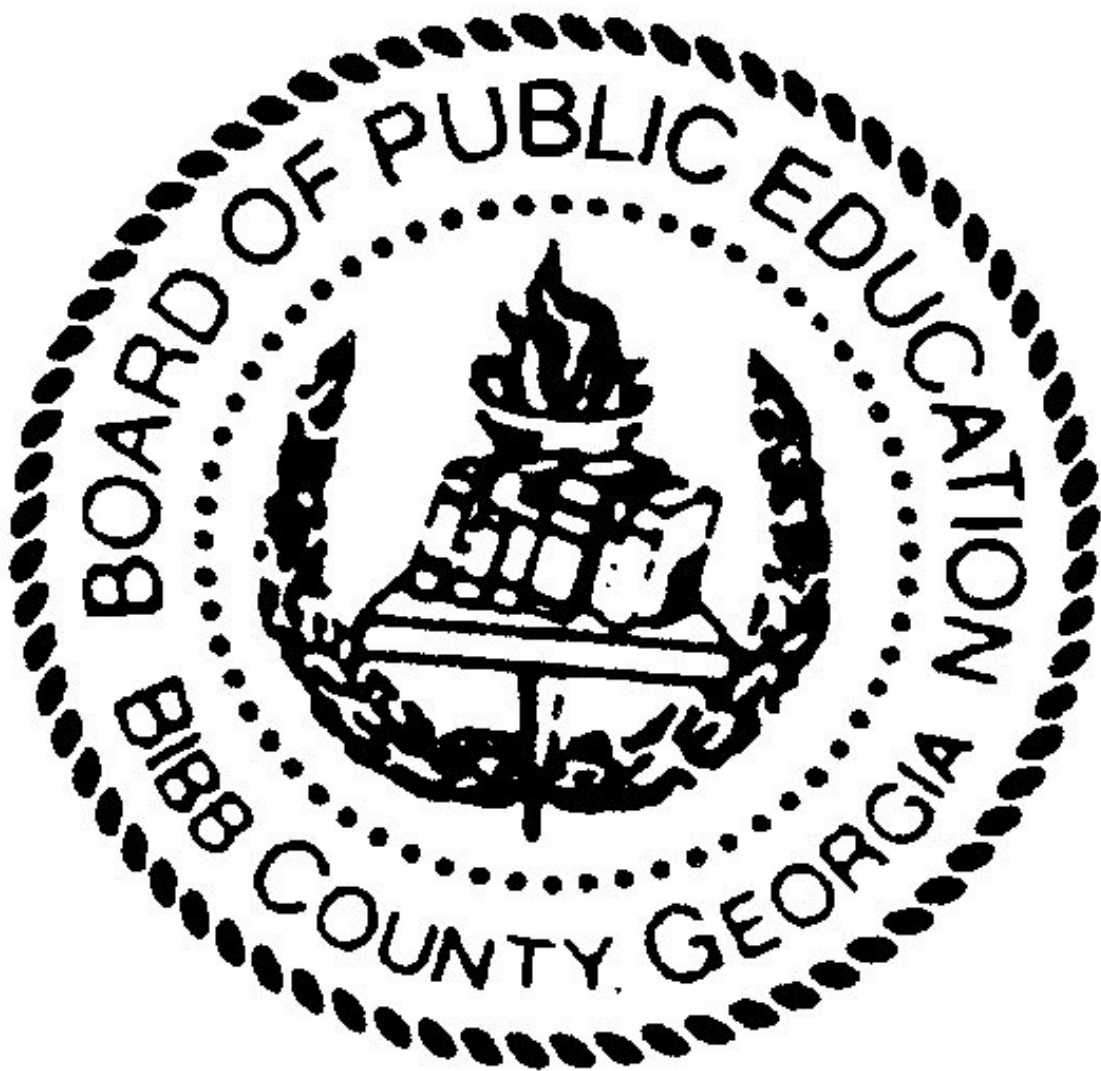


The Board Brief

June 18, 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 appointments. To view personnel items, [click here](#).

- Dr. Keturah Reese, Central High School Principal
- Tyveshe Johnson, Rutland High School Assistant Principal
- Chaquasha Tomlin, Bernd Elementary School Assistant Principal
- Dr. Tonja Simmons Lee, School Based Mental Health Services Coordinator
- LaShonda Gilbert, Before & After School Programs Coordinator
- Tajalyn Woodruff, School Based Mental Health Services Director
- Olena Stadnik Floore, Executive Director of Elementary Services

Also, during a recent Called Meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, Board members approved the administrative appointment of Shirley McClendon as Director of Before and After School Programs. For more information from the June 10 meeting, [click here](#).

