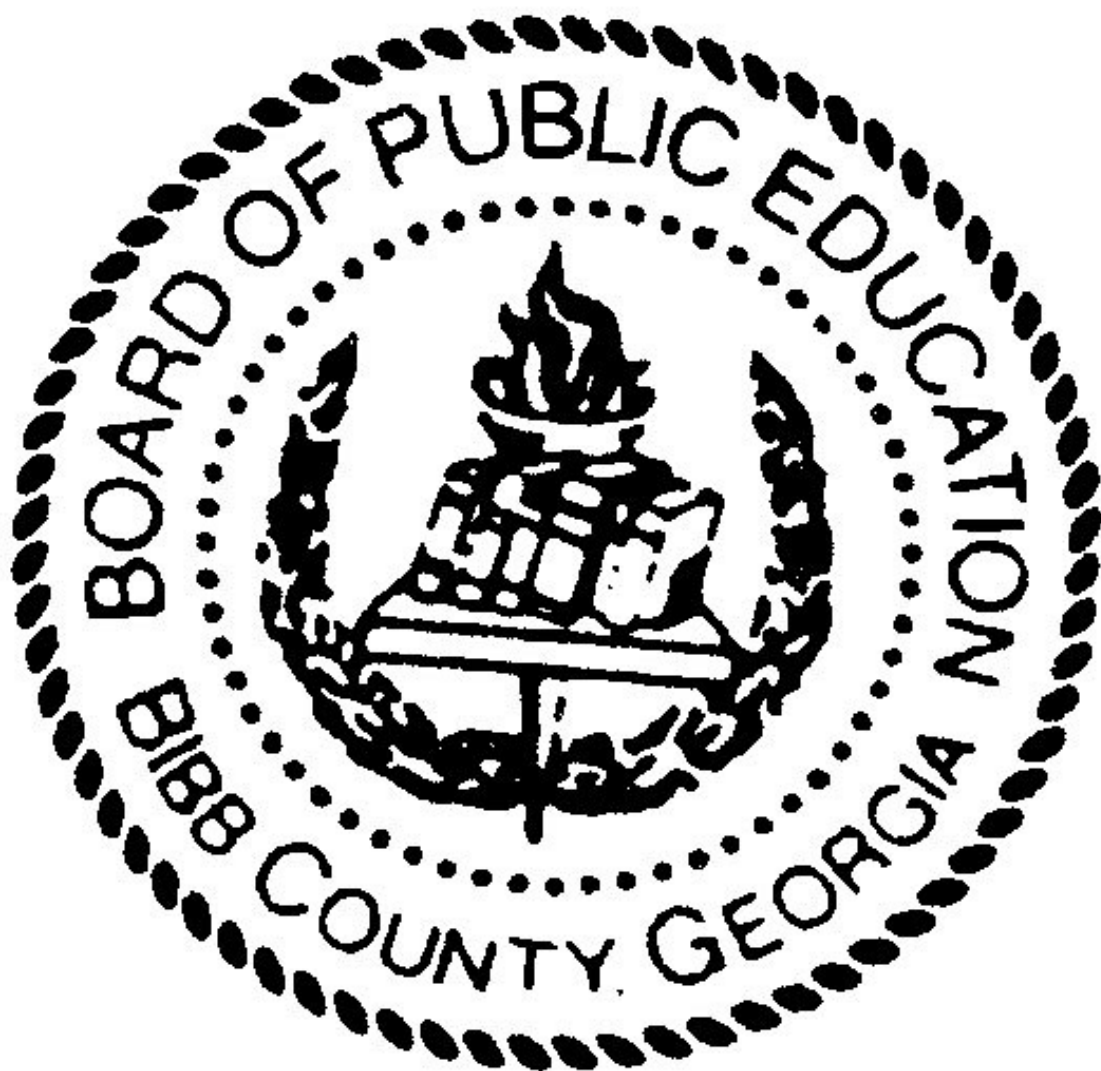


The Board Brief

April 17, 2025



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

Personnel Items Approved

Board members approved various personnel items, including administrative actions. To view personnel items, [click here](#).

Mathematics Instructional Resources Adoption Approved

Mathematics instructional resources are adopted by the District every six years. The current mathematics instructional resource adoption expires at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school term. Thursday, Board members approved funds to provide new mathematics textbooks and instructional resources, including digital resources, for all District schools beginning with the 2025-2026 school term. For more information, [click here](#).

Phase 2 Renovations of HCCA Innovation & Technology Academy Move Forward

Board members approved a contract with WM2A Architects to provide architectural services for Phase 2 renovations of the HCCA Innovation & Technology Academy. Board members also approved a contract with Warren Associates Inc. to provide Construction Manager At-Risk Services for renovations. For more information, [click here](#).

