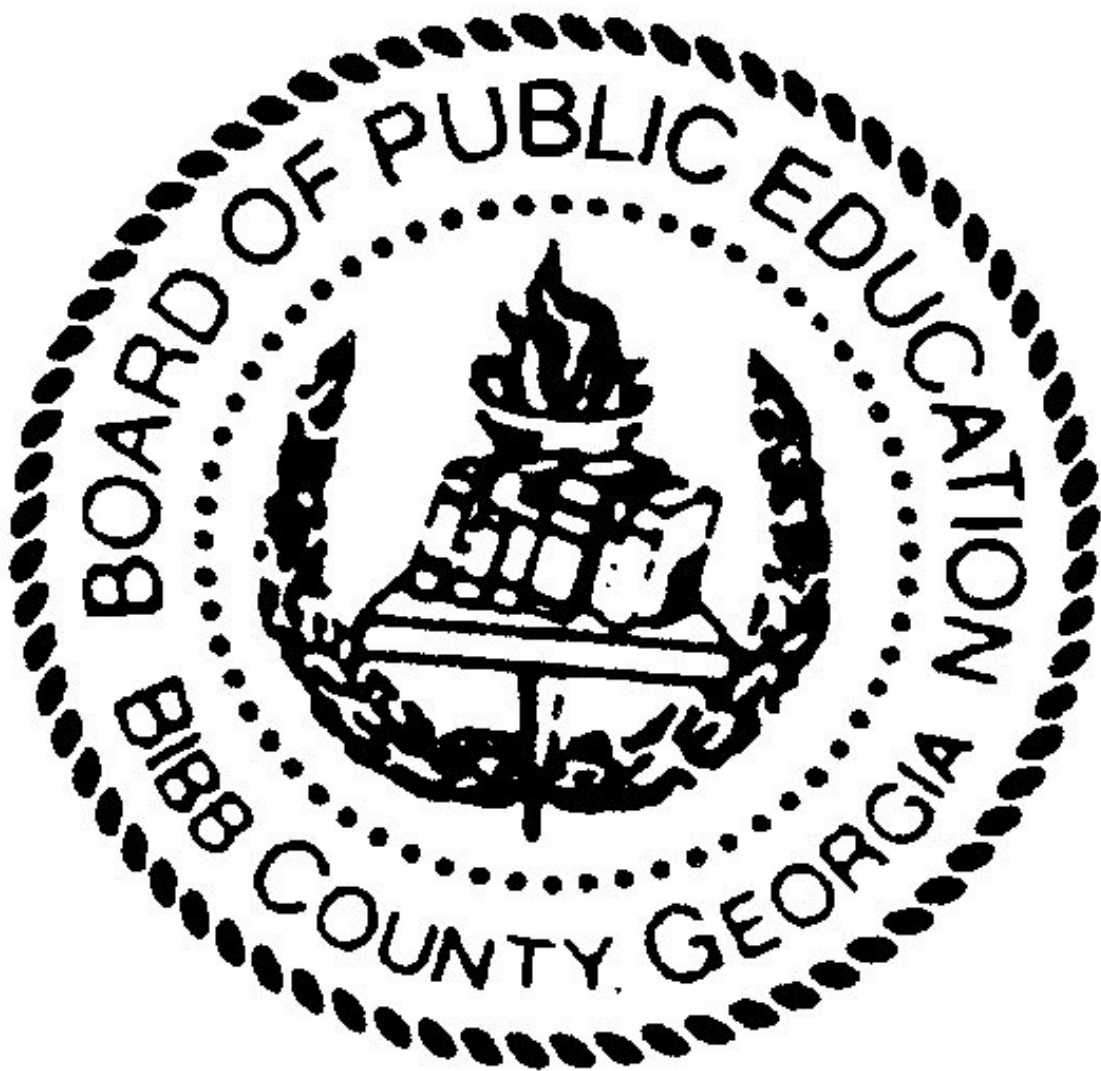


The Board Brief

January 16, 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>.

BOARD OFFICERS

Congratulations to these individuals for being selected as officers for the Bibb County Board of Education for 2025.



