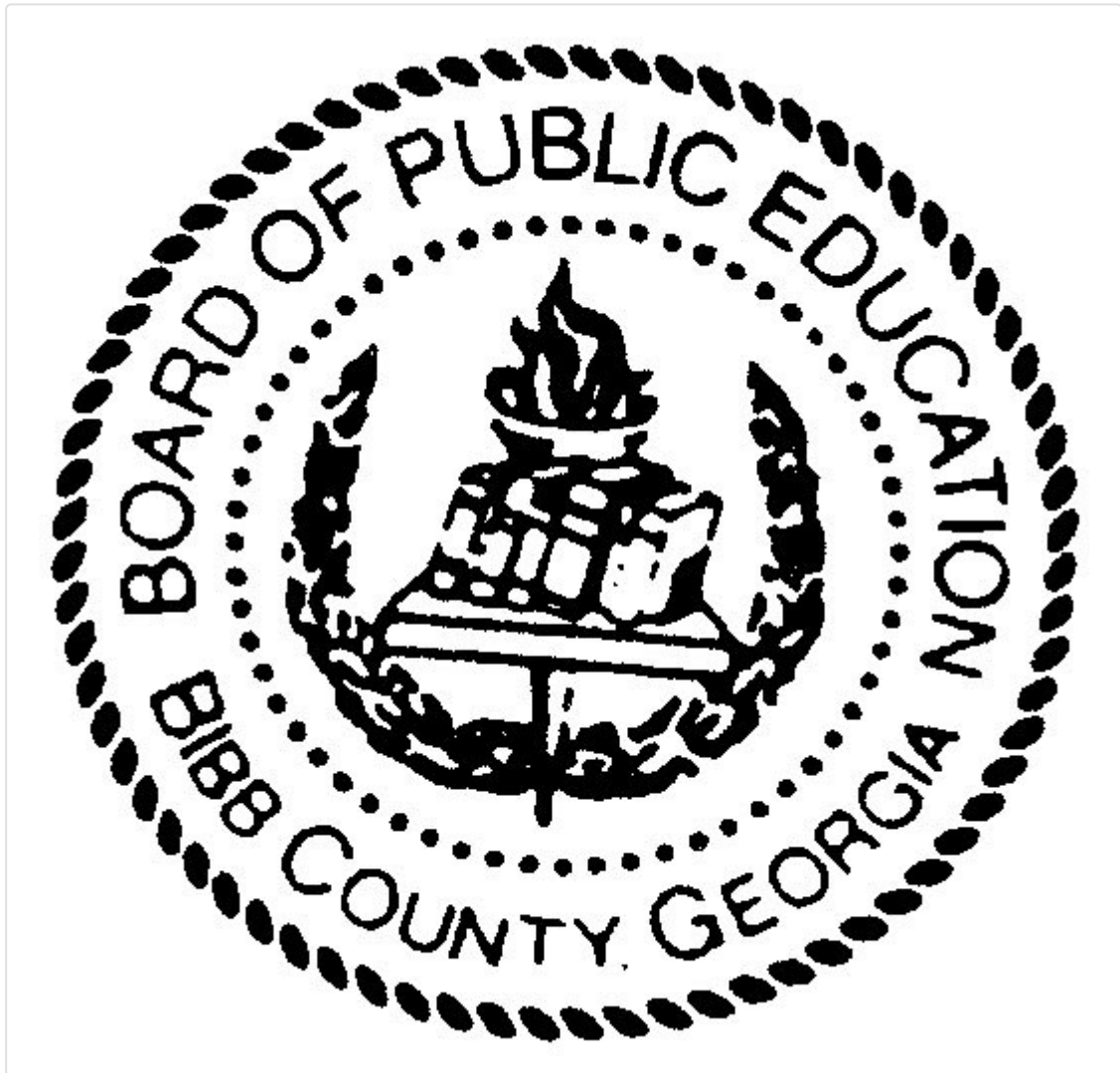


The Board Brief

December 15, 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 December 15, 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 Vineville Academy of the Arts students and staff for the beautiful artwork decorating the room this month to make it feel festive! The students created these beautiful ornaments celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Bibb County School District for each of our Board members, and Vineville Academy artist Marly Veal, a fifth grader, was the winner of our Superintendent's Holiday Card contest.
- **CTAE HOLIDAYS:** The poinsettias donning the room have been gifted to Board members by CTAE and Northeast High School from their annual poinsettia sale. Our CTAE programs are doing some phenomenal work, from horticulture at Northeast to culinary arts at Hutchings College and Career Academy! The culinary students have been very busy this holiday season, from preparing food for the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards event to providing dessert for the Mayor's Sneaker Ball last week. They are to be thanked for providing the holiday meal for Board members this evening.
- **HIGHLIGHTING TEACHER TECHNOLOGY:** Bibb County School District has a new podcast! Let's make some noise for EdTech Talk, a podcast from our Technology team that highlights teachers throughout the District as they discuss using their favorite classroom tech tool! The November episode highlighted: Alexeya Haywood – Southfield, 3rd Grade; Quanterica Uriah – Bruce, 5th Grade; Morgan Davidson – Porter, 2nd Grade; and Rebecca Erwin – Porter, Media Specialist. Give this new podcast a listen when you get a chance at <https://anchor.fm/edtechtalkbibb>.
- **HOURLY OF CODE:** The "Hour of Code" is a global movement that is observed annually in conjunction with Computer Science week held in December. The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to Computer Science, designed to demystify "code", proving that anyone can learn the basics. The Instructional Technology department supports our teachers and students by promoting coding for at least one hour during this week. Every student should have the opportunity to code for it develops problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity. By starting early and participating in the Hour of Code, students have exposure to a potential 21st century career path.
