

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 Committee and Board Meetings on June 21, 2018.

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Highlights and Recognitions

District High School Students Complete College Degrees

The Dual Enrollment program allows students to complete college courses, and even degrees, while they're still in high school. As a part of this program, tuition and even the cost of books are covered financially, allowing students a more affordable way to get a post-secondary education.

During the 2017-2018 school year, three Bibb County high school students completed associate's degrees as part of their Dual Enrollment process. This means that they were 2018 high school and college graduates. These students were Zaria Freeman, Northeast High School, with a pre-nursing associate's degree from Georgia Military College; Anthony Willing, Rutland High School, with an English associate's degree from Georgia Military College; and Ryota Tsutsumi, Rutland High School, with a science associate's degree from Middle Georgia State University. Ryoto could not be with us this evening.

School Board Recognized by GSBA

The Georgia School Boards Association has a recognition program to honor local boards that meet and exceed state standards. This helps create a culture of success for students, faculty and staff.

This year, just 16 local boards statewide were honored as Distinguished Boards during the GSBA Summer Conference. The Bibb County Board of Education was one of these boards, represented by the following members: President Lester Miller, Vice President Dr. Thelma Dillard, Treasurer Daryl Morton, Ella Carter, Susan Sipe, Dr. Sundra Woodford, Bob Easter, and Dr. Wanda West.

Actions Taken

Director of SOAR Academy Approved

On Thursday, June 21, Board members approved the transfer of Dr. Julia Daniely from Westside High to the position of Director of SOAR Academy for the 2018-2019 school year. To view personnel items, [click here](#).

Academic Calendar for 2019-2020 Approved

On Thursday, June 21, Board members approved the academic calendar for 2019-2020. For more information or to view the calendar, [click here](#).

During the FY 2019 Budget process, the District identified a need to provide teachers with additional professional learning or collaboration time during the school year. The proposed calendar for 2019-2020 has been developed to meet this need by proposing 178 student days instead of 180 days. Teachers would still work 190 days.

Like previous district calendars, this calendar identifies August 1, 2019, as the first day of school, and school would end prior to Memorial Day on May 22, 2020. One additional professional learning day has been added to each semester. Additionally, one day of professional learning has been removed from post-planning to provide teachers with extra professional learning or collaboration time earlier in the spring semester when it may benefit student achievement the most. This provides teachers with a total of five professional development days during the school year to collaborate in reviewing quarterly student assessment data.

Aside from the move to 178 student days, the main difference in this proposed academic calendar is a shorter winter break in February. Students and teachers would be afforded a long weekend in place of the full week for break. If teachers and students were to receive a full week of break in February 2020, this would require one of two options: the December and January holiday break would be shorter than two weeks, or students would be required to return to school after Memorial Day.

Additionally, the proposed calendar for 2019-2020 identifies three dates as possible make-up days in case of inclement weather: Tuesday, January 21; Monday, February 17; and Tuesday, February 18. This proposed calendar is also closely aligned with neighboring school districts.

FY 2019 Budget with Reduced Millage Rate Approved

On Thursday, June 21, Board members approved the FY 2019 Superintendent's Recommended Budget. For more information, [click here](#).

Some of the goals of the FY 2019 Budget included providing additional support to Turnaround Schools, closing the knowing-doing gap for employees, and supporting some of the recommendations made by AdvancED. Some highlights of the budget are listed below.

- Reduction in current millage rate by .5 mill from 19.814 to 19.314 mills
- Progressive Consulting Technologies Inc. and CompTech settlement
- Elimination of State QBE Austerity
- TRS Rate Increase (16.81 percent to 20.90 percent)
- 2 Communities in Schools Site Coordinators (1/3 of cost in partnership with the Chief Turnaround Officer)
- 3 Instructional Technology Coaches (to support AdvancED recommendations)
- Contract extension for high school counselors by 5 additional days
- Contract extension for Content Coordinators by 5 additional days
- Increased Transportation Department costs
 - Added new location on Cavalier Drive
 - 1 Router position
 - 1 Route Supervisor position
 - 1 Shop Foreman position

- 3 Mechanic positions
- 5 CDL Bus Driver positions
- Social Studies and Math textbook adoption
- Phonics program for K-2 (for Turnaround schools)
- Referral bonus program for new teachers
- Historic Macon Home Ownership Incentive Program

Public hearings on the FY 2019 Superintendent's Recommended Budget were held June 5 and June 12.

