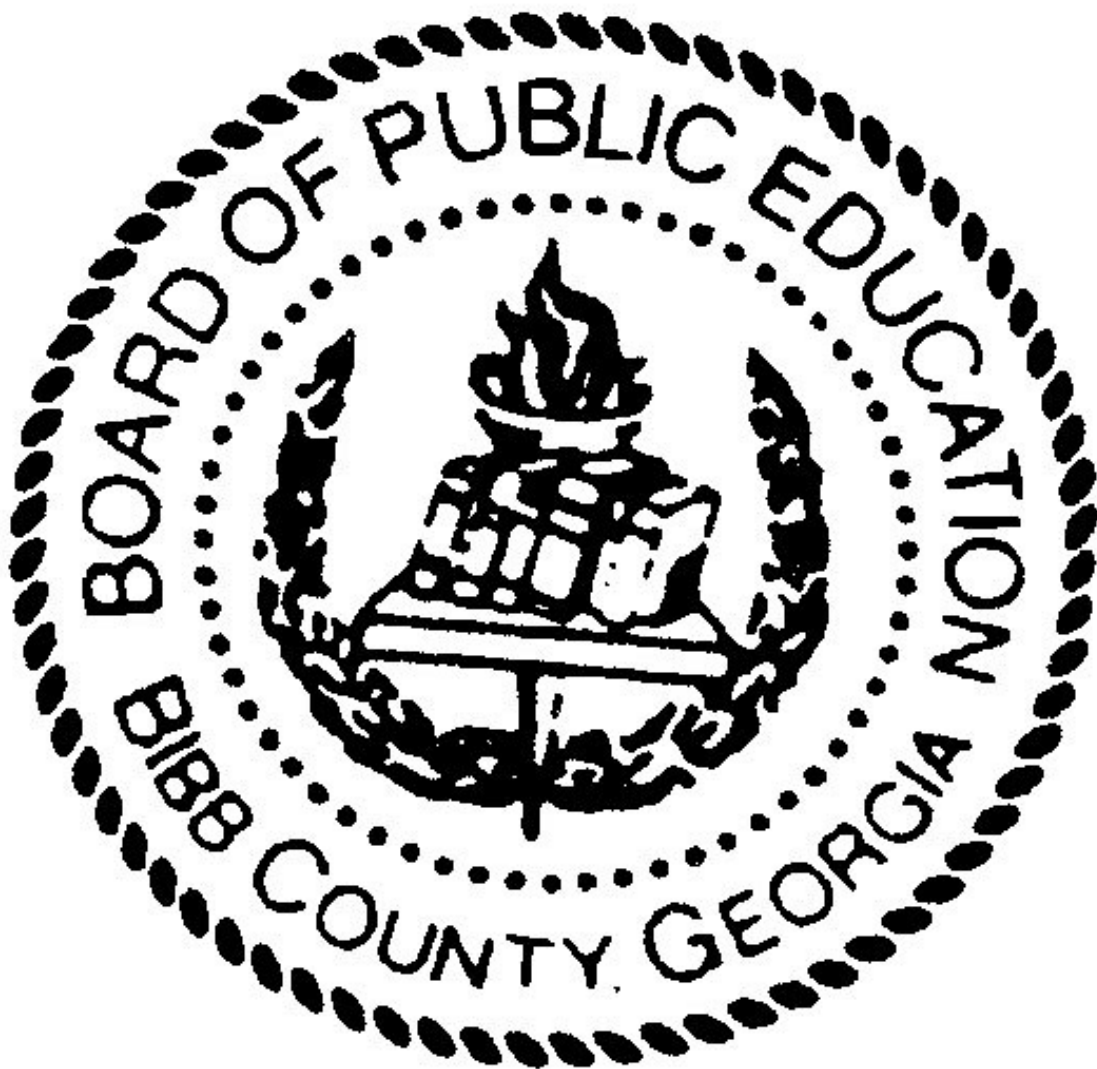


The Board Brief

February 19, 2026



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

Assistant Superintendent of HR Appointed; Personnel Items Approved

Board members approved various personnel items, including the appointment of Dr. LaToya Smith as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. To view personnel items, [click here](#).

(Note: Some items may be delayed in posting. Return soon for updates.)

