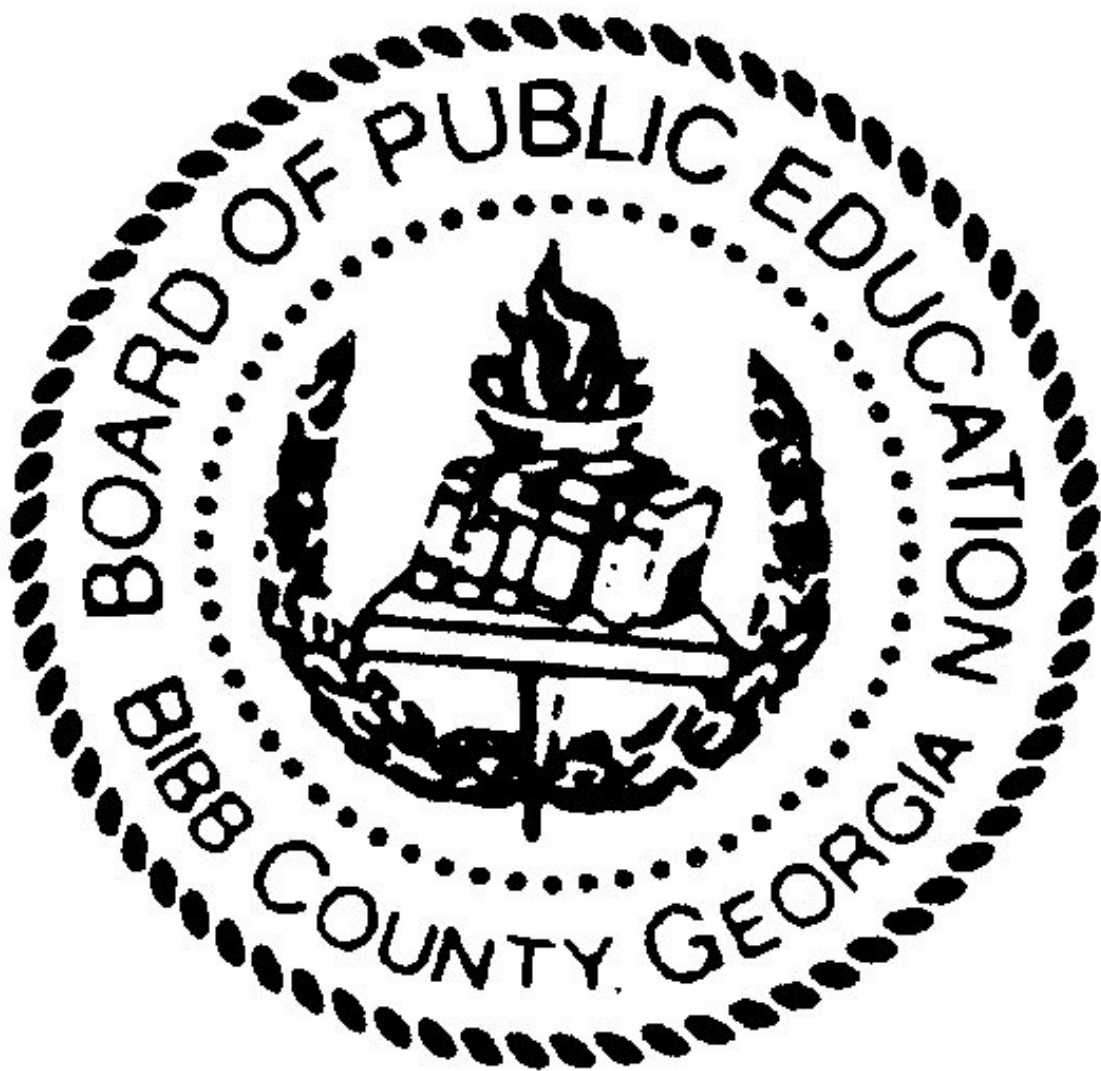


The Board Brief

August 15, 2024



The Board Brief

The Board Brief newsletter is a summary of the information presented and actions taken at Bibb County Board of Education meetings for Bibb County School District in Macon, Ga. Review meeting agendas, district policies, Board member contact information and more on Simbli at

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Index.aspx?S=4013>.

Actions

Administrators Appointed; Personnel Actions Approved

On Thursday, August 15, Board members approved various personnel items, including the appointments of Amber Daniel as Principal of Bernd Elementary School and Janice Loyd as Federal Programs Coordinator. To view personnel items, [click here](#).

