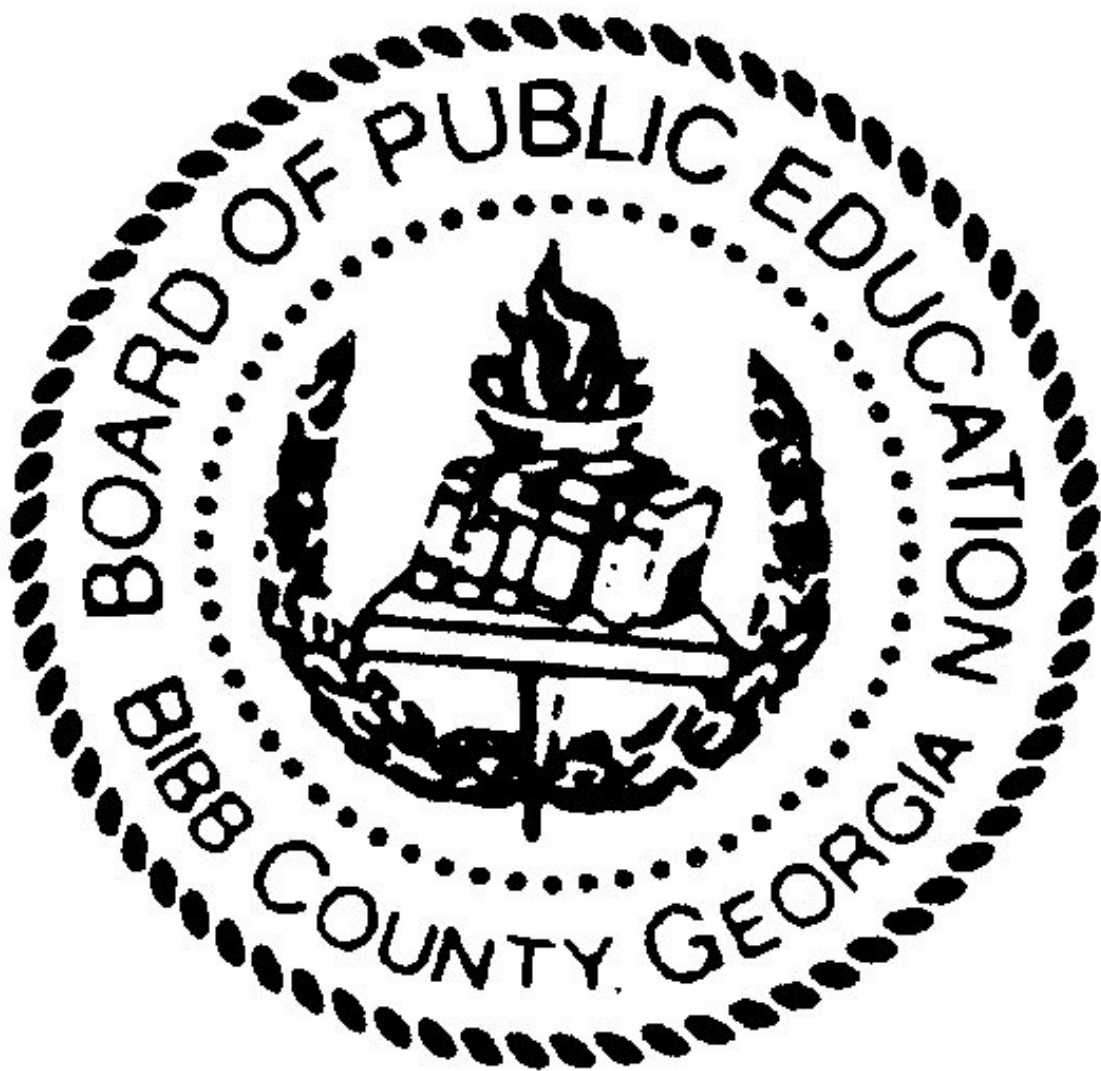


The Board Brief

October 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>.

Actions

Personnel Items Approved

Board members approved various personnel items. To view personnel items, [click here](#). (Note: Some items may be delayed in posting. Return soon for updates.)