Architect for Northwoods Academy Gymnasium Approved

The Board approved a contract with SP Design Group to provide architectural services for the construction of a gymnasium at Northwoods Academy. Elementary schools are required to provide daily physical education or structured activity time for all students in grades K-5. As Northwoods Academy does not have a physical gymnasium, activities during inclement weather are restricted. The gymnasium will be funded by the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), a one percent sales tax approved by voters. For more information, [click here](#).

District to Purchase 10 Buses

Board members approved the purchase of 10 school buses from Yancey Bus Sales. For more information, [click here](#).

District Transitioning to Chromebooks for 1:1 Student Devices

Board members approved the purchase of Chromebooks for use by students as a 1:1 tool. BCSD students in grades K-1 are currently utilizing iPads, while students in grades 2-12 use laptops. More than 85% of Georgia districts use Chromebooks, and a transition from laptops to Chromebooks will allow BCSD students to have a more durable, feature-rich device to enhance their learning. The Chromebooks also come with Accidental Damage Protection.

In additional action, the Board authorized the District to enter into a Master State & Local Government Lease agreement with Lenovo Financial Services for the multi-year lease purchase of certain Lenovo Chromebook laptops, devices, accessories and related services to be purchased from Lenovo (United States) Inc. or its authorized reseller.

For more information on both actions, [click here](#).

Lightspeed Renewal Approved

Board members approved an order to CDW for Lightspeed products for the 2025-2026 school year. The Children's Internet Protection Act requires school districts to filter content to provide protection for students. Bibb County School District has utilized Lightspeed Filter as its content filter for many years. The District also utilizes Lightspeed Alert to identify concerning online behavior by students. Lightspeed Classroom allows teachers to observe student online behavior while in class and limit access as needed for instructional purposes. Finally, Lightspeed Insight provides the District with data on what digital resources are being utilized by all stakeholders to ensure alignment with procured tools. For more information, [click here](#).

Microsoft 360 License Renewal Approved

Board members approved the renewal of Microsoft EDU Office 365 Pro Plus Suite for the 2025-2026 school year. All faculty, staff, and students are licensed for Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus Suite. This Suite includes Teams, Word, Excel, Power Point, OneDrive, Publisher, Sway, Forms, and many other educational and business applications. In addition, this license provides the District with advanced threat protection as well as Azure active directory. 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 GARHA, Employee Sick Leave Bank (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy JBCCA, Student Assignment to Schools (ACTION - Second Reading - Tabled)
- Policy AFC, Emergency Closings (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy DIA, Accounting System (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy EDDA, Special Use of School Buses (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy IFCD, School Volunteers (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

Recommendations Shared from School Consolidation Review

Dr. Katika Lovett, Deputy Superintendent, and Thelron Pleas with Towering Your Success presented the Board with recommendations for next steps as a result of the District's yearlong school consolidation review. With the comprehensive review completed, the District will now:

- Explore rezoning opportunities to balance enrollment, preserve community identity, improve building utilization and staffing efficiency, and support equity in access to programs and services; and
- Release an RFP for an organizational efficiency study as a strategic alternative to immediate school consolidation. The study will assess leadership structure across, including Central Office, and explore districtwide facility use.

To view the presentation, [click here](#). Read more about the yearlong consolidation review process, proposals, and how to provide feedback here:

<https://www.bcsdk12.net/departments/communications/district-news/default-board-post-page/~board/bcsd-all/post/bcsd-school-consolidation-review-updates>

Board Receives Update on Districtwide Safety and Security Initiatives

Members of the Operations Division provided Board members with a Districtwide safety overview, including information by Campus Police, Safety & Security, Transportation, Technology, and Capital Programs. Each representative spoke on how the departments work together to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Board Authorizes Continuation of Pre-K Grant

Board members approved the continuation of the Pre-K Grant for the 2025-2026 school year. The Pre-K program provides early education in social, emotional, cognitive, physical, as well as language and literacy skills to eligible 4-year-old students to prepare them to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. Currently, the District has 40 Pre-K classrooms with a minimum of one class in each school. For more information, [click here](#).



Superintendent's Highlights

- **ARTWORK BY HERITAGE ELEMENTARY:** In honor of National Library Month, the Heritage Elementary Art Department presents "Art Inspired by Books" for this month's Board meeting artwork. This showcase highlights the connection between literature and visual art, as students create artworks inspired by some favorite books. This is a celebration of creativity, imagination, and the power of storytelling, encouraging students to express their interpretations of beloved stories through creative mediums. National Library Month is an annual celebration that underscores the invaluable role libraries play in our communities. Libraries are more than just repositories of books; they are vibrant centers of learning, inspiration, and community engagement.