District Receives Tax Digest for CY 2024 / FY 2025

On Thursday, August 15, Chief Financial Officer Eric Bush presented the Calendar Year (CY) 2024 tax digest information as received from the Bibb County Tax Commissioner's Office on August 13, 2024, and the calculation of the rollback millage rate. Board members also were presented with various preliminary millage rate options for review. To review the presentation, [click here](#).

The decision in setting the CY 2024 millage rate will determine the level of funding the District has available to continue to support current and/or new educational programs, schools, employee salaries and staffing levels, which in turn will influence reaching BCSD's Strategic Goals of Student Achievement, Staff Effectiveness and Stakeholder Engagement. It could position the District to better compete with surrounding Districts' salaries, impacting recruitment and retention efforts for FY 2025 and beyond.

The Bibb County Board of Education will meet for a Called Meeting on Monday, August 19, 2024, for the purpose of tentatively adopting a millage rate for CY 2024/FY 2025. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. at the Professional Learning Center, 2003 Riverside Drive, Macon, Ga.

Charter School Application Denied Local Approval

On Thursday, August 15, Board members voted to deny The Infinity Academy as a locally approved charter school for the 2025-26 school year. The Infinity Academy may still apply to the state for approval to operate as a state-approved charter school instead of a locally approved charter. For more information, [click here](#).

District to Refresh Apple iPads Used by Younger Students

Board members approved the purchase of Apple iPads for students as part of the District's one-to-one (1:1) initiative refresh plan. These iPads are targeted for use by students in kindergarten and first grade, as well as for use in small group settings in Pre-K. The iPads will be paid for with Education Purpose Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), a one percent sales tax approved by voters in 2019. For more information, [click here](#).

Maintenance Department and Campus Police Vehicles Approved

Board members authorized the purchase of 5 new Facilities and Maintenance Department vehicles from Riverside Ford. They also approved 5 new Interceptor vehicles from Wade Ford for use by Campus Police. Routine vehicle replacement and upgrades are vital to providing efficient and effective services in the Campus Police, Transportation and the Facilities and Maintenance Departments. For more information, [click here](#).

District Adds 12 New School Buses with A/C to Fleet

Board members approved the purchase of 12 new school buses from Yancey Bus Sales. The District's active school bus fleet consists of 201 buses. Of the 201 active buses, 147 of these buses are air conditioned. Once finalized, this purchase will increase the number of air-conditioned school buses to 171. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Reviews Policies

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

- Policy BBA, Board Officers (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy BCB, Board Procedures (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy BBAA, Board Officer Method of Election (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy BBFA, Local School Councils (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy GCRD, Classified Personnel Overtime Pay (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy GBT, Professional Publishing (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy GBA, Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts (INFORMATION - 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

Georgia Milestones Data Reviewed with Board

Dr. Ethel Lett, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, presented an overview of 2024 Georgia Milestones data on Thursday, August 15. This presentation highlighted the accomplishments in certain areas and acknowledged the need for growth in other areas. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Summer Camps Improve Student Readiness for School Year

Olena Floore, Director of Elementary Services, and Brian Butler, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, presented an update on Reading and Graduation Ready Summer Camps, specifically highlighting the impact of the District's summer school programming on student readiness for the year ahead. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

The Reading Summer Camp was designed for students in grades 2-8 who were identified for additional reading support to help them be successful during the upcoming school year. Nearly 1,000 students attended the Reading Summer Camp.

The Graduation Ready Summer Camp was designed to allow students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to recover credits for graduation. Nearly 500 students completed at least one course, putting many of them back on track for graduation with their cohort.

BCSD School Consolidation Review on Track

Dr. Katika Lovett, Deputy Superintendent, provided Board members with an update on the District's school consolidation review process. Dr. Lovett shared that more than 250 stakeholders completed an interest form to participate in BCSD's Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will be narrowed down to about 50 members, who will review and consider potential school consolidations in support of instructional and operational efficiencies. Next steps include community engagement sessions and hiring a Project Manager. For more information, [click here](#).

ESPLOST Advisory Committee Summary Provided to Board for Review

Board members reviewed a summary report from the ESPLOST Advisory Committee First Quarterly Meeting held on February 24, 2024, the Second Quarterly Meeting held on April 15, 2024, and the Third Quarterly Meeting held on July 1, 2024. The ESPLOST Advisory Committee functions in support of the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST, a one percent sales tax approved by voters in 2019. For more information, [click here](#).

United Way Campaign Under Way Through August 22

PBIS Coordinator Curlandra Smith presented Board members with an update on BCSD's annual campaign for United Way of Central Georgia, happening through August 22. United Way has been in partnership with BCSD for 69 years, since 1955! During the 2023-24 campaign, BCSD raised \$142,293.25 - the most money the District has ever raised! Also, new this year is an option to donate to the initiative for the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Program. BCSD's 2024-25 goal is to raise \$143,000 and have 68% participation rate or higher. To view this presentation, [click here](#). To donate, [click here](#).