Myrtice C. Johnson
President



Daryl Morton
Vice President



Kristin Hanlon
Treasurer

Actions

Board Officers Elected

Board members elected new officers for the 2025 calendar year. Myrtice C. Johnson was elected to serve as President, Daryl Morton was elected to serve as Vice President, and Kristin Hanlon was elected to serve as Treasurer. Outgoing officers for 2024 are James Freeman, President; Dr. Sundra Woodford, Vice President; and Daryl Morton, Treasurer.

Personnel Items Approved

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

Smart Mouth Pizza Contract Approved

Board members approved the School Nutrition Department to issue a purchase order to Smart Mouth Pizza. Smart Mouth Pizza is a sole source vendor offering an all-inclusive package that provides equipment, training, and products to the district while providing a product that meets all new nutritional requirements. It is also the only "branded" pizza program using a freshly made personal pan-style pizza. Upon a comprehensive review of the high student meal participation data from school year 2023-2024, the School Nutrition Department implemented Smart Mouth Pizza to increase student meal participation and reimbursement revenue. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Members Approve Interim General Counsel

Board members approved Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP as Interim General Counsel for the Bibb County School District through the end of the current fiscal year, with an amendment to present monthly financial updates to the Board. Parker Poe's services are expected to commence immediately and continue on an interim basis, allowing the District to assess its legal needs and the qualifications of interested law firms through an RFP process for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond. 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 JCAC, Sexual Harassment of Students (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy KM, Visitors to School (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy KMA, Trespassing (ACTION - Second 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

School Improvement Through Instructional Rounds Presentation

Dr. Tamara Candis, Associate Superintendent of Schools, presented to Board members on School Improvement through Instructional Rounds. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

End of Semester Review: Attendance & Discipline

Jamie Cassady, Assistant Superintendent of Student Affairs, shared attendance and discipline data from first semester with Board members. To view this presentation, [click here](#).

Degrees Conferred to Bibb Educators - Jan. 16, 2025 Recognition



*Celebrating
Bibb County Educators'
Achievement of*

Superintendent's Highlights

- **BOARD ARTWORK FOR THE MONTH:** Thank you to Miller Fine Arts Magnet Middle School students, led by educator Jaquavius Hunt, for the artwork at today's Board meeting! Mr. Hunt and his Visual Arts students selected the 4ME Learner Outcome of Matched and Enrolled as their guiding principle for today's artwork. This outcome resonates deeply with the students' aspirations to excel academically and prepare for their educational journeys beyond middle and high school. The artwork created by the students was inspired by their collective interest in attending high school and ultimately matriculating to one of the prestigious colleges or universities they explored during their research. Through a comprehensive study of colleges and universities across the United States, the students uncovered institutions that sparked their curiosity and aligned with their personal goals. The resulting artwork serves as a visual celebration of the students' ambitions and the schools that inspire them. By aligning with the Matched and Enrolled outcome, these students are taking intentional steps toward becoming well-informed and empowered learners, prepared to make meaningful decisions about their academic and career paths.
- **CONGRATULATIONS ON ADVANCED DEGREES:** In a special tribute this month, we'd like to take a few minutes to celebrate educators who've achieved advanced degrees. Congratulations to each of these members of the Bibb County School District on your accomplishments! Watch video: <https://youtu.be/ASzghWELDw>
- **MONTHLY CELEBRATIONS:** The month of January is celebrated as Gifted Education Month and National Mentoring Month. According to Mrs. June O'Neal, Executive Director of the Mentors Project for Bibb County, more than 100 BCSD students are waiting to be matched with a mentor. I hope you will consider taking time to support our students as mentors. You may sign up at www.mentorsprojectbibb.org. The Bibb County School District will be closed on Monday, January 20, in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and at the end of the month our magnet schools will celebrate National School Choice Week.
- **EASTSIDE PARADE & UNITY DAY:** The East Macon community is thrilled to announce the establishment of EastSideOutLoud Unity Day, a vibrant celebration set for Sunday, January 19, from 2-6 p.m. EastSideOutLoud Unity Day will kick off with a parade starting at Burdell-Hunt Magnet School and concluding at Rosa Jackson Recreation Center. Following the parade, attendees will gather for a pep rally at Rosa Jackson Recreation Center for live music, activities and resources, local vendors, and recognitions of community achievements. A highlight of the day will be celebrating the Northeast Raiders football team for making it to the state championship game!
- **LANE STUDENT EXEMPLIFIES SERVICE:** One student who is exemplifying servant leadership is Lane Elementary third grader Ava Hardy. For six years, Ava has run a coat drive and partnered with local shelters to provide coats to people who may need them. "It feels great that I can people. I want them to be warm during these cold days," she said when she dropped off 100+ coats at the Brookdale Resource Center this week.
- **THANK YOU, MAINTENANCE!:** Earlier this month, the District's Facilities and Maintenance team members were seen out and about implementing several proactive measures to ensure the safety and functionality of our schools during winter weather. Routine safety preparations include Inspecting and Insulating Plumbing, Heating System Checks, Fueling Vehicles for Emergency Response, Tree Maintenance, and De-Icing Supplies. We appreciate the