- **HOLIDAYS WITH FINE ARTS:** What a festive holiday season it has been! Thank you to all of the students and their coaches and advisers who have worked with them as they have put on tremendous musical productions, chorus performances, and more.
- **MERCER FOURTH GRADERS:** Thank you to Mercer University Mercer University Athletics for hosting fourth-graders from throughout the Bibb County School District this month for a special campus tour and fun basketball game against Middle Georgia State University! This was an excellent opportunity for our students to begin envisioning what life is like on a college campus and picturing themselves there one day in the future!
- **CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY:** A special thanks goes out to Clark Atlanta University for hosting seniors from each of our six high schools this month! The students toured the campus and participated in a program where several of them received acceptances and scholarships on the spot!
- **PBIS RECOGNITIONS FOR SCHOOLS:** All week, from December 12 through 16, the Bibb County School District is celebrating the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program with PBIS Week. This includes celebrations at each school, as well as mental health first aid kits, provided by Project AWARE, to support self-care for our students' mental well-being. This celebration also coincides with the announcement of school PBIS recognitions by the Georgia Department of Education. This year, 18 District schools were named Distinguished PBIS Schools: Alexander II Magnet School, Bruce Elementary

School, Sonny Carter Elementary School, Central High School, Elam Alexander Academy at Burke, Elam Alexander Academy at Southwest, Hartley Elementary School, Ingram-Pye Elementary School, John R. Lewis Elementary School, Rosa Taylor Elementary School, Rutland High School, Skyview Elementary School, SOAR Academy, Southwest High School, Union Elementary School, Veterans Elementary School, Vineville Academy of the Arts and W.S. Hutchings College and Career Academy. Just seven high schools statewide received this honor, with three located in Bibb County. Additionally, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Springdale Elementary School and Weaver Middle School were named Operational PBIS Schools, the second-highest recognition level.

