The Board Brief

February 20, 2025

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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

Personnel Items Approved
Board members approved various personnel items. To view personnel items, click here.

Board Members Approve Enhancement of Safety Measurements
Board members approved the purchase of safety equipment from Audio Enhancement. These purchases for classroom microphones, staff safety badges and related infrastructure will enhance existing safety measures while also adding additional safety tools for a safe learning environment. For more information, click here.

Board OKs Contract for Behavior Therapists
Board members approved a contract for Registered Behavior Therapist services to provide behavioral support to classrooms. Services will support students requiring additional assistance beyond that provided by Behavior Specialists in co-taught and standalone behavior classes, yet do not qualify for the more intensive services. 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 DJEAA, Fiscal Management (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy GBIA, Teacher Evaluation Appeals (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy JGF, Student Safety (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy FGC, Bids and Quotations (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

Board Reviews First Semester Academic Update
Dr. Ethel Lett, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, presented a first semester academic update to Board members. To view the presentation, click here.

FY 2024 Audit Update Presented
Hope Pendergrass with Mauldin & Jenkins presented Board members with an audit update for Fiscal Year 2024, highlighting the Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A) Financial & Compliance Audit Summary. For more information, click here.

Superintendent's Highlights

- BOARD ARTWORK FOR MONTH: Thank you to John R. Lewis Elementary School for this month's artwork! Art teacher Sydnee Robertson shared this message about the artwork: "At John R. Lewis Elementary, students honored Black History Month by celebrating the extraordinary Black artists and the vibrant cultural heritage of African traditions. This year, our theme focuses on finding our voices and telling our stories through our creativity. This month's artwork is inspired by artists like Jean Miquel Basquiat, Faith Ringgold, and Reggie Laurent, as well as the contributions of African American leaders. Students explored bold patterns and colors, learning about symbolism and how to incorporate it in their art. Through our projects, we learned art history and reflected on the values of courage, perseverance, and justice that John R. Lewis stands for. Inspired by his legacy and enduring message to 'Get in good trouble,' our young artists were challenged to see how art is a powerful tool for self-expression, cultural pride, and positive change, and they did just that!"
- COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH: All month long, schools have been commemorating Black History Month. A number of our schools will be hosting programs next week, and parents are encouraged to come out and support students as much as possible in their performances.
- CELEBRATING SCHOOL COUNSELORS: On February 5, the Georgia School Counselor Association invited its members to GSCA Counselors at the State Capitol for National School Counseling Week. Director of Student Support Services Tilnisha Rosser, High School Co-Lead Counselor Brittney Perry and Middle School Lead Counselor Dr. Twanna White represented Bibb. Attendees heard from state legislators, education advisors and the GSCA Advocacy Team about legislative policy issues that impact the profession and students. Thank you to all of our school counselors for your commitment to our students!
- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MENTORS: Nationally, February 15 is recognized as School Resource Officer Day. As we celebrate the exceptional work of our Campus Police team members in keeping our schools safe, it's also important to call out and highlight the work they're doing to engage with students through mentorship programs and relationship building activities throughout the district. Their commitment to empowering students will make a significant impact in our district.
- CONGRATS, CAMPUS POLICE TEAM!: Also in Campus Police, congratulations to Campus Police Deputy Chief Latricia Gittens on successful completion of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police – Chief Executive Training Program! We are also thrilled to announce that Officer Cynthia Haywood has joined the Campus Police Department. Officer Haywood brings a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to community safety. Welcome to the team!
- FUTURE FORWARD FOR CTAE MONTH: February is National Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Month. While celebrations for this month often focus on our students and the skills they're building through CTAE courses, pathways, and clubs, here are a few examples of our staff members dedicated to the cause – from a Counselors' Brunch to highlight the unique opportunities and program offerings for students, to standing-room only parent information sessions on dual enrollment, to a tour of Georgia's Kia Motors Manufacturing plant, to honoring National Technical Honor Society inductees. We are truly celebrating excellence in CTAE!
- STATE RECOGNIZES SKYVIEW, LANE: State School Superintendent Richard Woods visited Bibb County this month to recognize Skyview Elementary with a Math and Literacy Leader

Banner for achievement in both areas and Lane Elementary with a Math Leader Banner for achievement in this area. Congratulations to these schools for leading the way!