Board Adopts Resolution Approving Sale of Bellevue Property

On Thursday, June 21, Board members approved a resolution granting authority for the sale of the former Bellevue Elementary School, located at 4090 Napier Ave., Macon. Hope Economic Development and Learning Center Inc. has offered \$188,000 to purchase the surplus property. For more information, [click here](#).

Teaching and Learning Resources Approved

On Thursday, June 21, Board members authorized various renewals and/or adoptions brought forward by the Department of Teaching and Learning. Contracts brought forth included those for the renewal of Edgenuity, the adoption of Max Scholar, the renewal of System 44 Next Generation, and the renewal of ThinkCERCA.

For more information on the renewal of Edgenuity for the implementation of online learning, as well as professional development, [click here](#).

For more information on the adoption of Max Scholar, a phonics program for elementary schools, [click here](#).

For more information on the renewal of System 44 Next Generation to be used as a reading intervention for elementary schools, [click here](#).

For more information on the renewal of ThinkCERCA to help teachers improve literacy instruction at the middle school level, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Partnership MOUs for L4GA Grant

On Thursday, June 21, Board members authorized the District to enter into partnership agreements to implement the requirements of the L4GA Grant. The Bibb County School District is one of 38 Georgia school districts awarded the Literacy for Learning, Living, and Leading in Georgia (L4GA) Grant.

The District has been awarded \$1,629,471.63 for the total grant amount. The MOUs presented for approval include services provided by Head Start, Mercer University, and the United Way of Central Georgia for their partnership within this grant. Grant funds will be dispersed to partnering agencies over a period of three years.

For more information on the MOU with Head Start, [click here](#).

For more information on the MOU with Mercer University, [click here](#).

For more information on the MOU with United Way of Central Georgia, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes ESPLOST Expenditures for ACE

On Thursday, June 21, Board members authorized the purchase of various items for the Academy for Classical Education (ACE). The purchases will be paid for with Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) funds.

For more information on the request to purchase Chromebooks, [click here](#).

For more information on the request to purchase a John Deere Gator, [click here](#).

For more information on the request to purchase a John Deere Mower, [click here](#).

For more information on the request to purchase an audio system for the gym, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Speech and Language Therapy Contracts

On Thursday, June 21, Board members authorized the District to enter into contract agreements with Cobb Pediatric and EBS Healthcare for speech and language therapy services for the 2018-2019 school year, and to enter agreements with Academic Staffing, AMN Healthcare, Presence Learning, PrimCare, Soliant and StaffRehab, as necessary. For more information, [click here](#).

FY 2019 Business Insurance Coverage Approved

On Thursday, June 21, Board members authorized the District to award the RFP for District's business insurance coverages to BB&T Insurance Services. The bid award is for a three-year period with the option to renew annually. The insurance coverage for FY 2019 would be effective July 1, 2018. For more information, [click here](#).

Information

Information on First Priority Act Presented to Board

On Thursday, June 21, Chief of Staff Keith Simmons presented Board members with an update on the District's partnership with the State Turnaround Office. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Interns as Teachers Program Meant to Enhance Support for Teacher Candidates

The Bibb County School District has long-standing partnerships with colleges/universities for the placement of pre-service students. In the past five years, the District also has established partnerships for the purpose of creating Professional Development Schools. The PDS agreement outlines various activities that the university and District will commit to in order to strengthen both the pre-service candidate and the school's teaching staff. The Interns as Teachers Program will serve to continue and strengthen the partnerships built between the District and its Education Preparation Programs and to fill vacancies within the district.

The goals of this program are to increase the quantity and quality of teachers and teacher candidates in hard-to-staff positions, to enhance the support provided by the college/university for teachers and teacher candidates at partner Bibb County Schools, provide opportunities for mentor teacher development, and to offer our teacher candidates an enriching internship experience as teacher-of-record. For more information, [click here](#).

District Applying for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant

The Bibb County School District intends to apply for a grant opportunity for Career, Technical and Agriculture Education (CTAE) to partner with Work Source Georgia. The primary goal of the grant opportunity is to provide students with marketable stackable credentials through occupational skills training and dual-enrollment opportunities, and to provide students with leadership development thorough participation in pathway aligned Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). Additionally, students would have the opportunity to receive comprehensive college and career readiness guidance and counseling provided by career coaches.

MBCIA Presents Update to BOE

Stephen Adams of the Macon Bibb County Industrial Authority (MBCIA) presented Board members with an update on MBCIA's work in improving economic development in Bibb County. For more information about MBCIA's work, [click here](#).