to find the parent in a timely manner to provide medical attention. Ja'Kayla was honored with a Hurricane Hero Award during halftime of Rutland's homecoming game against Southwest High School. Additionally, she was recently honored by the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department.



Weaver Leader Receives Hal Beaver Georgia Outstanding Assistant Principals Award

Each year, select assistant principals in Georgia are recognized with the Hal Beaver Georgia Outstanding Assistant Principals Award. This honor recognizes middle school administrators who have demonstrated strong leadership in guiding their schools. Weaver Middle School Assistant Principal Dr. Laquonta Williams-Smith was recently selected for this award, which involves leadership on top of membership in the Georgia Association of Middle School Principals, the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders and more.



District Achieves Highest Graduation Rate Yet

Graduation rate has consistently been a focus area, with goals for both overall District success and achievements at each of high school. For the Class of 2022, the District continued to progress toward reaching these goals by posting an overall graduation rate of 80.98 percent, the highest in District history! Of note, Central High School was the first school in the District to post a graduation rate higher than 90 percent at 90.14! The first graduating class of VIP Academy, the District's virtual school, notched a graduation rate of 88.41 percent!

Central High School, Principal Dr. Chendra Dupree
Howard High School, Principal Dr. LaToya Smith
Northeast High School, Principal Dr. Donna Walker-Thompson
Rutland High School, Principal Dr. Wendy Pooler
Southwest High School, Principal Bernard Young
Westside High School, Principal Michael Horton
VIP Academy, Principal Dr. Julia Daniely

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ronald E. Smith, 9th Grade, Central High School.