General Fund Budget Amendment #2 Approved

On Thursday, Board members approved FY 2026 General Fund Budget Amendment #2. The General Fund Budget should be updated whenever new information arrives from federal, state, or local agencies, so that it accurately reflects both expected and confirmed changes in revenue and expenses. Budget Amendment #2 presents a \$1,243,287 increase to the current budgeted General Fund ending fund balance of \$46,869,945. The revised projected fund balance after Budget Amendment #2 is \$48,113,232. For more information, [click here](#).

Elementary School Playground Equipment Approved for 3 Schools

Playground equipment purchases for Springdale Elementary School, Vineville Academy of the Arts, and Burdell-Hunt Magnet School were approved by Board members. These purchases will provide independent, handicap-accessible playgrounds for grades K-2 and 3-5 school-aged students and will be ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) and CPSC (Consumer Project Safety Commission) approved. These equipment purchases are funded by the 2021 ESPLOST. The Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax is a one percent sales tax approved by voters. For more information, [click here](#).

Construction Manager Services for Hartley Elementary Kitchen Renovation Approved

Board members approved a contract with Sheridan Construction to provide construction management at-risk services for renovations of the Hartley Elementary School Kitchen. The funds will be paid out of 2021 ESPLOST. For more information, [click here](#).

Contractor Services for Turf at Ed DeFore Sports Complex Softball and Baseball Fields Approved

Board members approved a purchase order with Advanced Sports Group LLC to provide general contractor services for installation of new field turf at the softball and baseball fields at the Ed DeFore Sports Complex. These equipment purchases are funded by the 2021 ESPLOST. For more information, [click here](#).

Districtwide Security Upgrades Approved

Board members approved a purchase order to Nextgen Security for the districtwide Aiphone and CCTV project. As part of the 2021 ESPLOST initiative, the Board approved districtwide upgrades to security camera and intrusion systems, modernizing safety infrastructure and protection for students, staff, and assets. The Bibb County School District originally implemented an analog camera system to provide exterior coverage only. The District upgraded to a digital system and added cameras to include interior coverage; however, the older equipment did not have updated security features or proper coverage. Modern security cameras with analytics and radar systems will provide enhanced security district-wide for all facilities and athletic fields. This project will be funded by the 2021 ESPLOST fund. For more information, [click here](#).

Guaranteed Maximum Price for Burdell-Hunt Magnet School Renovations Approved

Board members approved a purchase order for renovations of Burdell-Hunt Magnet School with a Guaranteed Maximum Price. The Construction Manager coordinated architectural designs, product specifications and material costs with WM2A Architects. This project will be funded by the 2021 ESPLOST fund. For more information, [click here](#).

Guaranteed Maximum Price for Northwoods Academy Gymnasium Approved

Board members approved a purchase order for construction of Northwoods Academy Gymnasium with a Guaranteed Maximum Price. The Construction Manager coordinated architectural designs, product specifications and material costs with SP Design Group Inc. This project will be funded by the 2021 ESPLOST fund. For more information, [click here](#).

Guaranteed Maximum Price for Vineville Academy of the Arts Renovation Approved

Board members approved a purchase order for renovations of Vineville Academy of the Arts Elementary School with a Guaranteed Maximum Price. The Construction Manager coordinated architectural designs, product specifications and material costs with WM2A Architects. This project will be funded by the 2021 ESPLOST fund. For more information, [click here](#).

Energy Cost Savings Audit Services Approved

Board members approved a contract with Schneider Electric Buildings Americas Inc. to provide Investment Grade Audit Services to identify energy cost savings to offset modernization and operational costs for Bibb County School District facilities. For more information, [click here](#).

Solar Energy Procurement Agreement Approved

Board members approved a contract with Cherry Street Energy LLC to design, construct, install, operate, maintain and monitor a solar energy system through a Solar Energy Procurement

Agreement for the Innovation and Technology Academy. 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 GBN, Professional Personnel Termination (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy EE, Food Services Management (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy EEE, Wellness Program (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

Academic Update Covering First Semester

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Ethel Lett shared a presentation reviewing first semester academic progress, covering Renaissance STAR Early Literacy, STAR Reading and Math, and DRC Beacon data. Indications are that Bibb students are making strides in their academic progress in several areas, and the Teaching and Learning Department is adjusting professional learning and support to assist schools in providing more opportunities for student growth. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