- **SCHOLARSHIP, CITIZENSHIP, LEADERSHIP:** It is great to see students out and about in the community exemplifying the traits of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. Thank you to some of our high school students who volunteered to serve as technical support for our polling sites on Election Day for Runoffs in Georgia. Pictured here are some Central High School students working the polls all day this month at the voting site on Pierce Avenue.
- **PARENT ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS:** The Superintendent held parent engagement sessions in each of the District's high school feeder zones. His goal for these sessions was to share with parents the depth and breadth of opportunities available to students in our school district and to encourage parent involvement. One of the sessions was recorded and is linked below.
- **YOUTHBUILD:** In June 2021, the District announced it was granted \$1.5 million to continue YouthBuild, a pre-apprenticeship construction program, which serves as an opportunity for youth ages 16-24 to develop educational and occupational skills. SOAR Academy was awarded the two-year grant for the first time in February 2019 and the District was one of only two grantees in Georgia to receive the grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. Now in its second round of the grant, the YouthBuild program has helped change the lives of some of our youth by providing them employability skills training, leadership development, and the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma or obtain a GED. We have witnessed some outstanding success stories from our YouthBuild program as students learn career skills that prepare them for careers to support their families and live productive lives here in Macon or anywhere else for that matter. As you can see from these photos of the current YouthBuild cohort, as part of their completion criteria, YouthBuild students have contributed to home construction efforts through the District's partnership with the Macon Area Habitat for Humanity.
- **REGION TITLE:** Congratulations to Southwest High School Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Joe Dupree on being named the Region 2-AA Athletic Director of the Year!
- **ON THE HORIZON:** When we return for second semester in January, the Bibb County School District will kick off the Show Up Campaign! We will share more details soon, as we prepare to focus on encouraging students, staff, and parents to SHOW UP for themselves and for each other. When we say show up, we don't just mean showing up in a seat. We want you engaged, ready to learn, active in the conversation, and fully supporting our students so they can be the best versions of themselves!
- **THANK YOU, MR. GOBLE!** Congratulations to Corey Goble for his leadership appointment with Baldwin County School District! Mr. Goble has been an asset to our district through his service first to Campus Police and then to our Safety and Security Team. Mr. Goble has been a significant part of the work we do in our district to ensure safety and security is not just something we talk about.

- **THANK YOU, MR. JOYCE!** Tom Joyce has provided the Bibb County School District and Bibb County Board of Education with legal counsel through the law firm Jones Cork. He recently shared he would be retiring soon. Mr. Joyce, we thank you for all of your legal support over the years, and we wish you all the best as you retire.

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

Parent Engagement Session with Dr. Sims





Actions

Board Members Sworn In

The Bibb County Board of Education held a swearing-in ceremony for its recently elected members on Thursday, December 15, at the Professional Learning Center at the Martin-Whitley Educational Complex. Judge Sarah Harris presided over the ceremony.

Board members Daryl J. Morton, At-Large, Post 7; and Dr. Lisa W. Garrett, At-Large, Post 8; were sworn in to office for a four-year service term beginning January 1, 2023. Both were re-elected during the May 2022 elections. Mr. Morton will begin his third term, while Dr. Garrett will begin her second term. Dr. Garrett is currently serving as Board Vice President.

The remaining six Board of Education seats are elected on an alternate elections cycle. They are currently in the middle of their four-year service term. These Board members include Dr. Thelma D. Dillard, District 2 and Board President; Kristin C. Hanlon, District 3 and Board Treasurer; Myrtice C. Johnson, District 1; Juawn A. Jackson, District 4; Dr. Sundra M. Woodford, District 5; and James M. Freeman, District 6.

Board Approves 2023 Retention Supplement for Part- and Full-Time Employees

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved a retention supplement for qualified employees. A strategic objective of the Victory in Our Schools Strategic Plan is to recruit and retain the right people. At this time, the District has an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary work of all staff and their dedication to continuing to be a vital part of the District.

By utilizing a portion of the Bibb County School District's American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, the District will make retention supplement payments to individuals who continue to work for the District through January 6, 2023, AND are scheduled to remain employed with the District through the remainder of their respective work calendar. Employees will receive the retention supplements by mid-February. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves VMS Server Refresh

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved the refresh of VMS servers. VMS servers are utilized to preserve camera recordings. The Bibb County School District utilizes classroom cameras for both security and instructional purposes. Teachers have full control of recordings saved for instructional purposes, and it is important for the District to maintain appropriate servers to store video that can be retrieved as needed for security purposes. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Personnel Items

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved various personnel items, including the appointment of Conduis Shuman as Director of School Nutrition. To view personnel items, [click here](#).

Board Approves Network Switch Upgrades

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved the second phase of upgrades to the network switches in the District. As with the first phase of this three-phase project, the District will be working with AiOS Group. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Workers' Compensation Excess Insurance Policy Renewal

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved the District to renew the school district workers' compensation excess insurance policy with Star Insurance Co. for the policy period January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2024. The workers' compensation excess insurance policy provides insurance coverage for any school district workers' compensation claim that exceeds \$750,000. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Sale of Former Jessie Rice Elementary School

