

The Board Brief

This edition of *The Board Brief* is a summary of the information and recognitions presented and actions taken at the Board of Education's meetings on June 20, 2019.

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Highlights and Recognitions

School Board Recognized as Exemplary by GSBA

The Bibb County Board of Education was recently recognized as a 2019 Exemplary Board by the Georgia School Boards Association. This is the highest level of GSBA recognition for local school boards, with 55 of the state's 180 boards receiving the honor.

The award marks the first time the Bibb County Board of Education has reached Exemplary status after previously being honored at the Distinguished level. The recognition program is intended to honor boards that display reliable school governance and leadership.

To be recognized as Exemplary, a school board must demonstrate ethics, fiscal responsibility, appropriate levels of board member training and other criteria. The Bibb County Board of Education is composed of President Lester Miller, Vice President Dr. Sundra Woodford, Treasurer Dr. Thelma Dillard, Ella Carter, Robert Easter, Dr. Lisa Garrett, Daryl Morton and Susan K. Sipe.

Actions Taken

New AP Appointed; Additional Personnel Items Approved

On Thursday, June 20, Board members approved the appointment of Roderick Earl as Assistant Principal for Weaver Middle School. To view all personnel items approved by Board members on Thursday, [click here](#).

2020-2021 Academic Calendar Approved

On Thursday, June 20, Board members approved the academic calendar for 2020-2021 with a start date of August 10, 2020 and an end date of May 26, 2021. To view the calendar, [click here](#).

A survey of Bibb County School District employees revealed the top request or priority for employees is a later start date at the beginning of the school year. Based on this information, along with continued legislative discussion about mandating a later start to the school year, the Bibb County School District developed an academic calendar for 2020-2021 with a later start date. A start date of August 10, 2020 is proposed in order to allow the school district to still complete the first semester before the holiday break. Additionally, longer weekends were included in place of weeklong breaks in the fall and winter to ensure employees still had an opportunity for a break.

Like the 2019-2020 academic calendar, the academic calendar for 2020-2021 includes 178 days for students and 190 days for teachers. This option allows the district to continue providing important professional development without increasing teacher contract days and impacting the budget. Also similar to the 2019-2020 calendar, this calendar option allows teachers to complete their contract by May 31, which is preferred for retirement purposes.

Board Approves FY 2020 Budget

On Thursday, June 20, Board members approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 General Fund Budget for the 2019-2020 school year. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Various items were considered in the development of the FY 2020 General Fund Budget. Chief Financial Officer Ron Collier discussed these considerations with the Board throughout a series of budget work sessions this spring to gain a better picture of funding priorities for 2019-2020.

Budget Considerations

- Decrease in millage rate
- Certified and classified staff salary increases
- Consolidation of Riley and Brookdale Elementary Schools
- Financial impact of ACE becoming a state charter school
- Additional office clerical and professional development support for schools (21 additional school-based clerks)
- Additional 5 contract days for Assistant Principals
- Salary adjustments to technology staff and high school band directors
- Addition of 2 Teaching and Learning Content Coordinators (Elementary ELA and Elementary Math)
- Addition of Truancy Coordinator to push Truancy Task Force down to school level
- Addition of STEM Coordinator
- Addition of Health and PE Coordinator
- Addition of Grants Manager
- First-year of tuition for TAPP teachers
- Continued declining student enrollment
- Continued increases in the cost of employee benefits
- State QBE Equalization Funding
- Future E-rate revenue and expenditure credits
- 178-day academic calendar to include additional professional development for staff

Weaver Middle to Implement STEM Program

On Thursday, June 20, Board members authorized the District to enter a three-year contractual agreement with Discovery Education to implement the STEM Formation professional development program at Weaver Middle School, which is the feeder middle school to Westside High School's pre-engineering focus. Discovery Education STEM Formation is a three-year system for professional development and leadership designed to build and sustain a culture of STEM teaching and learning, which includes robust STEM professional development, ongoing job-embedded coaching and administrative leadership.

This comprehensive partnership will engage key stakeholders to create a shared STEM vision, develop educators and administrators, cultivate inquiry-based, transdisciplinary instruction and prepare our future workforce. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

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

- Policy EBL – Environmental Programs (first reading)
- Policy GAE – Complaints and Grievances (first reading)
- Policy GAF – Student-Staff Relations (first reading)
- Policy GAG – Staff Conflict of Interest (first reading)
- Policy JBC(1) – Homeless Students (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.

Board Approves Renewal of Renaissance Star 360

On Thursday, June 20, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to Renaissance for the renewal of Renaissance Star 360 for 2019-2020. Renaissance Star 360 is a comprehensive Pre-K through grade 12 assessment solution used to measure students’ achievement and growth, as well as to identify students’ instructional needs. This system of assessments informs data-based decisions and supports instructional frameworks such as Response to Intervention (RtI). For more information, [click here](#).

