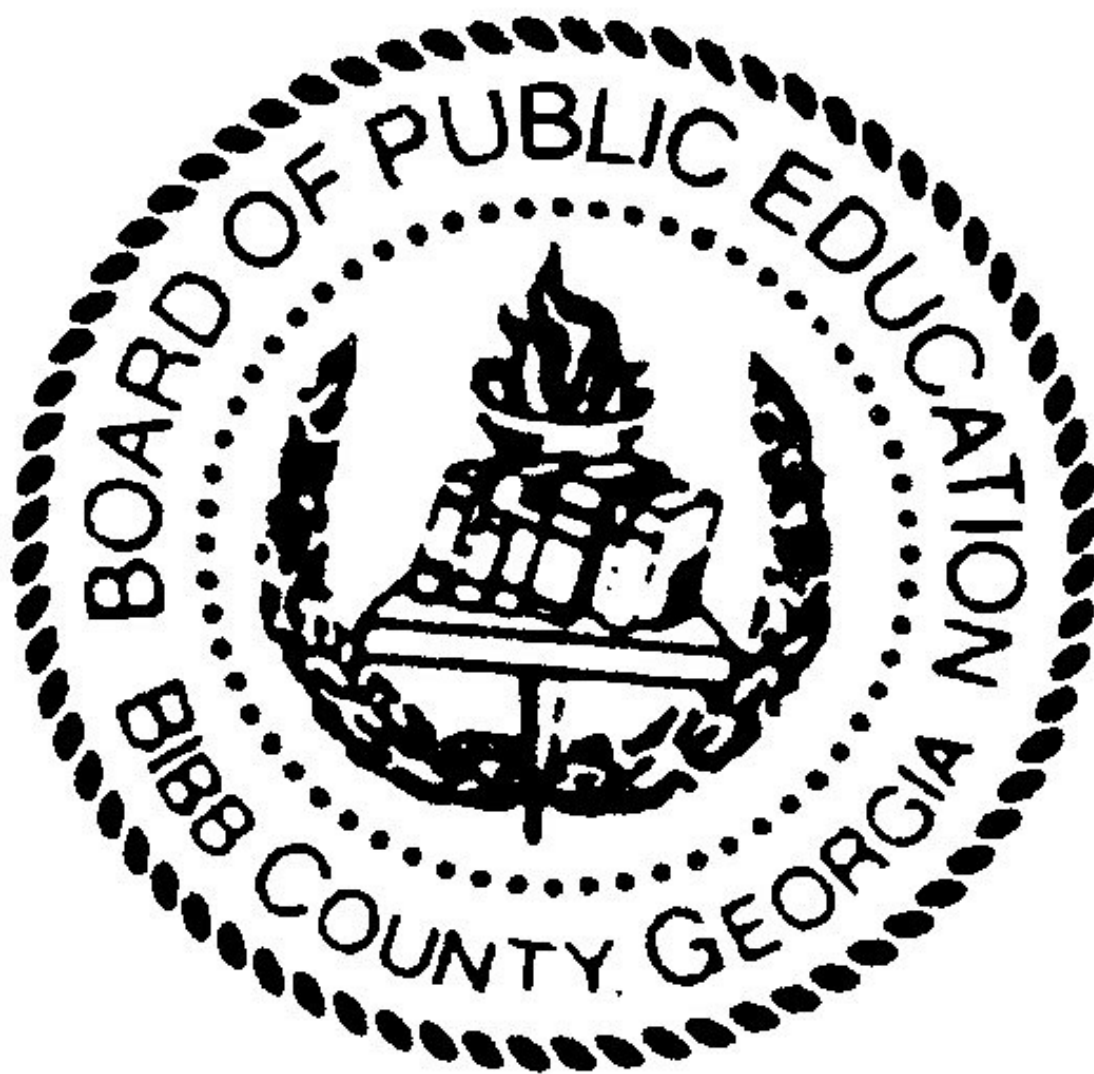


# The Board Brief

July 16, 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>.