- SCIENCE TEACHERS REPRESENT AT GSTA CONFERENCE: Speaking of State Superintendent Richard Woods, here he is again with Bibb science teachers at the Georgia Science Teachers Association Conference. About a dozen Bibb educators attended the conference, where three of our teachers led presentations to a state audience! Thank you to our science educators for representing Bibb!
- STATE OF THE DISTRICT: SAY YES TO BCS!: Thank you to the community partners, parents, students and staff who attended the State of the District this past month! A special recognition also goes out to our sponsors, ICB Construction Group, Kelly Education, Piedmont Macon Occupational Medicine, and First Choice Primary Care, for helping to make the event possible. You can watch the program at www.youtube.com/bibbschools and learn more about how Bibb is headed in the right direction.
- ATHLETES COMMIT ON NATIONAL SIGNING DAY: More than a dozen student athletes signed commitment letters with colleges as part of National Signing Day 2025 activities. Congratulations to our scholar athletes for excelling in the game and in academics!
- 100 DAYS SMARTER: Inclement weather put a slight delay on celebrations, but students and staff still had fun celebrating 100 days of school – or 100 days "smarter" – in January!
- STUDENTS SHOWCASE LEADER IN ME: Bibb County School District continues to pave the way as an example of a Leader in Me district! Northeast High School students and Principal Donna Walker Thompson recently traveled to Orlando to present at a national leadership symposium after the school was named the first Leader in Me Lighthouse certified high school in the state of Georgia. Bernd Elementary and Skyview Elementary students also welcomed guests for their Leadership Days this month, and you'll see invitations for Leadership Days at Burdell-Hunt Magnet and Heritage Elementary next Friday, February 28. We invite community partners and parents to join us for Leadership Days to see our student leaders in action! It is an amazing thing to witness, and we are so incredibly proud of the work schools are doing to mold future leaders!
- COMMUNITY VOICES HEARD AT TOWN HALL: Thank you to the more than 100 stakeholders who attended BCSD's town hall on school consolidation this month. At the town hall, guests heard about the work being done by the Consolidation Steering Committee this year, and they had an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. We'll continue to share updates and opportunities for feedback throughout this process, and we encourage parents and community members to watch monthly video updates and news highlights at www.bcsdk12.net and to stay connected through Remind.
- SPRINGDALE EAGLES SOAR IN D.C. : Springdale fifth graders made their annual trip to Washington, D.C., this month and got to experience a real snow day! While in D.C., the Eagles visited the Smithsonian, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, George Washington's Mount Vernon, the Air Force Memorial, and the Capitol.
- COACH AMONG SPORTS HALL INDUCTEES: Congratulations to Northeast High Head Football Coach Jeremy Wiggins. Coach Wiggins has been selected to be inducted into the Macon Sports Hall of Fame!
- PRE-K APPLICATIONS OPEN THROUGH FEB. 28: We're building something special with Bibb County Pre-K, and we want your child to be a part of it! If you have a child that turns 4 before Sept. 1, fill out the application for our Pre-K lottery before February 28! Apply at www.bcsdk12.net/prekapp
- CONNECT AT TRANSITION RESOURCE FAIR: The Bibb County School District will host a Transition Resource Fair for students with disabilities on Saturday, March 8, from 10 a.m. until

1 p.m. here at the Professional Learning Center. The purpose of this fair is to connect students with disabilities, as well as their families, with the resources and opportunities available to them after high school. This will include various agencies and organizations that provide education and employment for individuals with disabilities.

- ON THE HORIZON: BCSD RECRUITMENT FAIR: We want you to Say Yes to BCS and join our team! Bibb County School District will host a Recruitment Fair this Saturday, February 22, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Rutland High School. Learn more at www.bcsdk12.net/careers. But don't just take it from me; here's a message from our students!



Highlights

Bibb County Spelling Bee Winners

For generations, students have participated in school spelling bees to showcase their literacy and quick-thinking skills. Locally, school winners go on to compete in the Bibb County Spelling Bee, which is hosted by the Bibb Association of Educators and supported by Masab Temple No. 11, to determine which students will advance to represent the District in the region competition. Congratulations to these students! They will represent BCSD in the Region Spelling Bee this Saturday, February 22, in Houston County.

1st Place – Joshua Johnson, 6th Grade, Rutland Middle School
2nd Place – Ellie Noble, 5th Grade, Springdale Elementary School

3rd Place – Linus Odom, 5th Grade, Sonny Carter Elementary School

GA State Beta Club Convention Winners - Springdale Elementary School

Beta students from District schools compete in a variety of disciplines against students from across the state as part of Georgia's Beta Convention. This year, several students from Springdale Elementary School placed high enough in these competitions to qualify for national competition in Orlando this summer.