commitment of our team as we attempt to minimize the impact of weather on our facilities and our students!

- **HEARD STUDENTS HONOR FIREFIGHTERS:** Students in Micaila Reid's second grade class at Heard Elementary School created this poster after discussing the wildfires happening in California and how friends and family members may have been impacted. Students discussed the important role of a firefighter and the impact the wildfires are having on them socially, emotionally, and physically. Students are sharing their love and appreciation for the firefighters, "All the way from Georgia" as they continue to work to control the wildfires. They also send a big thank you to our local Macon-Bibb County Fire Department team and first responders for all they do to keep our own community safe!
- **HEALTH CLINICS MOVING FORWARD:** The Bibb County School District is excited to announce it has been awarded a \$1 million grant from Georgia Department of Education, Office of Whole Child Supports to develop a School-Based Health Center at Bruce Elementary School. The center, made possible through a partnership with First Choice Primary Care, will provide comprehensive healthcare services to students and families in the district, with an expected opening in the coming weeks. The health center will not only provide immediate medical care but will also contribute to the long-term well-being of the community by offering preventive care, mental health counseling, and health education.
- **PROPANE MAKES 'CENTS':** In the latest episode of the Bird's Eye View podcast, Bibb County School District Executive Director of Transportation Anthony Jackson joins Blue Bird to discuss the school district's cost of propane school bus ownership. They detail the district's transition to propane buses, dig in to the significant cost savings achieved, address infrastructure challenges and cover the added benefit of federal tax credits. This is a great episode to better understand important ways Bibb County School District is using real-life data and experiences to improve operational and financial efficiency. The [link to watch is posted here](#) and shared on our Facebook page.
- **GOLF TOURNAMENT SET FOR APRIL 19:** The 3rd Annual Bibb County Education Foundation Golf Tournament is coming soon! This year's event will again be held at River North Country Club on Saturday, April 19, with registration set to begin at 11 a.m. and a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Visit www.bcsdk12.net for more information on how you can participate!
- **SOLVE THE 'MYSTERY':** What's happening in this photo? Solve this mystery by watching 13WMAZ tomorrow morning. If you're a fan of mysteries and reading, you won't want to miss this surprise feature
- **ON THE HORIZON: STATE OF THE DISTRICT:** [Save the date to join Bibb Schools for the State of the District on January 30 at Westside High School](#), where we'll discuss the latest updates, achievements, and plans for the future of our district. This event is a great opportunity to connect with fellow community members, educators, and district leaders. Get ready to be inspired and informed about the direction of our schools. We can't wait to see you there!

Highlights

Service to the Students of Bibb County

June O'Neal, Executive Director, Mentors Project of Bibb County

For the last 25 years, Mrs. O'Neal has dedicated her life to children as executive director of the Mentors Project of Bibb County. In this role, she has secured life-changing support for countless students as they've navigated their journey from preschool to graduation. But her commitment to

our students and our community has gone beyond the duties assigned within her role. Mrs. O'Neal can regularly be seen doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of our students and families, from toy donations at Christmas to replacing belongings lost in a house fire. If one of our children needs something, Mrs. O'Neal will help make sure he or she has it. Her efforts have not gone without results, as students who have been served by the Mentors Project have gone on to become valedictorians, REACH scholars and wonderful examples of what our community can be. Congratulations Mrs. O'Neal on your retirement!