District Utilizing Generative AI to Support Instruction

Dr. Monica Radcliff, Director of Instructional Innovation, shared a presentation showcasing the journey of Generative AI adoption and implementation in the Bibb County School District, providing Board members and stakeholders with insight into the work that has occurred and continues to evolve in relation to using AI in the daily duties and responsibilities for faculty, staff, and students. The presentation covered the journey of Generative AI, which began in SY22-23, and its evolution of implementation to where we are currently. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Push for Success: Summer Learning Opportunities

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Ethel Lett presented an overview of the Bibb County School District's plans for summer learning. Push for Success: Summer Learning provides students with targeted support and enrichment in reading and math, pathways to accelerate academic progress, opportunities for credit recovery, and career exploration. Summer Learning options/opportunities are available for all students in grades Pre-K through 12, with the goal of developing a culture of year-round learning. There are four options for enhanced learning: Enrichment, Acceleration, Extension, and Career Exploration. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Superintendent's Highlights

- **ARTWORK BY BALLARD-HUDSON MIDDLE:** This month's featured artwork is by Ballard-Hudson Middle School students, led by instructor Justin Brown. There were 27 art-pieces scattered throughout the room focused on the Essence of Black History.
- **CELEBRATIONS & APPRECIATION:** Thank you to schools and departments throughout the District for bringing recognition and awareness to these events this month: Black History Month; National CTAE Month, which includes National FBLA Week, National FCCLA Week, and National FFA Week; National School Counseling Week; School Resource Officer Appreciation Day; and National Public Schools Week.
- **STATE OF THE DISTRICT: WE ARE THE PROMISE!** On January 30, we held our annual State of the District, complete with student performances, data updates, prizes and more. Thank you to the community partners and parents who joined us for this event, but most importantly, thank you to our students for celebrating the amazing achievements happening throughout this district. They fully represented The Promise this District holds for each student who walks through our doors each day. You can watch the State of the District at www.youtube.com/bibbschools.
- **INDUSTRY TOUR WITH WORKFORCE PARTNERS:** Our CTAE team recently traveled to Dalton, Georgia, for a powerful day of workforce engagement with industry partners from Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, YKK, Irving Tissue, Kumho, and Central Georgia Technical College. Team members connected with Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy and toured Shaw Industries Group Technical Training Center, gaining firsthand insight into how education and advanced manufacturing align to create real career pathways. We look forward to working with our industry partners as we develop curriculum preparing our students for Bibb's emerging workforce needs.
- **TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING WITH GEAR UP:** GEAR UP students continue to participate in transformative learning experiences designed to expand academic knowledge and strengthen post-secondary readiness. Students from each middle school recently engaged in an interactive field trip to the Mimms Museum of Technology and Art in Roswell. During the visit, 22 teams competed in an academic challenge that required students to answer content-based questions as they explored exhibits. The students pictured, from Ballard-Hudson Middle School, earned the highest score, distinguishing themselves as the top-performing team. Experiences such as this reflect GEAR UP's ongoing commitment to providing meaningful enrichment opportunities that enhance academic performance, promote college and career exploration, and build the skills necessary for long-term post-secondary success.
- **PRESENTATIONS ON TEACHING & LEARNING:** Our district is honored to share what intentional, systemwide alignment looks like in practice and how coherence strengthens teaching and learning across all levels of the organization! Dr. Sims truly enjoyed being the Keynote Speaker for the Georgia Council for Teachers of English earlier this month right here in Macon! What a great group of champions sharpening themselves for our students! And, shout out to Bibb's Teaching & Learning Executive Directors Brian Butler and Olena Stadnik Floore, who presented on Bibb's work around alignment and coherence at the Georgia Department of Education's Winter Teaching & Learning Summit, also held this month right here in Bibb County.
- **NAVY PRESENTS MIXED-REALITY EXPERIENCE:** Students across the district got a firsthand look at the future this month as America's Navy brought its Strike Group mixed-reality experience to W. S. Hutchings College and Career Academy ... turning learning into an immersive, real-world tech adventure.
- **HOWARD JROTC TEAM ADVANCES IN ACADEMIC BOWL:** We are incredibly proud of Howard High School's Air Force JROTC JLAB team for advancing to Round II in the Academic Bowl

Competition. They advanced as the only team representing Bibb County School District in this national competition!