Superintendent's Highlights

- New leaders in schools and departments were celebrated as part of the monthly MVP Leaders meeting in July. This meeting provided an opportunity to go through professional development together one more time before the school year kicked off!
- The District welcomed more than 200 new teachers and employees during New Teacher Orientation last month. Teachers learned about best practices, classroom management techniques, technology resources to enhance classroom instruction, and more. Thank you to the sponsors who helped make this a successful welcome and start to the year for new teachers and employees!
- For the first time, during New Teacher Orientation, Business Education Partnership (BEP) partners came together to host a Teacher Welcome Reception in honor of Bibb's new teachers. The event, a partnership with Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce, Visit Macon and Wesleyan College - First For Women, featured guest speaker Ron Clark and included an ice cream social. Clark encouraged the teachers to be "runners" in their school by working hard for students and encouraging others. Thank you again to business partners for welcoming new employees to our community!
- To officially kick off the school year, BCSD teachers and staff came together to take part in Convocation 2024: Together 4 School Improvement. This was an opportunity to commit to believing in students, showing up as the best version of ourselves each day and making every moment count, and remembering to be gracious and tenacious in our work. A great year is ahead!

- Congratulations to Howard Middle School's Sarah Mallett, who was named the 2025 Bibb County Teacher of the Year! Vineville Academy's Tony Siebenmorgan was named runner-up. Sonny Carter's Kimberly Pope, Central High's Jennifer Tillery and Northwoods Academy's Rennata Wilson were also finalists. The District will celebrate Teachers of the Year on October 1 at the Grand Opera House, and all are invited to attend.
- Last year during a listening session, bus drivers offered the idea of hosting a Transportation Open House for families at the beginning of the school year. This idea was put into action and met with a great turnout in July as families came out and lined up to meet their child's bus driver, register for transportation, and more. This translated to an even smoother operational preparation for the first week of school!
- Speaking of transportation, thank you to the partners with AAA and the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety for reminding everyone that "School's Open, Drive Carefully." Please remember to obey all traffic laws surrounding buses, bus stops and students. Approach with caution when you see yellow lights on a school bus, and stop when the stop arms and stop signs are out. Let's keep our kids safe!
- The annual PBIS Back to School Bash Drive-Through served more than 1,670 people this year! A total of 316 volunteers, 18 vendors and 18 sponsors served together in support of the annual event to prepare families for school. Healthcare officials also provided about 50 dental screenings, and a handful of glucose checks and blood pressure screenings as a result of the Colgate, DPH/CORE partnership! The combined efforts of many BCSD departments, sponsors, community partners, students and families made the bash a huge success. Not even the Macon heat could match the warmth and excitement of this event! Thank you again to each of these sponsors for your support. *Gold Sponsors: Macon Bibb County Industrial Authority, Amerigroup, Publix Tools for Schools, Amazon, The Mentor's Project, Bibb Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Silver Sponsors: Atrium Health Navicent, Midsouth Community Federal Credit Union, Peach State Health Plans, Piedmont Macon, Still Waters Professional Counseling, Kamin, Macon Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, First Quality Baby Products. Bronze Sponsors: Bibb County Division of Family & Children Services, New Perspectives Wellness Plus LLC.* The outpouring of District and community support made this a positive experience for our families and set the tone for a great start of the 2024-25 school year.
- Bibb County experienced an amazing first week of school! Open House events were well attended, and our students showed up prepared to learn on the first day of school. Here's to an amazing year ahead!
- One of the highlights of the first week of school was the opening of the new Springdale Elementary School! Thank you to the Bibb County voters for approving the one percent Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or ESPLOST – a one percent sales tax – that made this new school possible. BCSD will celebrate with a ribbon-cutting on September 6.
- On July 25, the District held its commencement ceremony for members of the Class of 2024 who completed the requirements for graduation during summer programming. It was an honor and privilege to celebrate the commitment and dedication displayed by graduates!
- Making movie magic! Three Hutchings Audio Video & Film Pathway students worked as film crew and extras on a local Short Film production last year and the film will have a local red carpet in September. Juan Sanchez of Rutland High, Samantha Fogarty of Central High, and Ta'Mar Tuft of Central High took part in the production of "No Pressure," learning about the filmmaking process from start to finish. The red carpet will be Saturday, Sept. 7, at 2 p.m. and the film screening will follow at Fellowship Bible Baptist Church, 450 Dunbar Road, Warner Robins.