SLDS Modernization Grant-Engagement Committee

Naomi Oates, Infinite Campus Software Support Manager - REAA

The management of our students' data is a key function of our Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability Department, and Naomi Oates plays a vital role in that effort. This data management helps to make sure our students' needs are being met consistently and effectively.

Recently, Ms. Oates was selected to serve on the Georgia Department of Education's SLDS Modernization Grant Engagement Committee. As a member of this committee, she will help make sure the infrastructure and services related to the long-term management of student data are properly updated to meet the ever-changing needs of our educational processes across the state.

Leader in Me School Lighthouse Certification

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. One of the highest levels 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, two schools have joined the ranks of Lighthouse Schools bringing the total to 14 here in Bibb County, and one school achieved recertification.

Congratulations Heard Elementary on achieving Lighthouse School status, Vineville Academy of the Arts on achieving recertification of Lighthouse School status, and Northeast High School on being the first high school in the state to achieve Lighthouse School status.

2024 Title 1 Distinguished Schools

Title I schools are schools that face the challenges associated with representing the needs of students from low-income families. Among these schools, Title I Distinguished Schools are those that have ranked among the top 5 percent in the state in achievement in English Language Arts and Math. This year, the District had two schools that were recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools for 2024. Congratulations to these schools:

- Alexander II Math & Science Magnet School
- Springdale Elementary School

2023-2024 CSI Progress Schools

Schools are placed on the Comprehensive Support and Improvement List by the Georgia Department of Education when they are deemed to need additional academic support as required by federal law. To transition off this list, schools must demonstrate annual improvement as part of a three-year process. For the 2023-2024 school year, 52 schools statewide were recognized as CSI Progress Schools, and seven are here in Bibb County. To earn this recognition, schools had to show a 5 percent improvement in contest mastery on the CCRPI while meeting score goals in other areas. These school representatives are here this evening to celebrate this progress. To each of the schools being commended this evening, know that we recognize the hard work your

teams are putting forth to help students succeed, we are pleased the state has had the opportunity to take note of this improvement, and we look forward to continued progress from your schools in the future. Congratulations to these schools:

- Bernd Elementary
- Bruce Elementary School
- Matilda Hartley Elementary School
- Southfield Elementary
- Union Elementary School
- L.H. Williams Elementary
- Ballard Hudson Middle School

1st Place, 2nd Congressional District - Stock Market Game Competition

The Stock Market Game, hosted by the Georgia Council on Economic Education, allows students to hone and demonstrate their knowledge of our economic system by managing and investing imaginary funds based on the movement of the real-world stock market. Teams compete at various levels to showcase their knowledge in this area, and recently, the team from Miller Magnet Middle School finished in first place in the Congressional District 2 Competition! This is not the first time Miller has placed first in the Congressional District; Adviser Mr. Washington and students won this title in 2022-2023 and placed second in 2023-2024! Congratulations to these students!

Service as Board of Education President

Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims presented outgoing Board of Education President James Freeman with a gavel in recognition of his service as Board President for 2024.



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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Colby Bennett, a 2nd grade student at Heard Elementary School.

Board Members

The following Board Members were present at this meeting:

Mr. James M. Freeman, District 6 - President

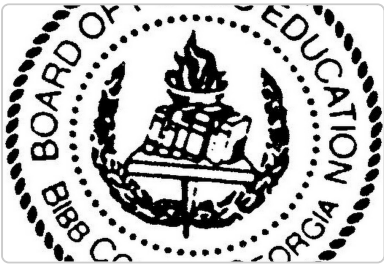
Dr. Sundra M. Woodford, District 5 - Vice President

Mr. Daryl J. Morton, At-Large, Post 7 - Treasurer

Ms. Myrtice C. Johnson, District 1

Dr. Henry C. Ficklin, District 2
Mrs. Kristin C. Hanlon, District 3
Mr. Barney T. Hester, District 4
Dr. Lisa W. Garrett-Boyd, At-Large, Post 8

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The official channel for the Bibb County School District in Macon, Ga.

[youtube.com](#)



Bibb County School District

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Bibb County School District is located in Macon, Ga., with about 22,000 students.