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved a resolution deeming property located at 3750 Jessie Rice Street, formerly known as Jessie Rice Elementary School, as surplus property and to further authorize the sale of said property. Next Step Capital LLC has submitted a Letter of Intent to purchase the property. The purchase price for the property is \$370,000. Per Board Policy DFN, a resolution shall be adopted that such real property has become unnecessary or inconvenient for school purposes and that it would be in the best interest of the District to sell or dispose of same in accordance with this policy. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Sale of Former Neel Academy

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved a resolution deeming property located at 2840 Hightower Road, formerly known as Neel Academy, as surplus property and to further authorize the sale of said property. Next Step Capital, LLC has submitted a Letter of Intent to purchase the property located at 2840 Hightower Road also known as the former Neel Academy property. The purchase price for the property is \$90,000. Per Board Policy DFN, a

resolution shall be adopted that such real property has become unnecessary or inconvenient for school purposes and that it would be in the best interest of the District to sell or dispose of same in accordance with this policy. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Sale of Property Near Carter Elementary School

On Thursday, December 15, Board members approved a resolution to deem property surplus and sell a portion of the property located at Carter Elementary School. Chick-fil-A submitted a Letter of Intent to purchase about .75 acres located at 5920 Zebulon Road. The purchase price for the .75 acres is \$750,000. Currently, Carter Elementary School sits on 30 acres. Per Board Policy DFN, a resolution shall be adopted that such real property has become unnecessary or inconvenient for school purposes and that it would be in the best interest of the District to sell or dispose of same in accordance with this policy. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

Board members reviewed various policies for first or second reading on December 15. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To review the policies, [click here](#).

- Policy IKBC - Materials Harmful to Minors Complaint Resolution Process (ACTION)
- Policy BBBB – New Member Orientation (ACTION)
- Policy BBD – Board-School Superintendent Relations (ACTION)
- Policy GANA – Infectious Disease (ACTION)
- Policy IFBD – Media Centers (INFORMATION)
- Policy MFB – Student Teaching and Internships (INFORMATION)
- Policy BCAC – Special Board Meetings (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

Class of 2023 Graduation Dates

On Thursday, December 15, Board members received an update on the 2023 Graduation Dates. The Bibb County School District will conduct spring graduation ceremonies May 24-26, 2023. The last day of school for the 2022-2023 academic school year is Wednesday, May 24, 2023. The proposed graduation times are as follows:

- Wednesday, May 24 at 4PM: Howard High School
- Wednesday, May 24 at 7PM: Rutland High School
- Thursday, May 25 at 10AM: Westside High School
- Thursday, May 25 at 1PM Central High School
- Thursday, May 25 at 4PM: Northeast High School
- Friday, May 26 at 10AM: Southwest High School
- Friday, May 26 at 1PM: VIP Academy

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

2022 Read for the Record

On Thursday, December 15, Board members received an information update from Michelle Lenderman, Director of Media Services. Lenderman thanked Board members for their support of Read for the Record. As a part of Picture Book Month in November, the Bibb County School District partnered with the United Way of Central Georgia to participate in the 18th annual Read for the Record event on Thursday, October 27, 2022.

Read for the Record is the world's largest shared reading experience that celebrates children's early language and social emotional development. This year, 474 volunteers read the picture book Nigel and the Moon by Georgia native Antwan Eady to 9,068 Bibb County students. Readers included school board members, district staff, high school students, community volunteers, and volunteers from various community organizations. Families in the Macon-Bibb area were also invited to join in the celebration and help us Read for the Record.

Board Members Learn About Science Textbook Adoption

On Thursday, December 15, Board members learned more about Science Textbook Adoption.

During the 2016 legislative session, laws related to textbook adoption were revised to allow the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to leave adoption decisions up to local school districts. The Bibb County School District has continued to follow the suggested guidelines from the state outlined in Georgia Education Rules 160-4-4.10. The last science textbook adoption occurred during Spring 2017 for implementation for the 2017-2018 school term.

At the beginning of this process, representatives from each elementary, middle and high school were asked to serve on committees. The Science Coordinator requested sample materials and presentations from the vendors. The committees will narrow the choice to two or three possible selections. Teachers, administrators, parents, and community stakeholders will have the opportunity to review textbook materials and complete textbook feedback forms to determine if the materials would meet the academic needs of our students

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

Board Reviews Monthly Financial Reports

On Thursday, December 15, Board members reviewed the District's monthly financial report and previous ESPLOST reports. Board members reviewed a presentation about the Investments and Investment Income. For more information, [click here](#).

