

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 on May 21, 2013.

=====

Actions Taken

Interim Superintendent to Begin Work on June 1, 2013

Board members on Tuesday, May 21, approved the proposed contract between the Bibb County Board of Education and Dr. Steve Smith for Dr. Smith to serve as interim superintendent of the Bibb County School District. Dr. Smith will begin work on June 1, 2013.

On April 29, 2013, Board members voted to extend an offer of employment to Dr. Smith to serve as interim superintendent. A native of Macon, Dr. Smith is no stranger to the District. He is a former principal of Central High School, and has taught or held leadership positions at Central High and First Presbyterian Day School in Macon, and Clark Central High School in Athens. Most recently, he served as superintendent of Lowndes County School System and Pulaski County School System. He also has served as a faculty member for the Valdosta State University James L. and Dorothy H. Dewar College of Education.

Dr. Smith received his doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision from Georgia State University in 2001. Prior to that, he obtained two master's degrees - one in Social and Behavioral Science Education and the other in Educational Administration. He also has an Education Specialist degree in Educational Administration, as well as a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Georgia College & State University and an associate degree from Macon State College.

To view a copy of Dr. Smith's résumé, [click here](#).

To view a copy of the contract approved by the Board on May 21, [click here](#).

Board Approves 178-Day School Instructional Calendar for 2013-2014

On Tuesday, May 21, Board members authorized a reduction in student instructional days for the 2013-2014 academic school year from 180 student days to 178 student days.

The reduction in student instructional days will serve as another cost-saving measure for the District's Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Budget. Under O.C.G.A. 20-2-168, school systems may declare, prior to the beginning of the school year, up to four emergency days for financial exigency in the 2013-2014 school year to offset the number of instructional days.

To view the updated calendar for the 2013-2014 academic year, which also includes proposed furlough days for employees, [click here](#).

Board Approves Process for Consolidation of Barden and Burghard Elementary Schools

Board members on Tuesday, May 21, approved the process for consolidating Barden and Burghard Elementary Schools. Should the Board vote to consolidate these two schools, that action would result in the closure of Barden Elementary School.

In the state of Georgia, prior to closing any school where that school's closing affects transportation, the local Board of Education is required to follow these steps:

- The Board of Education must schedule and hold two public hearings and provide opportunity for full public discussion.
- All public hearings shall be advertised ahead of time in a local newspaper.
- The Board shall request formal, written comments or suggestions regarding the school's closure.
- The Board of Education must send a copy of a resolution on the school's closure to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Board did not vote on dates for the two public hearings regarding the consolidation of Barden and Burghard Elementary Schools. The public will be notified of the public hearings as soon as the dates are decided upon.

Should the Board approve the consolidation of Barden and Burghard Elementary Schools following the public hearings, Barden Elementary School would close and students originally zoned for either of these schools would attend Burghard Elementary School for the 2013-2014 academic year. Transportation would be provided to all students as necessary.

To view the presentation on the consolidation of Barden and Burghard Elementary Schools and the closure of Barden Elementary, [click here](#).

Board Approves Process for Reconfiguration of Jones and King-Danforth Elementary Schools

The Board on Tuesday, May 21, approved the process for the reconfiguration of Jones and King-Danforth Elementary Schools. Under the proposed reconfiguration, students in Pre-K through second grade would attend Jones Elementary, and students in third through fifth grades would attend King-Danforth Elementary.

The recommendation for reconfiguration is based on the following factors:

- King-Danforth already has an R180 lab set up while Jones does not.
- King-Danforth does not have Pre-K playground equipment but Jones does.
- In 2005, King-Danforth had a wing added for fourth and fifth grades.
- King-Danforth is close to Appling Middle School, which would make an easy transition for the rising middle grade students.
- Vertical teaming with the middle school would be easier.

In order to fulfill notification requirements, the District will adhere to the following steps:

- The Board of Education must schedule and hold two public hearings and provide opportunity for full public discussion.
- All public hearings shall be advertised ahead of time in a local newspaper.
- The Board shall request formal, written comments or suggestions regarding the school's closure.
- The Board of Education must send a copy of a resolution on the school's closure to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Board did not vote on dates for the two public hearings regarding the reconfiguration of Jones and King-Danforth Elementary Schools. The public will be notified of the public hearings as soon as the dates are decided upon.

To view the presentation on the reconfiguration of grade levels for Jones and King-Danforth Elementary Schools, [click here](#).

Board OKs Personnel Services Items

The Board approved transfers, as well as separations from employment. To view Personnel Services documents presented, [click here](#).

Information Presented

Board to Outline Policies and Procedures

Board President Dr. Wanda West presented Board members with information from a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board. In her presentation, Dr. West outlined a proposal for the Board to put together a manual of standard procedure.