Board Approves Final Adoption of FY 2026 Budget

The Board of Education voted to approve the final adoption of the Superintendent's FY 2026 Recommended Budget on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. To view the action memo and presentation, [click here](#).

Public Hearings on the FY 2026 Recommended Budget were held June 10 and June 17. Proposed millage rate options will be presented to the Board of Education in July as next steps in the budget process timeline.

To review information from the Called Meeting on May 23, 2025, when the Board voted to tentatively adopt the FY 2026 Budget, [click here](#).

Renewal of Imagine Learning - Edgenuity Approved

Board members approved the renewal of the Imagine Learning - Edgenuity contract for the 2025-2026 school year. Imagine Learning's virtual platform, Edgenuity, is designed to meet the needs of the evolving classroom. It is implemented in-person and virtually within our high schools and VIP Academy. It provides a robust selection of core, elective, and honors courses that can be completed for initial credit as well as credit recovery. For more information, [click here](#).

Step Up to Writing Renewal Approved

Board members approved the purchase of the Step Up to Writing materials and professional development for use during the 2025-2026 school year. Step Up to Writing is a systematic and explicit approach to teaching all aspects of writing to students by breaking each aspect into smaller steps. For more information, [click here](#).

Certified Teacher Staffing Services Approved for 2025-2026

Board members authorized the District to enter into contract with staffing agencies to provide the District with access to highly qualified teacher candidates as needed during the 2025-2026 school year. Staffing agencies approved by the Board and through an RFP process include Cross Country Education, Amergis Educational Staffing (Formerly Maxim), and Sunbelt Staffing.

Board members also authorized the District to enter into a contract with Elevate K-12 to provide the District with access to highly qualified live virtual teachers for 2025-2026. For more information, [click here](#).

District to Continue Work with Leader In Me

Board members authorized the District to continue funding Leader in Me for 2025-2026. Recognized by CASEL as an evidence-based social emotional learning program, Leader in Me has been implemented in all 33 schools in the Bibb County School District. Sixteen schools have received Lighthouse Status, evidence that schools have produced outstanding results in school and student outcomes by implementing the process with fidelity and excellence. For more information, [click here](#).

Nursing Services Provided by Atrium Health Navicent

Board members authorized the District to enter into an agreement with Atrium Health Navicent for 2025-2026. In 1994, the District, in partnership with The Medical Center of Central Georgia (now known as Atrium Health Navicent), began providing nursing services in student health clinics at schools. Through the agreement, the District reimburses Atrium Health Navicent for staff salaries, benefits, and leave accrual. For more information, [click here](#).

Safety Purchase Authorized for SAFE Alert Extenders

Board members approved the purchase of SAFE Alert Extenders from Audio Enhancement. This purchase will extend existing safety measures beyond the walls of the school buildings to advance precautionary measures targeting a safe learning environment. The Board recently approved the purchase of Audio Enhancement equipment to be worn by all staff members. Using our existing systems, the teacher microphones and staff badges allow for an alert from anywhere in the building. The funding source for this purchase is FY26 School Safety Grant Funds. For more information, [click here](#).

Student Device Storage Approved

Board members approved the purchase of device storage solutions from Vivacity Tech. In November 2022, the Board approved similar storage solutions for District elementary schools. This solution will now extend to District middle schools so that devices can be securely stored and safely charged when on campus. Upon receipt of these items, all middle schools will be better prepared to maximize technology to ensure greater equity of access in a one-to-one environment. For more information, [click here](#).

Bernd Elementary Secured Vestibule Work Continues

Board members authorized a purchase order to Sheridan Construction to provide Construction Manager At-Risk Services for the Bernd Elementary School Secured Vestibule. This project will be paid for with 2021 ESPLOST funds, a one percent sales tax approved by voters. For more information, [click here](#).

Risk Management Fund Business Insurance Renewed

Board members approved the renewal of the Property, General Liability, Employee Benefits Liability, School Leaders Liability, Student Vocational Practices Liability, Law Enforcement Liability, Auto Liability, Crime, and Cyber Liability Insurance policies with the GSBA Risk Management Fund for 2025-2026. For more information, [click here](#).

GEAR UP Grant Program External Evaluator Approved

Board members approved Towering Your Success LLC to serve as program evaluator for 2025-2026 for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Grant. The U.S. Department of Education requires GEAR UP grant recipients to retain an external evaluator to collect, analyze, and report on output and outcome data to verify the project is accomplishing the proposed objectives. For more information, [click here](#).