- **LET'S CELEBRATE!:** It's time to celebrate! Photos here represent National School Library Month, Autism Acceptance Month, Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, National Assistant Principals Week, and National Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week. Also celebrated this month are National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, National Public School Volunteer Week, Administrative Professionals Day, and Month of the Military Child. Tune in to 13WMAZ Friday morning for the School of the Week, highlighting Exceptional Children's Week!
- **MEET ME AT THE MALL:** Thank you to all of the amazing students, parents, staff, and vendors who made Meet Me at the Mall on April 8 a success, and thank you to Macon-Bibb and Macon Mall for hosting our event. Watch the video above for highlights captured by Westside High graduate Zion Green.
- **PREPARING FOR THE MILESTONES:** Schools throughout the District have been diligently preparing for the Georgia Milestones, but I want to give a special shout out to all of the students, staff, and even parents who participated in Saturday Milestones Sessions at schools. We are so much better together, and I am so impressed by your dedication!
- **ENCOURAGEMENT AHEAD OF MILESTONES:** Georgia Milestones begin next week and Central Office staff and Board of Education members have been providing encouragement to students the past two weeks. These team members have visited classes, brought snacks to students and even wrote uplifting cards and letters!
- **HOWARD STUDENT COMPETES AT GA FLEX:** While BCSD was on Spring Break, the work didn't stop for Howard High entrepreneur Jayla Evans of ACOS. She competed in the 2025 Georgia FLEX competition. Although the results weren't what we were hoping for, we are truly proud of her hard work and dedication in representing Bibb County School District.
- **SAFETY & SECURITY RESOURCE SUMMIT:** Last week, District leaders met with representatives from a variety of community agencies, including Atrium Health Navicent The Medical Center, Macon-Bibb Emergency Management Agency and Bibb County Sheriff's Office, for the third annual Safety and Security Summit. Leaders participated in a tabletop exercise to discuss action steps during a hypothetical severe weather incident. We appreciate these partnerships and the opportunity to plan ahead for potentially dangerous situations.
- **CHEERING ON ATHLETICS LEADERS:** Our Athletic Directors undergo continuous professional development throughout the year, both at the District level and beyond. Recently, as a result of this work, Southwest High School Athletic Director Joseph Dupree, Howard High School Assistant Athletic Director Nicolaus Brooks, Northeast High School Assistant Athletic Director William Gordon, and Westside High School Assistant Athletic Director Jason Stephens received their Certified Athletic Administrator certification from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Additionally, Westside High School Athletic Director Dr. Candice Roberson and Miller Fine Arts Magnet Middle School Athletic Coordinator Jennifer Raymond took the next step and achieved their Certified Master Athletic Administrator certification. Congratulations to each of these leaders.
- **SOAR STUDENTS UNVEIL MVP MURAL:** Last week, students unveiled a mural they had been working on at SOAR Academy through a partnership with Communities In Schools of Central Georgia, MVP: Macon Violence Prevention and Mama Hawk Draws. The mural was conceptualized with students and they even helped choose the quote "You can literally come back from anything. It's all about ya mindset." I am so proud!
- **HARTLEY ELEMENTARY TO PRESENT AT MODEL SCHOOLS:** Matilda Hartley Elementary School has been invited to present at this year's 33rd annual Model Schools Conference! Leaders will share their playbook of best practices and innovative strategies that are making a difference in student success.

- **TRANSITION RESOURCE FAIR CONNECTIONS:** The District hosted a Transition Resource Fair for students with disabilities last month. The fair connected students with disabilities, as well as their families, with the resources and opportunities available to them after high school. This included various agencies and organizations that provide education and employment for individuals with disabilities. Here's some of the feedback from parents who attended:
 - "I connected with more than 5 resources."
 - "I got help with the Medicaid waiver and guardianship."
 - "We were able to make a few really great connections."
 - We hope seeing how others benefited will encourage more parents to connect with us for opportunities in the future!
- **LEADERS MAKING AN IMPACT:** Shout out to District leaders who were recently recognized for their community impact! Congratulations to Campus Police Chief Curtis Adams on receiving the prestigious Diamond Award! This recognition is a testament to your unwavering commitment to excellence, leadership, and the safety of our community. And, congratulations to CTAE Executive Director and Hutchings CEO Dr. Cassandra Miller-Washington on being honored with the first Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia Rising Tide Woman of the Year Award. You are making a difference and creating a brighter future for the next generation!
- **CADETS AND CADRE VISIT DOD IN D.C.:** Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Defense hosted 20 JROTC cadets and cadre from Bibb County School District to learn about leadership and the warrior spirit. Brigadier General Terrence Adams offered lessons in courage and commitment as he reflected upon his own military journey. The cadets also enjoyed a chance encounter with Chairman of The Joint Staff, General Dan Caine, who shared words of encouragement and thanked the students for their interest in national service.
- **ON THE HORIZON: POETRY SLAM & COX HEROES:** Two truly inspirational events are on the horizon for BCSD students! The 5th annual Griffith Foundation Poetry Slam is coming up on April 25 at 6:30 PM at the Historic Douglass Theatre. Underclassmen and seniors from each high school will be performing their original poems on the theme "Social Justice: Silent No More." Senior participants will be competing for a total of \$30,000 in post-secondary scholarships donated by the Griffith Foundation. Communities in Schools of Central Georgia and the Epsilon Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha will be serving as additional sponsors. Tickets are free and must be obtained in advance. We are also eagerly anticipating the Cox Inspirational Student Heroes Awards Ceremony recognizing exceptional student journeys on May 1 here at the Professional Learning Center. The event is free and the program will begin at 5 PM.