1st Place, Musicology – John Thomas Long, Cooper Hollis, Mason Echo Hawk, and Oliver Purvis
1st Place, Quiz Bowl – John Thomas Long, Cooper Hollis, Dylan Floyd, Boone Stanfield
4th Place, Jewelry – Ruby Bilert
4th Place, Cake Decorating – Leela Milton
5th Place, Performing Arts Solo, Duo, Trio: Instrumentalist – Baxter James

Georgia Regional Science Fair Middle & High School

The science fair is a traditional opportunity for students of various age and grade levels to showcase their knowledge of the scientific method. Students design and implement their own experiments before displaying their results to be judged. This year, several of our middle and high school students won first place honors at the region level of the science fair to advance to the state competition in April. Congratulations to these students!

1st Place - Ella Evans, 6th Grade, Miller Magnet Middle School
1st Place - Reece Huston, 7th Grade, Miller Magnet Middle School
Best of Class-1st Place - Lilly Lewis, 6th Grade, Miller Magnet Middle School
International Science Fair – Best of Show – Yale Science and Engineering Association Award – 1st Place
Hannah Liles, 11th Grade, Rutland High School
(Receives and all-expense paid trip to compete at the International Science Fair in Columbus, OH
Best of Class-Women's Geoscience Excellence Award--1st Place - Remiyah Stephens & Yesha Mistry, 11th Grade, Rutland High School
International Science Fair – 1st Place – Emma Tillery, 10th Grade, Central High School
Receives an all-expense paid trip to compete at the International Science Fair in Columbus, OH
RICOH Award – 1st Place - Steven Tillery, 7th Grade, Miller Magnet Middle School

Leader In Me Lighthouse School Recertification - Sonny Carter Elementary School

Continued implementation of the Leader In Me framework in our schools has been an important part of making sure our students are prepared to learn, lead, innovate and serve as productive and caring citizens within their chosen paths of success. The highest level of school recognition within this program is receiving Lighthouse Status. This honor comes after an involved application process that requires demonstration of leadership development from students all the way up through administration. Recently, Sonny Carter Elementary School, led by Principal Latricia Reeves, was recertified as a Lighthouse School for the third time. Congratulations!

Region 2-A Division 1 Athletic Director of the Year

Leading a school's athletic department requires working long hours that most don't see. While all of our athletic directors have their own sports to coach, they are also tasked with administrative and management tasks for all of the school's teams, coaches, athletes and procedures. This includes gameday logistics, compliance monitoring and much more.

This year, Coach Tangee Hardnett at Northeast High School was recognized as the Region 2-A, Division I Athletic Director of the Year for her leadership with the Raiders' athletic programs.

GSCA Central Director for Two-Year Term

Our school counselors do work that is becoming increasingly important each year. Caring for and developing the mental growth and well-being of our students is paramount. Expanding this effort, the Georgia School Counselor Association advocates for these issues and professionals across the state. Each region has members on the leadership team for this organization, and in January, Ms. Joycelyn White, Weaver Middle School, was elected by the GSCA Executive Board to serve as Central Director. This means that she will be representing the interests of students and schools across our area for a two-year term, beginning this June. Congratulations Ms. White!

Visit www.facebook.com/bibbschools for photos of highlights and recognitions.

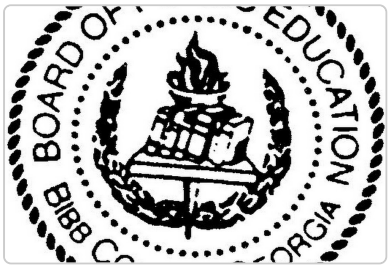
Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joshua Johnson, a 6th grade student at Rutland Middle School.

Board Members

The following Board Members were present at this meeting:
Ms. Myrtice C. Johnson, District 1 - President
Mr. Daryl J. Morton, At-Large, Post 7 - Vice President
Mrs. Kristin C. Hanlon, District 3 - Treasurer
Dr. Henry C. Ficklin, District 2
Mr. Barney T. Hester, District 4
Dr. Sundra M. Woodford, District 5
Mr. James M. Freeman, District 6
Dr. Lisa W. Garrett-Boyd, At-Large, Post 8

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Bibb County School District

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