Communities in Schools of Central Georgia Services Renewed for 2025-2026

Board members approved the renewal of services provided by Communities in Schools of Central Georgia for 2025-2026. Communities In Schools of Central Georgia partners with the Bibb County School District to improve student outcomes. As part of a nationally recognized network, CIS removes academic and non-academic barriers to success by embedding support services directly within schools. Through its model of integrated student supports, CIS helps foster positive school climates, strengthens student engagement, and builds pathways to long-term success for some of our most vulnerable learners. For more information, [click here](#).

Board Ratifies Expenditures with BSN, Enters Agreement for 2025-2026

Board members voted to ratify District expenditures with BSN Sports following the expiration of the previous contract. This approval also allows the District to enter into a new contract with BSN Sports for one year (2025-2026), allowing the completion of the District solicitation process for sports and athletic goods. For more information, [click here](#).

Operations Items Approved

Board members approved Operations Division renewals for services and products for 2025-2026:

- Renewal of contract with Waste Management for garbage and recycling services; and
- Renewal of a contract with Thomaston Milk Co. to provide milk and dairy items for all schools and the Central Kitchen.

FY 2026 School Nutrition Procurement Plan and Procedures Approved

Board members approved the FY 2026 School Nutrition Procurement Plan and Procedures. The USDA requires that all School Nutrition Procurement Plan and Procedures be reviewed annually and revised and updated as needed. For more information, click [here](#).

Legal Services Contract Approved

Board members authorized the District to enter into contract with Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP for legal services for 2025-2026. This contract provides the District with General Counsel, which will include comprehensive legal support across governance, compliance, personnel, policy, student services, and litigation matters. 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 JBCCA, Student Assignment to Schools (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy IDDD, Gifted Student Programs (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy GBRIG - Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy DJED, Bids and Quotations (INFORMATION -First Reading)
- Policy JCDAG, Bullying (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy KBF, Use of Students for Public Information Programs (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy KI - Free Materials Distribution in Schools (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy GBRJ - Arrangement for Substitutes (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Tabled for future meeting: Policy BBC, Board Committees (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.

New Board Members Appointed to Bibb County Education Foundation

New Board members to the Bibb County Education Foundation were appointed. Established in May 2021, the Bibb County Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization supported by donors and partners committed to enhancing educational opportunities for students and staff within the Bibb County School District. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer board of directors composed of community leaders, educators, and school board members. The board is responsible for the direction and activities of the Foundation.

New appointments to the Bibb County Education Foundation include Eric Bush, Dr. Ethel Lett, and Susannah Cox Maddux. Members rolling off the Bibb County Education Foundation include Dr. Lori Ward-Rodgers, Ron Collier, and Stephanie Hartley. Previous membership also includes former Bibb County Board of Education member Dr. Juawn Jackson.

Superintendent's Highlights

Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims shared a few Bibb County Schools highlights from the 2024-2025 school as part of the monthly Superintendent's Report.

- PBIS Celebrations: We started the year off strongly with the PBIS Back to School Bash, where families, totaling more than 1,600 individuals, were served. We will soon be hosting our 8th annual Back to School Bash on August 1st at Ed DeFore Sports Complex. Also, 27 of our schools were recognized in 2024-2025 as Distinguished PBIS Schools for their PBIS efforts!
- Leader in Me Lighthouse Certification: Implementation of the Leader In Me initiative in our schools has been vital to recent successes in our District. 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. With new certifications and renewals this year, we now have a total of 16 certified Leader in Me Lighthouse Schools here in Bibb County.
- AP Honor Schools Recognized: Each year, State Superintendent Richard Woods recognizes schools for their performance on the Advanced Placement exams. These AP Honor Schools are chosen for various areas of success based on student enrollment, AP participation and

other key factors. Central High achieved two AP Honors. Howard High achieved three AP Honors. Rutland High also achieved three AP Honors.

