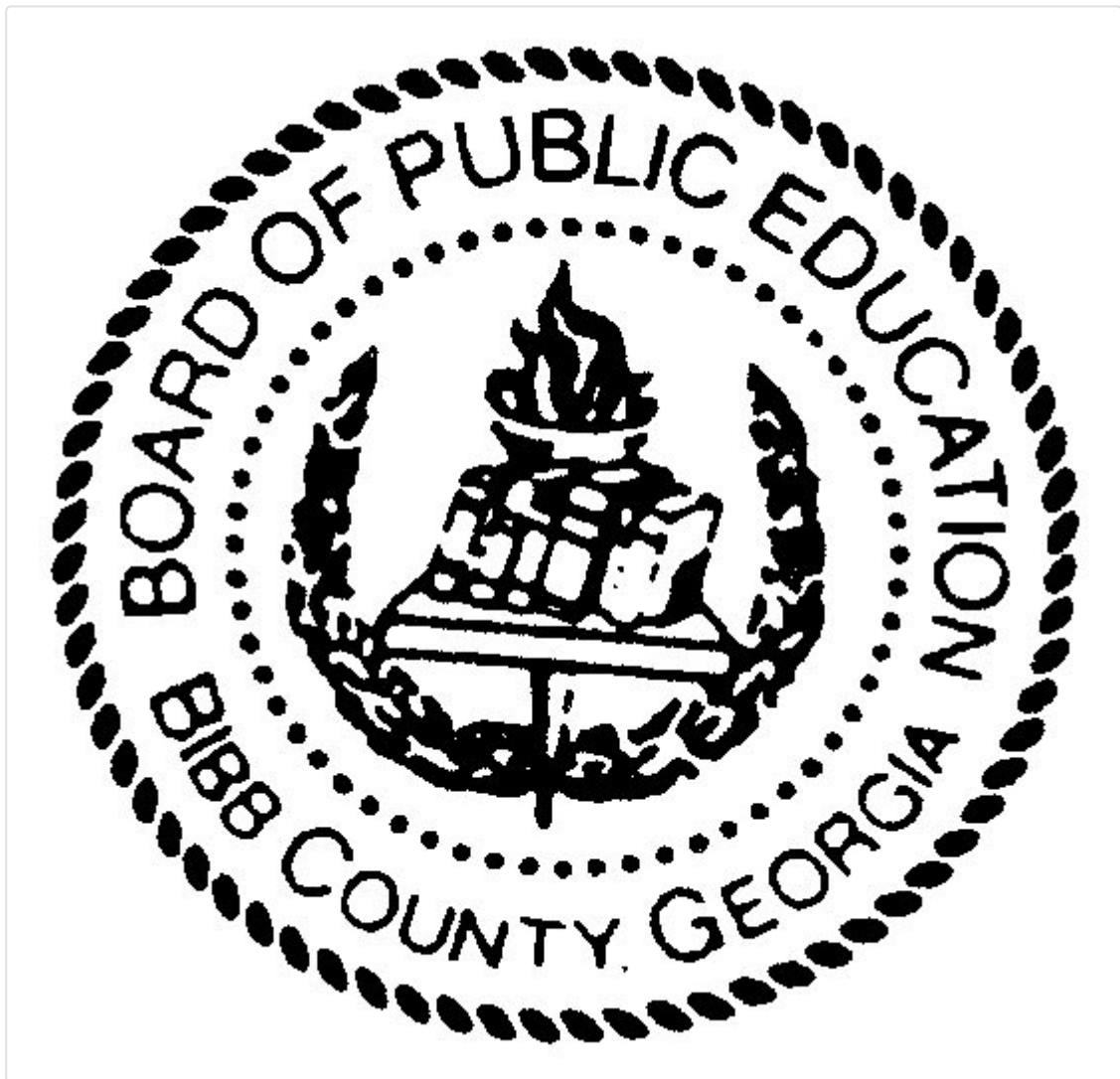


The Board Brief

March 26, 2020



This edition of The Board Brief is a summary of the information presented and actions taken at the Board of Education's meetings on March 17 and 26, 2020. The monthly Committee and Board meeting took place via teleconference due to COVID-19.

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Actions

District Aligns with Governor's Executive Order

On Thursday, March 26, Board members approved aligning with Governor Brian Kemp's Executive Order extending the mandate for public schools to remain closed until April 24.

Board Approves Personnel Items, Including Leadership Positions and Teacher Contracts

On Thursday, March 26, Board members approved various personnel items, including leadership positions as well as teacher contract recommendations for the 2020-2021 school year.

Appointments are listed below:

- Jesse Harrelson – Assistant Principal, Springdale Elementary
- LaQuonta Williams-Smith – Assistant Principal, Weaver Middle
- Cynthia Jones – Assistant Principal, Howard Middle
- Robert Winborne, Assistant Principal, Howard High
- Angela Daws – Assistant Principal, Rutland Middle
- Kevin Adams – Director of Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability

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

Board Approves Reduction in Number of Credits Needed for High School Graduation

On Thursday, March 26, Board members approved the reduction in the number of credits needed for high school graduation. The decrease will be from 24 credits to 23 credits, starting with the graduating class of May 2021. Starting with the 2013-2014 school year, the District decreased the minimum required number of credits for a student to be considered a high school graduate, from 28 credits to 24 credits. This decrease was a result of high schools moving from Block Schedule to a 7-Period Day Schedule.