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# Actions

## **Personnel Items Approved**

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

- Tomika Jones, Southfield Elementary School Assistant Principal
- Annie Horton, Veterans Elementary School Assistant Principal

## **Board Reinstates Step Increases for Teachers and Staff for FY27**

Board members approved an amendment to the FY27 Budget that would add back in salary step increases for the 2026-2027 school year. For a review of the FY27 Final Budget approved on June 25, [click here](#).

## **Ed DeFore Baseball Field to be Named in Honor of Eddie Ashley**

Board members approved naming the baseball field at the Ed DeFore Sports Complex the Eddie Ashley Field in honor of former BCSD Athletic Director and longtime coach Eddie Ashley, who passed away in 2020. The designation recognizes his decades of service and lasting contributions to student-athletes and athletics throughout Bibb County Schools. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Board Approves Renewal of Edgenuity Platform**

Board members approved the renewal of Imagine Learning's Edgenuity platform for the 2026-2027 school year. Edgenuity provides credit recovery, initial credit, electives, world language courses, and virtual learning opportunities for students in grades 6-12, helping support graduation pathways and personalized learning across the District. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Kelly Services Contract Extended for One Year**

Board members authorized the renewal of a contract with Kelly Education Services for the 2026-2027 school year at a cost not to exceed \$4,500,000. Funding will come from a combination of FY27 General and Federal funds. The contract with Kelly Services has been in effect with the Bibb County School District since 2021. The District intends to continue utilizing this contract to support substitute management services across various positions, including paraprofessionals and custodians. Based on expenditures from the previous fiscal year, the District anticipates spending approximately \$4,500,000 to adequately meet the staffing needs of schools and programs. This will include BCSD's Maintenance Department, due to the need for custodial employees for this upcoming fiscal year. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Board Approves Preliminary Resolution for Tax Anticipation Note**

Board members adopted a preliminary resolution granting the District authority to proceed with a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) in the maximum principal amount not to exceed \$35,000,000, and at a maximum interest rate not to exceed 7%, including without limitation the authority to solicit competitive proposals from financial institutions. The reason for the TAN is to provide secure funding as the District anticipates tax collections this fall. Final terms for the placement and purchase of the TAN will be presented to the Board of Education for approval at the August 20, 2026, Board meeting in the form of a Supplemental or Final TAN Resolution. For more information, [click here](#).

## **District Contract for Multi-functional Copiers Approved**

Board members approved a contract for FY27 with Superior Document Solutions for the District's multi-functional copiers. The agreement will continue copier services across the District. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **School Nutrition Food Contract Approved**

Board members approved the renewal of the School Nutrition food contract with Gordon Food Services for FY27. The contract will provide food products for student meal services throughout the District and supports efforts to maintain meal quality, meet nutrition requirements, and increase student participation in school meal programs. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **Milk and Dairy Contract Approved**

Board members approved a contract with Thomaston Milk Co. to provide milk and dairy products for all schools and the Central Kitchen during FY27. The contract represents the third renewal of the District's existing agreement and supports daily meal service through the School Nutrition Program. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **School Nutrition Paper Contract Approved**

Board members approved a contract for Southeastern Paper Group to provide food service paper products for FY27 on an as-needed basis. These supplies support meal service operations across the District and will be funded through the School Nutrition Budget. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **School Nutrition Procurement Plan and Procedures Approved**

Board members approved the FY27 School Nutrition Procurement Plan and Procedures. The annual plan ensures the District remains compliant with USDA requirements and establishes guidelines for purchasing food, supplies, equipment, and services that support school meal programs. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **School Nutrition Produce Contract Approved**

Board members approved produce contracts to support student meal service across the District. The agreement will help expand access to fresh fruits and vegetables, increase locally sourced produce offerings, and support continued participation in school nutrition programs. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **Continuation of Smart Mouth Pizza Program Approved**

Board members approved the continuation of the Smart Mouth Pizza program for middle and high schools. The program provides freshly made pizza that meets USDA nutrition standards and has helped increase student participation in school meal programs while providing additional training and support for nutrition staff. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **Nutrition Temporary Staffing Services Renewal Approved**

Board members approved the renewal of temporary staffing services for the School Nutrition Department for FY27. The contract will help address ongoing staffing shortages and ensure schools can continue providing meal services while maintaining compliance with federal and state nutrition requirements. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **Districtwide Custodial Supplies Contract Approved**