District to Continue Implementing Professional Learning Services for Principals

On Thursday, June 20, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order for the renewal of the National School Administration Manager (SAM) Innovation Project to provide professional learning services for 2019-2020. The SAM Project is a professional development process using a unique set of tools to change a principal’s focus from school management tasks to instructional leadership – activities directly connected to improving teaching and learning. For more information, [click here](#).

Budget Amended for New Elementary School

On Thursday, June 20, Board members approved a proposed amendment to the 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) for the new elementary school on Greenbriar Road from \$15 million to \$17 million to provide for increased construction costs to the contract. Riley Elementary School, located at 3522 Greenbriar Road, closed at the end of the 2018-2019 school year in order for demolition of the old school and construction of a new school to begin. In the interim, students from Riley will attend Brookdale Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year. Once construction of the new elementary school is complete, students from Brookdale and Riley will attend the new school. For more information, [click here](#).

Board OKs Renewal of SchoolCity Assessment Platform

On Thursday, June 20, Board members approved a renewal agreement with Illuminate Education for the SchoolCity Assessment Platform for 2019-2020. Since 2015, the District has implemented a formative assessment process to provide teachers and leaders with data to assist with instructional decisions. Having access to the formative assessment data has assisted schools in determining student mastery of standards prior to the spring administration of standardized tests. For more information, [click here](#).

PILOT Agreement for Hotel and Retail Development Approved

On Thursday, June 20, Board members adopted a resolution authorizing the Board President and the Superintendent to execute a PILOT Agreement concerning property comprising a public/private partnership for the development of a Hyatt brand hotel, mixed-use retail space along with two parking decks in downtown Macon. For more information, [click here](#).

Air Conditioning to be Installed in Lane Elementary Gym

On Thursday, June 20, Board members approved a contract with Waters Mechanical Inc. for installing gymnasium air conditioning units at Lane Elementary School. This will be funded by the 2016 Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST). For more information, [click here](#).

Insurance Coverage Approved

On Thursday, June 20, Board members approved awarding business insurance coverages to McGriff Insurance Services for 2019-2020. For more information, [click here](#).

Custodial Supplies Contract Approved

On Thursday, June 20, Board members authorized the District to enter into a contractual agreement with Copaco for custodial supplies for 2019-2020. For more information, [click here](#).

Waste and Recycling Services Approved

On Thursday, June 20, Board members authorized the District to enter into a one-year renewal with Advanced Disposal for waste and recycling services for 2019-2020. For more information, [click here](#).

Renewal of BrightBytes Approved

On Thursday, June 20, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to BrightBytes Inc. for the renewal of the 21st Century Learning, Early Insights Suite and the Whole Child Module. BrightBytes Analytic Software Suite provides vital student profile updates throughout the year for teachers, administrators and central office. These profiles can be shared with parents/students to communicate student achievement. For more information, [click here](#).

Renewal of Infinite Campus Contract Approved

On Thursday, June 20, Board members authorized the District to issue a purchase order to Infinite Campus for the annual renewal of the student information system for the 2019-2020. Infinite Campus (IC) is a secure online, cloud-based tool used by school and district leaders to collect, manage and report all student information, including teacher gradebooks and state-mandated

student reports. Additionally, IC provides both parents and students with a portal to view student grades and data in “real time.” For more information, [click here](#).

Information

Board Receives Update on Termination of Agreement with Land Bank

On Thursday, May 16, Board members voted to withdraw from the intergovernmental agreement with the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority. On Thursday, June 20, Board members received an overview of how the Land Bank Authority will seek approval from the Board of its decisions to extinguish school district taxes after July 23. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Board Receives Update on Implementation of Leader in Me

On Thursday, June 20, Board members received an update on the Bibb County School District’s implementation of The Leader in Me. The Leader in Me Initiative began five years ago with partnership between OneMacon’s Business Education Partnership (BEP) and the District. It was a year later that the BEP raised more than \$2 million to implement the program in all elementary and middle schools. It was also agreed that the school district would sustain this initiative once implemented fully.

LIM Cohorts

Pilot Year, 2015-2016: Burdell-Hunt, Carter

Cohort 1, 2016-2017: Bernd, Hartley

Cohort 2, 2017-2018: Ingram-Pye, Porter, Southfield, Vineville Academy

Cohort 3, 2018-2019: Alexander II, Bruce, Lane, MLK, Riley, Springdale, Union, Williams, Appling Middle, Ballard-Hudson Middle, Howard Middle, Southwest High

Cohort 4, 2019-2020: Brookdale, Heard, Veterans, Heritage, Skyview, Miller Magnet Middle, Rutland Middle, Weaver Middle

To view a timeline showing the District’s financial responsibility for continued implementation of The Leader in Me, [click here](#).

Information Provided on Construction Delivery Methods

On Thursday, June 20, Board members received information Construction Delivery Methods. To view the information shared, [click here](#).