- **FUTURE-FOCUSED STUDENT ATHLETES:** February brings with it National Signing Day events, and so far, 16 of our Class of 2026 seniors have signed to continue their athletic and academic careers through college sports, and more are expected to put pen to paper in the coming weeks! And, a big shout-out goes to Howard High Junior Ta'Shawn Poole, who was recognized by Macon-Bibb County as a distinguished multi-sport student-athlete from Macon, with our Mayor proclaiming February 17, 2026, as "TA'SHAWN POOLE DAY" in Macon-Bibb County!
- **CAMPUS POLICE GROWTH AND LEARNING:** The Bibb County Campus Police Department aims to foster a culture of continuous learning. Team members spent this week's Professional Learning Day participating in CPR First Aid/AED and Mental Health Training. But, that's not all – Sgt. Maurice Bellamy recently led a Multi-Agency Intelligence Meeting at Thompson Stadium Complex, with discussions on raising Gang Awareness, Identifying Gang Symbols, and connecting School Resource Officers with administrators. Bibb Principals provided valuable insight for partners, which included representatives from the U.S. Marshals Office, as well as Fulton, Henry, and Houston County SROs. Sgt. Bellamy also recently led breakout sessions in collaboration with the Student Support Services team, focusing on the vital importance of Restorative Practices.
- **BIBB COUNTY NAMES 3 FLEX FINALISTS:** Congratulations to our Top 3 Finalists in the 2026 FLEX program! The Foundational Leadership and Entrepreneurship Experience is a premier entrepreneurship program for high school students, immersing them in real-world business through hands-on experiences and mentorship. The top 3 student-run businesses advancing in this year's FLEX competition are: No Moore Ink by Brian Moore, Northeast High School; The Cozy Wick by KaiAnna Curry, Cariel Lewis and Dana Thomas, Northeast High School; and The Mayan Way by Bilal Ramos, Howard High School. Bibb County CTAE students also were in attendance at FLEX Day at the Capitol recently, hearing from legislators and connecting entrepreneurship with real-world opportunity.
- **ON THE HORIZON: SAY YES TO BCS!** The Bibb County Human Resources Division is busy preparing for next school year! The District will host its annual Teacher Recruitment Fair on Saturday, February 28, at Westside High School. Principals from all Bibb County Schools will be present and ready to meet with prospective candidates! Register at www.bcsdk12.net/careers. Additionally, principals have joined HR at teacher recruitment events at colleges and universities like Mercer University to talk with teacher candidates who are passionate about teaching and learning. The HR team also continues to host engaging Lunch and Learn events that provide staff members with opportunities to learn about topics such as financial wellness.
- **WE ARE THE PROMISE!** These are two outstanding Bibb graduates who have shared their successes with us! On the left is MacKenzie McDuffie from Westside High School's Class of 2023, and she recently shared exciting news about her early graduation within 3 years from Tuskegee University in May! On the right is Kylan Hill, a 2018 graduate of Central High School and a member of the final cohort of the original GEAR UP grant! GEAR UP is proud to celebrate the achievements of both current and former GEAR UP students, and Kylan recently shared that he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Clark Atlanta University in December. He is now a successful entrepreneur, and he shared that his educational experiences provided a strong foundation that prepared him for continued professional growth and long-term success!
- **WE ARE THE PROMISE!** Back to our present-day classrooms, where Dr. Sims has the chance to visit with students each week! "I will never cease to be enamored at the work we put in for

our beautiful students. The teaching and learning is real and powerful! I get to see my students become better and better almost every day as I visit schools. We are The Promise!!!!" he said.

- **ON THE HORIZON: MEET ME WHERE YOU ARE:** Save the Date! Meet Me Where You Are is a districtwide family engagement strategy that includes Meet Me at the Barbershop, Meet Me at the Park (for Cherry Blossom Festival), and culminates with Meet Me at the Mall 2026. We are fully in the active planning phase for this year's series, with a shared focus on literacy and attendance across all experiences, and we hope to see you at these events!
 - Meet Me at the Barbershop on March 11, March 26, and April 10
 - Meet Me at the Park on March 25
 - Meet Me at the Mall on April 14
-

Highlights

2026 Don Cargill STEM Scholar

Quanya Pendleton-Sears, a teacher at Heritage Elementary School, has been named a Don Cargill STEM Scholar by the Georgia Youth Science & Technology Centers (GYSTC). This honor recognizes Georgia educators in grades K-8 who inspire curiosity and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) classrooms. Established in 2019, the Don Cargill STEM Scholar Award celebrates teachers who create engaging learning environments that prepare students for future opportunities in STEM fields.