Board members authorized the annual contract with Southeastern Paper Group for FY27 for custodial supplies used throughout the District. The contract ensures schools and facilities have

the cleaning products and supplies needed to maintain safe, clean, and healthy learning environments. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Contract for Garbage Collection Services Approved**

Board members approved the renewal of the District's garbage and recycling services contract for FY27 with Waste Management. The agreement provides waste collection and recycling services for schools and District facilities during the upcoming fiscal year. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Athletics Material and Uniforms Contract Approved**

Board members approved agreements with BSN Sports and Riddell Sports to provide athletic uniforms, equipment, supplies, and equipment reconditioning services for the FY27 school year with an amended cap of \$400,000. These contracts will support athletic programs across the District and help ensure student-athletes have the resources needed for participation and competition. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Legal Services Contract Approved**

Board members approved the renewal of the District's legal services contract for FY27 with Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, LLP. The firm will continue providing legal counsel and support in areas including governance, compliance, personnel matters, policy development, student services, and litigation. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Tyler Technologies Student Transportation Renewal Approved**

Board members approved the renewal of Tyler Technologies' student transportation software suite for FY27. The platform supports bus routing, field trip management, vehicle tracking, parent communication tools, dispatch operations, and route navigation to help manage the District's transportation services. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Gas and Diesel Fuel Purchase Orders Approved**

Board members approved the purchase orders of gasoline and diesel fuel from multiple fuel providers to support daily transportation operations for FY27. Providers approved include Walthall Oil Co., Mansfield Oil Co., and Boswell Oil Co. The Transportation Department will continue obtaining competitive fuel pricing to ensure the District's bus fleet and vehicles remain operational throughout the school year. For more information, [click here](#).

### **District-Wide Propane Fuel Services Approved**

Board members approved a contract with Ferrellgas to provide propane fuel services for the District for FY27. Propane is a critical resource for transportation and operational services, and the contract helps ensure a reliable fuel supply through a competitive procurement process. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Bus Parts, Supplies and Service Purchases from Yancey Approved**

Board members approved the purchase of bus parts, supplies, and related services from Yancey Bus Sales and Service for FY27. The agreement supports the maintenance and repair of the District's school bus fleet, helping ensure safe and reliable transportation for students. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Enhanced Email Security Platform Approved**

Board members authorized a purchase order to SHI for Proofpoint Email Security Platform, an enhanced email security platform to strengthen cybersecurity protections across the District. The

system will help prevent phishing attempts, malware, and other email-based threats while protecting sensitive student and staff information and supporting a safe digital learning environment. The funding source is \$468,735.30 from FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Program and \$81,164.70 from General Funds. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Cybersecurity Protection Tools Approved**

Board members approved the purchase of Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) and Security Operations Center (SOC) services to strengthen the District's cybersecurity protections. These tools will provide continuous monitoring, threat detection, and incident response capabilities to help safeguard sensitive student and staff information and protect the District's network from cyber threats. The funding source is \$264,600.00 from FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Program and \$29,400 from General Funds. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Firewall Upgrades Approved**

Board members authorized a purchase order to Lockstep Technology Group for upgrades to the District's network firewall infrastructure. The new next-generation firewalls will enhance cybersecurity protections, improve threat detection capabilities, and help ensure compliance with federal data privacy and network security requirements. The funding source is the 2026 ESPLOST (Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, a 1% sales tax approved by voters). For more information, [click here](#).

### **Second Phase of Staff Devices Refresh Approved**

Board members approved the second phase of the District's staff device refresh initiative and authorized a purchase order to SureLock Technology. The project will provide updated technology for employees, improve reliability and consistency across departments, streamline technical support, and enhance collaboration and productivity for staff. The funding source is the 2026 ESPLOST. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Atrium Health Navicent Agreement for School Nurses Approved**

Board members approved the renewal of the District's partnership with Atrium Health Navicent for FY27 to continue providing nursing services in school health clinics. As part of the renewal, Atrium will assume responsibility for supplies needed in schools. The agreement also includes the use of telehealth services. The District's longstanding partnership helps ensure students have access to healthcare support during the school day and allows the District to maintain school-based health services across its schools. During the 2025-2026 school year, school nurses documented about 90,000 visits with school nurses in BCSD, with about 70,000 of those cases resulting in the student being able to return to class. For more information, [click here](#).

