

The Board Brief

This edition of *The Board Brief* is a summary of the actions taken and information presented at the Board of Education's Called Board Meeting and FY18 Budget Work Session on May 9, 2017.

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Actions Taken

Superintendent to Remain in Bibb Through 2021

On Tuesday, May 9, the Bibb County Board of Education voted to modify its contract with Superintendent Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr., keeping him in his role as Superintendent of the Bibb County School District through 2021. The Board originally voted to name Dr. Jones Superintendent of the Bibb County School District on February 26, 2015. He signed a contract through 2018 at that time, and his first day in Bibb County was April 6, 2015.

"The Board is very pleased with the job Dr. Jones has done to bring continued stability to the Bibb County School District. He has been able to move our district forward, and we want him to continue to provide that leadership for our district and our community. This action sends a strong message to all stakeholders that Board members believe the District is moving in the right direction. We are pleased with Dr. Jones's leadership, and the Board feels we have a good working relationship and are providing him the support he needs to improve the District," said Board of Education President Daryl Morton.

Upon his arrival in 2015, Dr. Jones immediately began working on Bibb County School District's Strategic Plan, "Victory in Our Schools," with a focus on the Vision – *Each student demonstrates strength of character and is college or career ready*. His Strategic Goals are Goal 1 – Increase Student Achievement; Goal 2 – Increase Student and Stakeholder Engagement; Goal 3 – Increase Leader and Teacher Effectiveness; Goal 4 – Be a Reliable Organization; and Goal 5 – Learning and Growth. These goals will assist the District with its mission of developing a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society.

"I'm very excited that the school board expressed a desire for me to stay with the District through 2021. We have done a lot of great work over the last two years, and I think this Board has grown greatly. When I look at the efforts we put in place to create Victory in Our Schools with our Strategic Plan, I'm very excited about that work, and I'm looking forward to seeing that work continue," Dr. Jones said.

During his 19-year career in education, Dr. Jones has been a JROTC Instructor, high school principal, and assistant superintendent. Before becoming an educator, he served in the United States Army from 1977-1997, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Dr. Jones is a 1977 graduate of United States Military Academy at West Point.

Dr. Jones has received numerous accolades and awards during his tenure in education. He currently serves as a governing board member for the American Association for School Administrators (AASA) and Past President for the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA). He received the Bill Barr Leadership Award from GSSA in 2016 the President's Award in 2012. Also, he was one of the finalists for the 2015 Georgia Superintendent of the Year Award. He has served as a member of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission Ethics Task Force.

Administrative Appointment for 2017-2018 Approved

On Tuesday, May 9, Board members approved the appointment of Karen Dean as Assistant Principal of Alexander II Magnet School for 2017-2018. To view all personnel items approved, [click here](#).

Information

Board Continues FY 2018 Budget Discussions

Chief Financial Officer Ron Collier presented Board members with an updated preview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 General Fund Budget on Tuesday, May 9. To view the full presentation, [click here](#).

Various items are under consideration for the FY 2018 General Fund Budget. Mr. Collier presented these considerations with the idea of meeting the following budget objectives for FY 2018: providing additional support to elementary schools to handle discipline and behavior issues, lowering class sizes, and bringing salaries in line with surrounding and comparable districts.

Items currently being considered for the budget are listed below.

- Suggested 2 percent one-time performance incentive bonus based upon system goals
- TRS rate increase (14.27 percent to 16.81 percent)
- Classified employees state health insurance rate increase beginning January 2018
- Pay step increase
 - Certified employees
 - Classified employees
- Staffing changes being considered:
 - 31 additional teachers to allow for class size reduction throughout the district
 - 2 Executive Directors to supervise principals
 - 4 Behavior Interventionists
 - 22 Medical Technicians (Med Techs) to administer medicine and keep medical records for elementary schools
 - 8 ISS Paraprofessionals to ensure each elementary school has a full-time ISS Paraprofessional
 - 12 Certified Teachers for Middle and High School ISS
 - 1 Warehouse Receiving Clerk
 - 1 RTI Coordinator for Behavior
 - 4 elementary Media Clerks
- Textbooks (Adoption year for social studies, included in FY 2017 budget)

- ThinkCERCA reading and writing initiative for middle schools
- District Management Group (DMG) consulting services for Program for Exceptional Children
- AdvancED accreditation visit
- School Administration Manager (SAM) Innovation Project for 13 additional schools
- Center for Educational Leadership
- Twilight Program, Westside High
- The Leader In Me Program in 4 additional elementary schools - Cost will be covered by Business Education Partnership (BEP) to add LIM at Ingram-Pye, Porter, Southfield and Vineville Academy of the Arts in 2017-2018

Also, Mr. Collier explained charter school funding in depth and discussed a salary review of classified positions in the District. To view the full presentation, [click here](#).

The Board of Education will meet later this month to consider tentative adoption of the FY 2018 General Fund Budget. Public hearings will take place in June. All meetings will take place in the Board Room at 484 Mulberry Street in Macon.