- Amber Lynch, Director II of School Nutrition
- Dr. Sheree Gray, Central High School Assistant Principal

District-Wide Security Upgrades Approved

Board members approved a purchase order to Nextgen for Districtwide upgrades to security cameras and intrusion systems. This project will be funded with 2021 ESPLOST, a one percent sales tax approved by voters. For more information, [click here](#).

Architectural Services Approved for Renovations of Burdell-Hunt, Vineville Academy

Board members approved a contract with WM2A Architects to provide architectural services for renovations at Vineville Academy of the Arts and Burdell-Hunt Magnet Elementary School. The funds will be paid out of 2021 ESPLOST. 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 BBF - Advisory Committees (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy FD - Facilities Long-Range Planning (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy JGFGB - Concussion Management (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy DIB, Financial Reports (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy ICC - Curriculum Research (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 2025 Overview Continued

Olena Stadnik-Floore, Executive Director of Elementary Services, presented Georgia Milestones results for 2024-2025 to Board members. This presentation was the third part to the initial presentation made during the August Committee Meeting. The purpose of the presentation was to share how our students performed in Reading, ELA, Writing, and Math — not just by proficiency, but

by growth. To view the presentation, [click here](#). To review a press release about Bibb's Milestone results, [click here](#).

Office of School Leadership Presents Overview of 2025 Graduation Data

Executive Officers Dr. Steven Jones, Mr. Nelson Render, and Dr. Chara Willaford presented graduation rate information to Board members. The purpose of the presentation was to celebrate graduation rate success, view subgroup data, and discuss next steps for continuing to see a rise in the District's graduation rate. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Superintendent's Highlights

- **RUTLAND MIDDLE UNITES AGAINST BULLYING:** Thank you to Rutland Middle School for this month's featured artwork! Students were led by instructor Caron Teape to create artwork symbolic of National Bullying Prevention Month and National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.
- **CELEBRATIONS & APPRECIATION:** Thank you to schools and departments throughout the district for bringing recognition and awareness to these events this month: Hispanic Heritage Month, National Principals Month, Learning Disabilities Awareness Month, National School Custodial Worker Appreciation Day, Instructional Coach Appreciation Day, Athletic Coaches Appreciation Day, Georgia Pre-K Week, World Audiologist Day, National School Lunch Week, School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day, Red Ribbon Week, Lights On Afterschool, and World Occupational Therapy Day
- **WALKING SCHOOL BUS TO WILLIAMS:** The second Walking School Bus of the year at Williams Elementary with United Way Community Schools was a hit as dozens of volunteers teamed up to ensure students arrived to class on time, including mystery greeters from the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department! They brought smiles and safety tips, perfect for Fire Safety Awareness Month and Pedestrian Safety Month.
- **GEAR UP PREPARES STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS:** The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs is providing meaningful post-secondary readiness opportunities for this year's 7th and 8th grade students. During National GEAR UP Week, middle school students engaged in a variety of college-readiness activities designed to increase awareness of post-secondary pathways. During last week's fall break, GEAR UP hosted fall intersession, serving about 70 students from Appling, Ballard, Howard, and Weaver. Students participated in academic enrichment programs aimed at reinforcing success in core subject areas. In addition to district-led programming, GEAR UP community partner Communities In Schools reinforced the district's literacy initiative by organizing an SAT vocabulary challenge.
- **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK AWARDS:** The Macon-Bibb County Fire Department recognized the winners of this year's Fire Prevention Essay and Poster Contest ahead of Fire Prevention Week 2025. This ceremony was the perfect way to set the tone for a week focused on education, awareness, and keeping our community safe.
- **BALLARD-HUDSON HELPING HANDS:** Students at Ballard-Hudson Middle School are helping fight childhood food insecurity and supporting whole family needs through Helping Hands Ending Hunger Inc. The partnership with nonprofit organization empowers students to rescue uneaten food from school cafeterias to alleviate food insecurity, reduce food waste, encourage education equity, and shape a healthier world.