### **New Business**

The Board undertook 6 action items for New Business under the Board Meeting.

- Board members authorized the District to retain the law firms of Lieff Cabresar Heimann & Bernstein, LLP, Brockstedt Mandalas Federico LLC, and Matthew W. Johnson at Johnson Law Office to represent the District in any and all claims the District may have against the Social Media Companies and authorize the District to join an identified Social Media Litigation. For more information, [click here](#).
- The Board moved for the District's credit card statements to be made available for public inspection. The District has only one credit card.
- The Board authorized legal counsel to review the need for a policy on credit cards.

- The Board voted that any action items costing \$150,000 or above be placed on the agenda with supporting documentation with a minimum of 5 days before the meeting for review, with exceptions in case of emergency or where the Board waives compliance.
- The Board voted to request a Called Meeting within the next 2 weeks to review proposals on school closings and/or consolidations.
- The Board voted to approve the Superintendent's Contract Addendum as presented.

More information will be made available on the Monthly Board Meeting agenda. To view the agenda, [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 GAK - Criminal Background Checks (Replacing Policy GAM: Staff Rights and Responsibilities) (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy GAE - Complaints and Grievances (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy GARH - Employee Leaves and Absences (ACTION - Second Reading)
- Policy JBCD - Transfers and Withdrawals (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy JCDAF - Use of Electronic Devices (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy JHC - Student Organizations (INFORMATION - First Reading)
- Policy JRA- Student Data Privacy Complaints (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](http://www.bcsdk12.net), under "About Us" and "Simbli." On [Simbli](#), "Pending Policies" will appear on the right side of the screen.

## **Information**

### **District Presents Monthly Budget Update**

CFO Eric Bush presented the Monthly Financial Statement Review. The purpose of this presentation is to present the financial results for the period ending May 31, 2026, covering the General Fund, all funds combined, and ESPLOST results for the period. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Superintendent's Highlights**

- **DIG IN: TO INFINITY AND BEYOND:** Educators attending the District's annual DIG IN Conference here at the PLC started off 2026-2027 strong with collaboration, creativity, and engaging learning as they explored new ways to integrate technology into their classrooms. This year's theme was To Infinity and Beyond: Igniting Innovation in Education! Thank you to our partners from MagicSchool, Museum of Aviation, Middle Georgia RESA, Lumio, SMART Technologies, and Lightspeed Systems, and a huge thank you to our Platinum Sponsor, ClassLink, and our Gold Sponsor, Dell. We also want to shout out our incredible teacher

presenters, as well as our Instructional Innovation Coaches, for sharing innovative, standards-based practical tools and instructional strategies designed to support meaningful learning, boost student engagement, and strengthen classroom instruction.