- Howard High School seniors Henry Blankenship and Zenabu Daramanu were selected to participate in the Georgia Tech Research Institute 2024 High School Summer Internship Program from June 10-July 19 at the Warner Robins Field Office. Interns work on projects in GTRI laboratories and the GTRI Warner Robins field office with the goal of providing students with real-world experiences in science and engineering research. GTRI researchers mentor students by working with them on projects to engage them in first-hand STEM experience, with the goals of helping bridge the gap in Georgia's STEM workforce by creating awareness of STEM career opportunities. Hutchings College and Career Academy Cybersecurity Pathway Instructor Chanel Simmons served as a mentor during the summer internship program.
- Congratulations to Bibb County School District VIP Academy sophomore Shaelin Calder-Denny who placed first in the public speaking competition at the Georgia 4-H Congress! Shaelin is excited to represent Bibb County as a Master 4Her!
- Campus Police team members capped off an excellent summer filled with professional learning sessions with a department luncheon before the start of the school year. Thank you to Chief Curtis Adams for your leadership, and special thanks to Officer Christopher Hardy for making the lunch special for each officer. Opportunities to enhance the team's support for one another and camaraderie are greatly valued!
- As BCSD closed out the summer, the Facilities and Maintenance Team held a Years of Service Celebration to highlight and recognize 4 special team members who have dedicated a combined total of almost 200 years to BCSD! Thank you for your dedication and commitment Davie Driskell, Elbert Durham, Daniel Jones, and Rennie Lewis! You are most definitely #Built4Bibb in every way, and we cannot thank you enough!
- The District is proud to have been awarded the Economic Development Partnership, or EDP, Designation. This is a competitive certification follows three rounds of interviews and multiple document submissions. The EDP process represents an exciting opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between the state, the District, Central Georgia Technical College (post-secondary partners), the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and Macon-Bibb County. These partnerships allow us to develop a robust pipeline of workforce-ready students from the District, ensuring they graduate high school with stackable credentials that lead to meaningful employment opportunities. This collaborative approach will allow us to become an economically stronger community – a true win-win that will pay dividends for years to come. Only 10 school districts in Georgia are invited to apply for the certification.
- ON THE HORIZON: BCSD football teams will compete in the [Gridiron Classic](#) on Friday and Saturday, August 16 and 17, at Fort Valley State University. Please come out and support our schools. Tickets are \$20 per day on GoFan if purchased by Thursday, or \$25 at the gate. Employee badges will not provide free entry into these games. Parking for the Gridiron Classic will cost \$10 and can be pre-purchased at <https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2new/team.asp?SponsorID=18642>.

Highlights



Employee Receives 2024 National Champion Award

Congratulations to Jena Derzi, Health & Physical Education Coordinator! The NFL Play 60 Initiative is a national program intended to encourage students to be more active and, in turn, lead a more healthy lifestyle. The FitnessGram is a component of this program that measures student fitness in a way that allows them to make their own healthy choices. Because of her efforts in bringing the FitnessGram testing to 19 of BCSD's schools, Ms. Derzi was recently honored with the NFL Play 60 FitnessGram Project 2024 National Champion Award. She received this award during the organization's national summit in Dallas, Texas.

Students Win State Tar Wars Poster Contest

Each year, the Georgia Healthy Family Alliance hosts the Tar Wars poster contest to help students focus on the dangers of tobacco use. Congratulations to these students!

- Jamiya Jackson, 1st Place, L.H. Williams Elementary School
- Mame Thiam, 2nd Place, Vineville Academy of the Arts
- Cael Stephens, 3rd Place, Miller Fine Arts Magnet Middle School



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Pledge of Allegiance



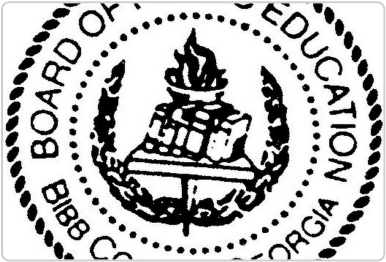
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Noah Turner, a fifth grade student at Veterans Elementary School.

Board Members

The following Board Members were present at this meeting:

- Mr. James M. Freeman, District 6 - President
- Dr. Sundra M. Woodford, District 5 - Vice President
- Mr. Daryl J. Morton, At-Large, Post 7 - Treasurer
- Mrs. Myrtice C. Johnson, District 1
- Dr. Thelma D. Dillard, District 2
- Mrs. Kristin C. Hanlon, District 3
- Dr. Juawn A. Jackson, District 4

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Bibb County School District

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