- **HEARD OPENS FREE LITTLE LIBRARY:** After two years, Heard Elementary's Little Free Library project is complete! The idea, which started with second graders after reading Biblioburro and learning about sharing books, blossomed into something that will benefit Heard Elementary and our community for years to come.
- **JROTC CADETS CLEAN UP LINWOOD CEMETERY:** High school JROTC cadets helped restore Linwood Cemetery, the resting place of many community leaders, veterans, and SGT Rodney Davis – Middle Georgia's only Medal of Honor recipient.
- **SCHOLARSHIPS ABOUND FOR SENIORS:** Shout out to Southwest High School seniors who have been visiting Clark Atlanta University and other colleges this semester! Multiple seniors have been accepted on the spot during their visits AND received scholarships to help support their college journey!
- **BURDELL-HUNT GETS FLOCKED:** We're "flocking" to celebrate the amazing work in our schools around technology and literacy! The first school where our literacy and tech flamingos landed is Burdell-Hunt Magnet School! Burdell-Hunt had the most AR quizzes taken across the district along with the highest percentage of the student population being active quiz takers AND more than 50% of quizzes scoring 85% or higher!
- **BIBB STUDENTS SELECTED FOR GCAPS:** The 2025-2026 Georgia Civic Awareness Program for Students is underway! GCAPS is an immersive program that teaches young people about government operations in our community and state. Students will attend a monthly session where they'll take trips, meet local and state leaders and elected officials, and learn how to conduct themselves in a professional environment.
- **KEYNOTE SPEAKER REPRESENTS BIBB PBIS:** District PBIS District Coordinator Curlandra Lightfoot Smith has been announced as the keynote speaker at this year's Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support Conference. Each year, this conference brings together educators, interventionists, clinicians and community partners to share research and resources regarding positive behavior supports and the lasting impact they have upon schools and community.
- **SPRINGDALE TAKES D.C.:** Springdale Elementary fifth graders traveled to Washington, D.C., where they toured historic and educational sites like the Vietnam Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, World War II Memorial, and White House. They also had an opportunity to meet several members of Congress, including U.S. Representative Hank Johnson of Georgia, who encouraged them to set goals; U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock of Georgia, who invited the students to his office near the Capitol for a tour; and U.S. Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey.
- **BIBB FLEX OPENS FOR BUSINESS:** This year's cohort of Bibb FLEX students kicked off the year with the FLEX Business Plan Workshop. The Foundational Leadership and Entrepreneurship Experience is an entrepreneurship program for high school students. They will present business plans in Shark Tank style to compete for a spot at Georgia FLEX Competition next spring.
- **ESPLOST ON THE BALLOT:** The Bibb County School District has a referendum on the ballot to renew the ESPLOST, a one percent sales tax to improve schools. This is not a new tax and goes to supporting safety and security, building improvements, technology, and so much more. The District will host two more information sessions – October 20 at 6 p.m. at Central High and October 23 at Northeast High. Early voting is currently open through October 31, including Saturday voting this weekend and next weekend. The general election day is Tuesday, November 4. Please take time to vote!
- **ON THE HORIZON: READ FOR THE RECORD:** Join us for Read for the Record on Thursday, October 23, and help us celebrate the joy of reading! We're inviting community members, parents, and volunteers to read aloud to our students and make a difference in their love of

learning. This year's featured book is See Marcus Grow, a heartwarming story that will inspire young readers! Sign up now to read to a class and be part of this special event! Visit UnitedWayCG.org to sign up!

Highlights

Recognition of Retired Educators Day 2025

Each year, the District likes to take time to recognize the Bibb Retired Educators Association and all retired educators for their dedication to the education profession. Not only did these individuals dedicate careers to our students, but many of them continue to return to the classroom and volunteer long after their full-time service is over. With November being Retired Educators Month and Sunday, November 2, serving as Retired Educators Day, we'd like to honor these dedicated individuals.

Partnership Impact Award

Habitat for Humanity is an integral partner in the YouthBuild program in Macon. This initiative supports young individuals ages 16 to 24 by providing them opportunities to earn a high school diploma or GED while gaining valuable hands-on construction skills.

YouthBuild operates through SOAR Academy in partnership with the District's CTAE Department and Hutchings College and Career Academy, offering students pathways to complete their education alongside work-based training. YouthBuild participants engage in meaningful construction projects, including building homes for Habitat families. This practical experience helps students develop job skills while working toward their educational goals.