- **BRUCE STUDENTS FLY TO NYC WITH PARTNER:** Thank you to the 100 Black Men of Macon-Middle Georgia for supporting a three-day trip to New York City for 28 students from Bruce Elementary School! The organization partners with Bruce, and the annual trip was earned by students through their participation throughout the school year. While in New York City, the group attended the 100 Black Men of America Inc. National Conference and visited several locations that are staples of the city. These places included the Statue of Liberty, Times Square, the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, City Hall, and the 9/11 Memorial.
- **MIDSOUTH COMMUNITY FCU PLANNERS:** Thank you to MidSouth Community Federal Credit Union for once again developing and producing an annual academic planner for each teacher and staff member in the Bibb County School District! These planners will be delivered to schools as teachers begin returning for the 2026-2027 school year! We're thankful to community partners engaged in supporting the Promise! As we flip to the next slide, a brief video will play before I share a little about the photos on slide.
- **CGTC DUAL ENROLLMENT TRAVELS TO IRELAND:** Eleven Bibb scholars were among a cohort of dual enrollment students with Central Georgia Technical College participating in a Humanities course in Ireland this summer! Students in the course spent time with the Institute of Study Abroad Ireland visiting the Gartan Outdoor Education, swimming and kayaking in the lake, hiking a national park, and visiting castles and ruins. Also on the itinerary: archery and indoor rock climbing; Irish history and tours; Irish language class and orienteering; canoeing and paddle boarding; a class on Northern Ireland and the Civil Rights Movement Rights; a lecture on mythology and folklore; and more. They had so many adventures and memories together in Donegal, Ireland!
- **CENTRAL HIGH IB DIPLOMA SUCCESS:** Congratulations to our Central High School International Baccalaureate scholars on their IB results for the May 2026 Examination Session. This was truly an amazing year for our IB juniors and seniors, and we are honored to share these results! Here are some highlights from our IB Exams: 100% IB Diplomas Awarded! This is the highest percentage of IB Diplomas awarded on record for Central High School! IB Career Programme Certificates: In our second year of IB CP students taking exams, 57% earned the career-related certificates. This is also a record for the highest percentage of CP certificates for CHS. GaDOE Biliteracy Seals: Six IB Diploma juniors earned a 5 or higher in Spanish SL, which will qualify them for the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy awarded through the Georgia Department of Education on their high school diplomas as seniors. This is the most bilingual seals ever awarded to CHS students in a year. Congratulations to our students and faculty on these impressive achievements!
- **SUMMER OF THE RAIDER SPOTLIGHT:** Congratulations to Ja'Cora Anderson, Tamara Ragans, and Jai'llah Bell on being selected for Atrium Health Navicent's REACH Program! This summer, these Raiders are exploring careers in healthcare through hands-on learning, professional mentorship, and real-world experiences. We're proud of these future healthcare leaders for investing in their future!
- **LEADERSHIP BUILT TO DELIVER:** As we wrapped up the first official week of the 2026-2027 school year, the Office of School Leadership spent the day with our principals building on strategic practices that will support the work of success this school year. They will be conducting a book study of "Beyond the Hammer: A Fresh Approach to Leadership, Culture, and Building High-Performance Teams" by Brian Gottlieb. Also during their session, the Office

of School Leadership celebrated schools and leaders who received banners from Georgia Department of Education in Progress and Howard High for exiting the TSI list.

- **BUILT TO DELIVER SCHOOL PD IN ACTION:** Our staff – and our students – have spent the summer engaged in professional development to prepare for a great school year! Here are a few photos from Northeast High's Adult Lighthouse Team partnering with the Student Lighthouse Team to develop action plans for the new school year; Weaver Middle's Summer Institute for staff members where they spent 4 days strengthening components of a shared vision of teaching and learning; and Ballard-Hudson's leadership retreat dedicated to the work of school improvement.
- **PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES BUILT IN BIBB:** Built right here in Bibb! We're proud of our scholars for putting sweat and dedication into their athletics for future careers in professional sports! Congratulations to our very own Kowacie Reeves, Jr., a Westside High graduate who has signed a contract with the Indiana Pacers and is set to compete for a spot with the NBA team over the summer. Congratulations to Keon Johnson, who attended Alexander II Magnet School, on being selected by the Houston Astros in the 3rd Round of the 2026 MLB Draft. Long before the accolades, championships, and national recognition, Keon walked the halls of Alexander II, where his journey was nurtured by dedicated educators who believed in his potential. We are beyond proud of these young men and overjoyed for their families!
- **SUMMER SAFE CAMP PARTNERS WITH BSO:** Thank you to our Bibb County School District Campus Police Department and the Bibb County Sheriff's Office for collaborating to host the Summer Safe Camp! For 3 weeks, they held camps at Weaver, Appling, and Rutland Middle Schools, conducting fitness activities and games, providing mentorship and positive interactions – all with the goal of keeping students active, engaged, and having fun all summer long.
- **HEALTHY FINANCIAL HABITS WITH ROBINS FCU:** Preparing students for the future starts with giving them the tools to feel confident about money today. As part of our financial education initiatives, Robins FCU partnered with the District's 21st Century Community Learning Centers to teach students about saving, budgeting, and other healthy financial habits as they build skills for their future!
- **SUMMER BRIDGE WELCOMES RISING STUDENTS:** These past 2 weeks, our middle and high schools have been preparing rising scholars for a successful school year with programs designed to help them transition confidently into the next level by introducing them to campus, teachers, staff, expectations, and traditions. What a way to set the tone for the year ahead!
- **INNOVATION ACADEMY SET FOR NEW PATHWAYS:** The next phase of renovation at the Innovation Academy is complete, and students will begin utilizing these state-of-the-art labs Aug. 3 for pathways in AI and Robotics, Cyber, EV, and Advanced Manufacturing. Oh, and did we mention, we're installing solar panels, which will also be utilized for instructional purposes?! We cannot wait to see these labs filled with students preparing for successful careers right here in Bibb County!
- **ON THE HORIZON: OPEN HOUSE:** Open House 2026 will be here soon! Middle and High School Open House will be on Wednesday, July 29th from 3:30 to 6p.m. Elementary School Open House will be on Thursday, July 30th from 3:30 to 6p.m. We look forward to seeing everyone as we prepare for the 2026-2027 school year!