Highlights

2025 National History Day – 1st Place Winners

The National History Day Competition allows students to showcase their knowledge in a variety of ways. These students create documentaries, websites, exhibits and more to highlight events in history. The following District students not only competed in these events, but they secured first-place honors against students from across Middle Georgia. Congratulations to these students!

- Delta Crowley, Ella Evans, Cordelia Vanderhoek; 6th grade, Miller Magnet Middle School, Group Documentary
- Gabriella Brown, Zoey Harden; 6th grade, Miller Magnet Middle School, Group Performance
- Nikolai Connor Floore, Gabriel Gilbert; 6th grade, Miller Magnet Middle School, Group Website

- Mami Masoka; 10th grade, Howard High School, Individual Performance
- Aiden Eason; 10th grade, Howard High School, Paper

Math24 Competition – 1st Place Winners

The Math 24 Competition tests students' speed and accuracy with basic math operations, as well as challenging their creativity. Students compete to secure points by finding a combination of numbers on a card that reach a final total of 24. Each year, a District winner is crowned for fourth and fifth grade. Congratulations!

- Ryder Lee, 4th grade, Vineville Academy of the Arts
- Messiah Bishop, 5th grade, Heard Elementary School

Math Team Competition

The Math Team Competition allows students to showcase their mathematics capabilities in multiple ways. Winners are crowned for a larger team event, as well as a speed round and an individual test to help cover a variety of math skills.

- Springdale Elementary School, 1st Place Overall
- Caleb Reneau, Aditi Thotapalli, 4th grade
- Dylan Floyd, Cooper Hollis, Hannah Kim, Eleanor Noble, 5th grade
- Amy Morgan, Coach

Math Team Speed Round

- Hannah Kim & Eleanor Noble, 5th grade, Springdale Elementary School

Math Team Individual Test

- Aaima Lughmani, 4th grade, Sonny Carter Elementary School
- Hannah Kim, 5th grade, Springdale Elementary School

Quiz Bowl Competition – 1st Place Winners

Each year, our students compete in Quiz Bowl, which seeks to showcase their academic prowess and quick-thinking skills. These teams answer questions from a variety of disciplines and topics under time constraints as they compete for the District crown. This year, the Springdale team came out on top, finishing in first place in the District. Several of these students also won the Quiz Bowl competition at the State Junior Beta Convention and will compete in the national competition this summer. Congratulations to these students and coach!

- Boone Stanfield, Rosalie Huang, Joel Doctor, 4th grade
- JT Long, Dylan Floyd, Cooper Hollis, Gwen Jourdan, Harrison Fraga, 5th grade
- Leslie Black, Coach

Aspiring Athletic Director Cohort

Athletic directors play an important role in our schools, both serving as coaches and leaders for other coaches. This role also requires dedication to the health and well-being of our student-athletes and supporters, as well as the fiscal responsibility of athletic programs. The District's Athletics Department, led by AD Kevin Grooms, began hosting an Aspiring Athletic Directors Cohort for the last few years to educate and prepare interested coaches for stepping into that role. This year's cohort is the third group to complete the award-winning program.

- Robert Johnson, Ballard-Hudson Middle School
- Ron Hill, Southwest High School

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Nikolai Connor Floore, a 6th grade student at Miller Magnet 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

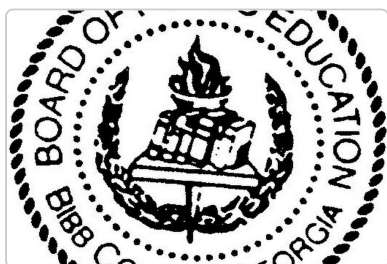
Dr. Sundra M. Woodford, District 5

Mr. James M. Freeman, District 6

Dr. Lisa W. Garrett-Boyd, At-Large, Post 8

To learn more about Bibb County Board of Education members, [click here](#).

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