State Rule 160-4-2-.48 requires a student to complete a minimum of 23 credits. Students are required to earn four credits in ELA; four credits in Math; four credits in Science; three credits in Social Studies; three credits in CTAE/Modern Language/and/or Fine Arts; one credit in Health and Physical Education; and four credits in Electives to be considered a high school graduate. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Contract with Truist Bank

On Thursday, March 26, Board members approved entering into contract negotiations for banking services with Truist Bank. Truist Bank was formed in December 2019 as a result of a merger between BB&T and SunTrust Banks. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Sharp Business Systems Contract

On Thursday, March 26, Board members authorized the Procurement Department to establish a new three-year copier lease agreement with Sharp Business Systems. This is a one-year contract with the option of three renewals. The District's current three-year copier lease agreement with Sharp Business Systems ended in December 2019. The new leasing period is May 2020 through July 2023. Under the new lease agreement, all locations listed in attachment "Schedule A" will receive a new upgraded model copier from Sharp Business Systems. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Approves Purchase of Properties Surrounding Ed DeFore Sports Complex

On Thursday, March 26, Board members approved the purchase of properties located at 2765, 2793 and 2805 Heath Road and 2757 Pineworth Road in Macon. These properties are adjacent to the Ed DeFore Sports Complex. Historically, the Ed DeFore Sports Complex property has been surrounded by an undeveloped buffer, providing safety and security aspects for the Sports Complex as well as Westside High School. Recently, development opportunities for this buffer have created a high potential that could adversely affect safety, access and operations for both facilities.

Acquisition of this property, containing approximately 67 acres, will allow the District to protect from these risks. Additionally, due to recent upgrades at the Ed DeFore Sports Complex, there is a need for added parking at the soccer fields and football stadium. This acquisition will allow for such additions, as well as an emergency exit for the complex to mitigate traffic congestion on Heath Road. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

Board members reviewed various policies for first or second reading on March 26. Policies must be read twice before they may be voted on for final action. To review the policies, [click here](#).

- PR-1 Revision of Policy BBA – Board Officers (ACTION – Second Reading)
- PR-2 Revision of Policy BBAA – Board Officer Method of Election (ACTION – Second Reading)
- PR-3 Revision of Policy BE – School Board Records (ACTION – Second Reading)
- PR-4 Rescission of Policy BBABD – Duties of the Clerk (ACTION – Second Reading)
- PR-5 Revision of Policy BBFA – Local School Councils (PRESENTATION – First Reading)
- PR-6 Revision of Policy JC – Students Rights and Responsibilities (PRESENTATION – First Reading)
- PR-7 Revision of Policy JCAC - Harassment (PRESENTATION – First Reading)
- PR-8 Revision of Policy BBE – School Attorney (PRESENTATION – First Reading)

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

Board Receives Updates on District's COVID-19 Response, eLearning

On Thursday, March 26, Board members received a presentation reviewing the District's response to COVID-19 (coronavirus). Departments provided updates on their strategic practices and response. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Begins Planning for FY21 Budget

On Tuesday, March 17, Board members received a presentation for the proposed General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) during their first Budget Work Session. The next Budget Work Session is scheduled for April. For more information, [click here](#).

District Dissolving Partnership with Office of Turnaround Schools

On Thursday, March 26, Board members were informed the Bibb County School District is dissolving its partnership with the Office of Turnaround Schools as of March 31, 2020. School-level support for the District's Turnaround Schools – Appling Middle, Ballard-Hudson Middle, and Veterans Elementary – will transition from the Office of Turnaround Schools to the Georgia Department of Education School Improvement Division.

In 2017, the Turnaround Office was created under the First Priority Act (House Bill 338) to support schools and Districts to ensure improved outcomes within Georgia's lowest-performing schools. Beginning the 2017-2018 school year, the Turnaround Office partnered with Bibb County School District to provide academic and non-academic support to three of the District's Turnaround Schools – Appling Middle, Ballard-Hudson Middle and Veterans Elementary.

In addition to services rendered by the Turnaround Office, the schools are receiving assistance from the Georgia Department of Education's Office of School Improvement. After evaluation of the support provided by both agencies, it was determined the Georgia Department of Education Office of School Improvement services were more aligned with the District's continuous improvement efforts, which has shown steady growth within the last three years. For more information, [click here](#).

High School Schedules to Remain at Seven Periods

On Thursday, March 26, Board members were informed the District will continue use a seven-period day for high schools in 2020-2021. The District announced in December 2019 that it would transition high schools from the current seven-period day to a six-period day next school year. The intent of the change was to help high school teachers with short planning times, a higher than desired student caseload and more class preparations than desired.

Moving to a six-period day was projected to require more teachers, thereby impacting the District's budget with a higher collective salary amount. Based on current uncertainty about the economic implications of the nation's response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19), a decision was made to postpone plans for the transition to a six-period day. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Monthly Financial Report

On Thursday, March 26, Board members reviewed the District's monthly financial report. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Receives Presentation from 2011, 2016 Capital Improvement Program

On Thursday, March 26, Board members received a presentation in regards to the 2011 and 2016 Capital Improvement Program, including information on expenditures and encumbrances. For more information, [click here](#).