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## Highlights

### Meet the New Leaders

Congratulations to our new leaders!

Kizzie Lott, Principal, Southwest High School

Dominique Whipple, Principal, Heritage Elementary School

Thomas Cote, Assistant Principal, Vineville Academy of the Arts

Tyveshe Johnson, Assistant Principal, Howard High School

JacQuez Harris, Program Coordinator, Hutchings College & Career Academy

Edgar Ray, Assistant Principal, Southwest High School

Donnanique Washington, Executive Director of School Nutrition

### **SkillsUSA National Champion**

Our students participate in a variety of Career and Technical Student Organizations, which prepare them for the workforce through collaboration and competition. One such organization is Skills USA, which held a national competition last month. During this competition, Aleshia Dupree, Southwest High School / Hutchings College & Career Academy, won first place, representing a National Championship for Bibb County School District, in Graphics Imaging Sublimation representing the Hutchings chapter of Skills USA. Congratulations Aleshia!

### **Georgia Poet Laureate Award**

Since 2014, the Georgia Poet Laureate and the Georgia Council for the Arts have selected a high school student for the Georgia Poet Laureate's Prize. This honor recognizes students in grades nine through 12 and is intended to encourage students to express themselves through writing. Recently, Jaiden Geolingo, Howard High School, was named the statewide winner of the Georgia Poet Laureate's Prize for his work titled "Peach State Migration." This is his second year being recognized through this program, as he was named a state finalist in 2025. Jaiden's work has also been featured in national publications, and we cannot wait to see what his future holds!

### **Leader in Me Lighthouse Recertification**

One of the highest levels of school recognition within Leader In Me is receiving Lighthouse Status. This honor, which has been granted to 17 Bibb schools, comes after an involved application process that requires demonstration of leadership development from students all the way up through administration. Recently, Miller Magnet Middle School was recertified as a Lighthouse school after being named the state's first Lighthouse middle school in 2022.

### **Licensed Professional Counselors of Georgia**

Congratulations Dr. Tonja Simmons Lee, the District's Coordinator for School-Based Mental Health Services for being named the President of the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia. Dr. Simmons Lee, who joined the District last summer, has wide-ranging experience in the realm of professional counseling. This organization seeks to advocate for mental health issues across the state while providing resources and education for professional counselors.

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**Visit [www.facebook.com/bibbschools](https://www.facebook.com/bibbschools) for photos of highlights and recognitions.**

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# Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kamauri Curry, a 2nd grade student at Union Elementary School.

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## 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

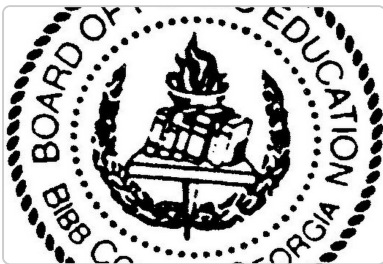
Mr. James M. Freeman, District 6

Dr. Lisa W. Boyd, At-Large, Post 8 - Present Virtually by Microsoft Teams

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

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