This year, GYSTC recognized 25 educators statewide with this distinction. Quanya Pendleton-Sears received the award for outstanding integration of STEM instruction and a strong commitment to providing students with innovative, hands-on, and challenging learning experiences. Through a dynamic classroom environment, she encourages curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving while preparing students for future success in STEM. As part of the recognition, Ms. Pendleton-Sears received a \$500 classroom grant to support her project.

BREA Partnership Scholarship Award

Each year, the Bibb Retired Educators Association (BREA) receives applications from Bibb County schools to join the organization as a Partner in Education. Selection for this honor comes with a \$1,000 donation to the school every year for three years, along with other supports. This year, the BREA selected Southfield Elementary as its latest Partner in Education, making the official announcement during BREA's meeting this month. To our BREA representatives, we thank you for your continued support of public schools in Bibb County!

Georgia Music Educators Association District XI Music Teacher of the Year

During the Georgia Music Educators Association's annual conference last month, Ms. Levita Carter, Bernd Elementary School, was named the District 11 Music Educator of the Year. This District encompasses 20 counties in Central Georgia. She was chosen for this honor based on her wide-ranging experience and her students' success at choral competitions, among other factors. Ms. Carter was previously named Bernd's Teacher of the Year and runner-up for District Teacher of the Year in 2022-2023.

Bibb County Spelling Bee Winners

School spelling bees have long been a staple of the educational experience, allowing students 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. , to determine which students will advance to represent the District in the region competition. Congratulations to our Bibb County Spelling Bee winners.

- First Place – Joshua Johnson, Rutland Middle School, 7th grade
- Second Place – Dream Miller, Weaver Middle School, 6th grade
- Third Place – Jamir Williams, Lane Elementary School, 4th grade

2026 STAR Students

Each year, high school students in Georgia are chosen for the PAGE Student Teacher Achievement Recognition, or STAR program. These students scored the highest on the SAT in their school while also meeting other academic standards, and then they selected a teacher that has had a remarkable impact on their success. Bibb County STAR Students and STAR Teachers were recognized recently in a ceremony by PAGE and Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations!

- Central High School – Robert Le, STAR Student and Tamara Bolston-Williams, STAR Teacher
- Howard High School – Nathan Miller, STAR Student and Julia Manard, STAR Teacher
- Northeast High School (Tie) – Kory Stewart, STAR Student and Robert Randall, STAR Teacher
- Northeast High School – Zaris Odoms, STAR Student and Keith Heard, STAR Teacher
- Rutland High School – Savannah Neville, STAR Student and Dr. Hema Keerthi, STAR Teacher
- Southwest High School – Loymiela Thomas, STAR Student and Elizabeth Martin, STAR Teacher
- Westside High School – Tray Kimbrough, STAR Student and William Farran, STAR Teacher

Partnership Impact Award

Each month, we take a moment to shine a spotlight on a partner whose contributions have made a real difference for our students, staff, and families. This month's Partnership Impact Award was proudly recommended by Appling Middle School. We are honored to recognize Berean Christian Center – Smiles of Hope for their outstanding support of student well-being and community outreach. Through the leadership and generosity of Berean Christian Center, more than 200 coats were donated to schools and students on the East Side, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and Appling Middle School. This contribution supports our Whole Child approach by providing essential resources that align with our attendance initiatives and ensure students are well-equipped for success at school.

On behalf of the Bibb County Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims, we are proud to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Berean Christian Center in recognition of their outstanding commitment to the students of the Bibb County School District. Your investment and outreach reflect a deep belief in the limitless potential of our scholars.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jamir Williams, a 4th grade student at McKibben Lane Elementary School.

Board Members

The following Board Members were present at this meeting:

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

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

Mrs. Kristin C. Hanlon, District 3 - Treasurer

Ms. Myrtice C. Johnson, District 1

Dr. Henry C. Ficklin, District 2

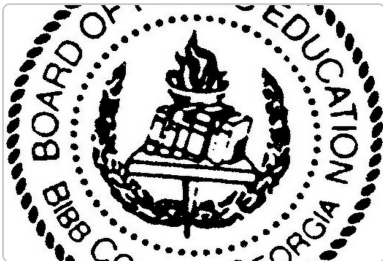
Mr. Barney T. Hester, District 4

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](#).

Watch Bibb County Board of Education Meetings



bibbschools

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

📺 [youtube.com](#)



Bibb County School District

Subscribe



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