- **Innovation and Tech Academy Opens:** Our Innovation and Technology Academy opened on Eisenhower Parkway this past year. The Innovation and Technology Academy is part of our continued development for cutting edge Career, Technical and Agricultural Education pathways and programs to include opportunities for public/private partnerships and workforce development. The building has been transformed into an education space supporting career readiness and workforce development through innovative CTAE pathways to be offered at the newly adapted facility. The Innovation and Technology Academy is an extension of W. S. Hutchings College and Career Academy, and we look forward to seeing all the amazing students and programs that will come from this new addition.
- **Lane and Skyview Celebrated by State:** State Superintendent Richard Woods visited Bibb County to present 2 of our schools with special banners. Skyview Elementary was presented with two banners for achieving Literacy Leader School and Math Literacy School status. Lane Elementary was recognized for achieving Math Literacy School status.
- **Title I Distinguished Schools Honored:** 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. 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 and Springdale Elementary School.
- **School-Based Health Centers Open:** A new School-Based Health Center opened at Bruce Elementary School. In partnership with First Choice Primary Care, Bibb County School District now has 2 open school-based health centers at Bruce and Ingram-Pye Elementary School. A new center will open at L.H. Williams Elementary in the future. The health centers are operated by First Choice Primary Care, a local nonprofit healthcare provider dedicated to improving access to affordable, high-quality medical services. The clinics will be staffed by licensed professionals and designed to serve the needs of both students and the surrounding community.
- **Businesses Celebrate Teacher Matches:** The Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and Bibb County Schools worked together this year through the Business Education Partnership to create partnerships for businesses and teachers that would champion teacher retention in our community. Many businesses were matched with first-year teachers to provide mentoring and community support.
- **Bibb's Georgia FFA President:** Rutland High School student Remiya Stephens was elected by her peers throughout the state to serve as the Georgia FFA President for 2025-2026. Remiya is a rising senior, and we look forward to seeing all of her accomplishments as President of the organization.
- **Athletics Shines in Historic Runs:** Our athletic programs had a historic year with Northeast football and Southwest basketball making it to State Championship games, and Westside flag football making it to the semifinals. We are excited to see our programs continue their growth this upcoming year!
- **Summer Camp Partnerships:** Along with BCSD's annual summer enrichment programs in elementary, middle and high school, the district also partnered with local organizations to provide 4ME summer opportunities. As an example, a few BCSD students recently participated in a three-day Summer Nurse Camp with Piedmont Macon. They gained hands-on experience in infection control, shadowed seasoned nurses, and engaged in insightful panel discussions

with nursing professionals. Thank you, Piedmont Macon, for this incredible opportunity for our students.

- Bruce Elementary Students Visit New Orleans: Partnerships played a pivotal role in supporting students this year! The 100 Black Men of Middle Georgia, which has adopted Bruce Elementary School, took Bruce Elementary students on an incredible trip to New Orleans to kick off their summer enrichment. Students visited Whitney Plantation to deepen their understanding of African American history and heritage, participated in a financial literacy workshop, and tried crawfish in the French Quarters.
- Graduation Rate: BCSD's graduation rate exceeded the state average for the second year in a row! Three of Bibb's high schools celebrated graduation rates above 90 percent – Central, Rutland and VIP Academy! The graduation rate is not just a celebration of high school staff and students; the dedication and effort by ALL staff impacts whether or not our students make it across the stage at graduation. Thank you to all for your hard work and support of our students!

On a personal note, Dr. Sims also shared that this is the completion of his 30th year in education, and he remains just as excited about his work today as he did 30 years ago. He also congratulated his wife, Traci, on her retirement at the end of this school year!

Highlights

Meet the New Leaders

Congratulations to these new leaders in BCSD! We look forward to seeing your growth.

- Dr. Celeta Thomas-Watson, Director of Partnerships, Projects and Engagement
- Dr. Tracey Muff, Executive Director of Supplemental Services
- Dr. Shirley McClendon, Director of Before & After School Programs
- Brooke Widner, Executive Director of Student Support Services
- Dr. Dominique Nichols, Principal, Weaver Middle School
- Demeiko Vaughn, Assistant Principal, Central High School
- Tamara Kelly, Assistant Principal, Bruce Elementary School
- Alicia Gresham, Assistant Principal, Rosa Taylor Elementary School

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Amaya Laney, a rising 2nd grade student, Olivia Laney, a rising 5th grade student, at Vineville Academy of the Arts.

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

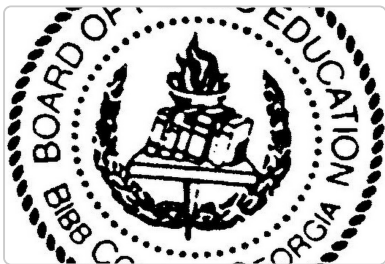
Dr. Sundra M. Woodford, District 5

Mr. James M. Freeman, District 6 - *Delayed arrival*

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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Bibb County School District

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