Highlights and Recognitions

Light More Homes Competition Winners

Each year, Macon Area Habitat for Humanity hosts the Light More Homes Christmas light display to raise funds and awareness, as well as to bring some holiday cheer. This year, this

display is located at Mercer Village on Montpelier Avenue, and student groups from around the county participated in the light programming contest. This year, the District had two school groups finish in first place for their grade level.

Appling Middle – First Place, Middle School Level

JaVontae Byrd, 7th grade

Tylen Dulin, 7th grade

Adviser: STEM Coach Shavetta Thomas

Howard High – First Place, High School Level

Henry Blankenship, 10th grade

Connor Darity, 10th grade

TJ Hillman, 10th grade

Jamal Howard, 10th grade

Adviser: Dr. Paul Barber



GHSA Esports Playoffs

In recent years, Esports have taken their place among other interscholastic competitions as a path to college scholarships and beyond. This year, students at various District schools participated in Esports, with teams from Howard High and Howard Middle advancing to the GHSA playoffs.

Howard Middle School – Rocket League Team

Jadyn Arrington, 8th grade

Gabe Fisher, 8th grade

Moraan Howells. 8th grade

Jerome McNicholas, 7th grade
Joshua Phelps, 8th grade
Jackie Wilson, 7th grade
Coach: Chase Bailey

Howard Middle School – Smash Brothers League

Takiel Bridges, 8th grade
Ethan Brock, 6th grade
Treveon Hill, 6th grade
Kezander Hillman, 8th grade
Kendell Mills, 8th grade
Mayson Rice, 6th grade
Teyona Rice, 8th grade
Reginald Rouse, 8th grade
Brandon Wooten, 8th grade
Coach: Vance Jones

Howard High Smashers – Super Smash Brothers

Trevor Bellflower, 10th grade
Leonardzo Hillman, 10th grade
Jamal Howard, 10th grade
Julius James, 11th grade
Seth Rider, 9th grade
Dillion Thomas, 12th grade
Coach: Paul Barber



Bibb County Athletics Record-Breaker

This year, Northeast High School sophomore Nicholas Woodford had a special season for the Raiders. While his team advanced to the second round of the GHSA Class AA football playoffs and finished second in Region 2-AA with an overall record of 8-4 and 6-1 in region play, Nick set a Bibb County single-season rushing record with 2,746 rushing yards on 273 carries. Additionally, this mark and his 40 rushing touchdowns on the season will both rank in the top 15 all-time for the state of Georgia according to available records.

Nick was also named his region's player of the year. What many people don't know about Nick is that he was sidelined his freshman year by injury, which required surgery as part of the

recovery process. To overcome this injury and to come back even stronger this year is true dedication as an athlete.



Flag Football Elite Eight

This year, the Athletics Department added flag football for the girls at each of the six high schools, with much thanks to generous donations by the Atlanta Falcons Foundation and the NFL Foundation to the Bibb County Education Foundation. This presented a new opportunity for student athletes to excel and hone their skill sets.

Westside High School's flag football team was particularly successful in the first year of the program. The Seminoles went 13-1, remaining undefeated through the regular season and area championship tournament before falling 7-6 in the Elite Eight of the GHSA Class 5A-6A state tournament. Representing at the meeting were Coach Josh Grube and seniors MacKenzie McDuffie and Aaliyah Lowder.



National Science Championship - Howard Middle School Academic Team

Recently, the Academic Team from Howard Middle School competed in a National Science Challenge hosted by Question Unlimited. This competition pitted the Huskies against teams from across the country and even one team from Honduras. In the end, the Huskies faced off against Drexler Middle School from Iowa and won by a score of 220-40 to win the middle school championship.

Captain: Londyn Rodgers, 8th grade

Co-Captains: Shritham Panda and Makenzie Hugley, 8th grade

Annabelle Brannen, 8th grade

Emmaleigh Brannen, 8th grade

Kezander Hillman, 8th grade

Brooke Johnson, 8th grade

Darius Newsome, 8th grade

Bailei O'Dette, 8th grade

Emory Peek, 8th grade

Yazmine Simms, 8th grade

Adviser: Ashley O'Tyson



Pledge of Allegiance



The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joshua Johnson, 4th Grade, Alexander II Magnet School.