Beyond construction, the program emphasizes essential life skills such as budgeting, leadership, and career readiness to prepare participants for success in adulthood.

One standout project saw multiple YouthBuild students building a home for a single mother in the Pleasant Hill neighborhood. Another collaboration involved completing a home in Lynmore Estates, where students committed two days a week throughout a semester to assist with construction. These efforts not only provided families with new homes but also gave students a strong sense of accomplishment and a tangible result of their hard work.

Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (GAETE) Mentor Teacher Award

Congratulations Julianne Cassara at Springdale Elementary School. Ms. Cassara is a first-grade teacher at Springdale, and she was recognized recently as an Outstanding Mentor Teacher by the Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Only nine teachers statewide are recognized with this honor.

State Superintendent's 2025-2026 Student Advisory Council

Each year, State Superintendent Richard Woods selects students from a pool of applicants for his Student Advisory Council. This group of student leaders meets throughout the year to serve as a liaison between the Georgia Department of Education and the schools. This year, two Bibb students were selected among a group of just 79 honorees statewide. Congratulations Jaiden Geolingo, 11th grade, Howard High School and Loymielia (Loy) Thomas, 12th grade, Southwest High School.

Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals (GAESP) School Bell Award

Each year, the Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals recognizes schools for projects with a School Bell Award. These awards honor innovative projects that are taking place within the schools. This year, Vineville Academy was recognized with a School Bell Award for the "Panda Performers." Congratulations!

2025 Title I Reward School

The Georgia Department of Education released the 2025-2026 list of Title I Reward Schools earlier this month. Reward Schools are among the greatest-improving 5% of Title I Schoolwide and Title I Targeted Assistance schools when comparing the content mastery scores from the most recent two years of statewide assessments. Congratulations Burdell- Hunt Magnet Elementary School.

Class of 2025 Graduation Rate

Staff throughout the District, from Pre-K through high school, put their heart and souls into educating students and preparing them for success. Part of that success includes our students walking across the stage on graduation day and receiving their diploma. Our District's focus on graduation continues to pay dividends. The Class of 2025 exceeded the previous year's success with a four-year graduation rate of 88.97 percent. This is the third consecutive year the District graduation rate has exceeded the state average! Additionally, three of our schools achieved graduation rates of greater than 90 percent, and all seven had graduation rates of 84 percent or better. Congratulations!

Bibb County – 88.97%

Central High – 96.51%

Howard High – 88.49%

Northeast High – 84%

Rutland High – 90.43%

Southwest High – 92.9%

Westside High – 84.65%

VIP Academy – 88.79%

2024-2025 PBIS Distinguished Schools

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports system has been a game-changer in our schools. In addition to improvements in discipline data and school climate, our schools have become an exemplar for PBIS implementation across the state. Recently, many of our schools were recognized as Distinguished PBIS Schools for these implementation efforts for the 2024-2025 school year. We would like to commend the District's PBIS Coordinator, Curlanda Lightfoot Smith, for coordinating the District's and schools' efforts with PBIS. Congratulations to these schools!

Alexander II Math & Science Magnet School

Bernd Elementary School

Burdell-Hunt Magnet School

Sonny Carter Elementary School

Ingram-Pye Elementary School

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary School

McKibben Lane Elementary School

John R. Lewis Elementary School

Porter Elementary School

Rosa Taylor Elementary School

Southfield Elementary School

Union Elementary School

L.H. Williams Elementary School
Appling Middle School
Miller Magnet Middle School
Weaver Middle School
Central High School
Howard High School
Northeast High School
Rutland High School
Southwest High School
Westside High School
Elam Alexander Academy @ Burke
Elam Alexander Academy @ Southwest High School
Hutchings College & Career Academy
SOAR Academy

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Layla Franklin, a Pre-K student, Rosa Taylor Elementary School.

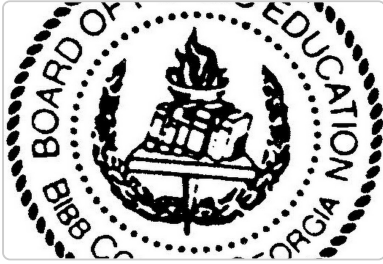
Board Members

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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Bibb County School District

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