

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BIBB COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
GEORGIA TRUST FOR LOCAL )  
NEWS, LLC, D/B/A )  
THE MACON MELODY, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
THE BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL )  
DISTRICT, )  
 )  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.  
2025-CV-083495

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff brings this Complaint pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq.*, against Defendant for violations of Georgia’s Open Records Act. Plaintiff seeks the statutory remedies available under the ORA. In support hereof, Plaintiff states:

**INTRODUCTION**

Georgia’s Open Records Act (“ORA”) reflects “the strong public policy of this state” that “is in favor of open government; that open government is essential to a free, open, and democratic society; and that public access to public records should be encouraged to foster confidence in government and **so that the public can evaluate the expenditure of public funds** and the efficient and proper functioning of its institutions.” O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70(a) (emphasis added). In any ORA proceeding, “there is a strong presumption that public records should be made available for public inspection without delay.” *Id.* The Act must be “broadly

construed to allow the inspection of governmental records,” and any exceptions to the Act must be “interpreted narrowly.” *Id.*

Plaintiff requested garden variety public information—the amount of money that the District spent in litigation settlements in the year 2024. The District has inexplicably responded by claiming that there was only one settlement agreement made in the year 2024, and that disclosing the dollar amount of the settlement would disclose “confidential, personally-identifiable, education-related information about a particular BCSD student.” Ex. B.

This is a wild assertion, especially in light of the fact that the Defendant voluntarily chose to disclose the initials of the individual involved in the settlement, which information Plaintiff was not seeking in this request. In its response, Defendant also voluntarily disclosed the fact that the settlement related to a student, which again, was unsolicited information that Plaintiff did not ask for. Arguably, the District’s intentional disclosure of the fact that the settlement involved a student and the initials of the alleged student are a greater violation of FERPA than any disclosed dollar amount. Despite the District’s unsolicited disclosures, the fact remains that disclosing a dollar amount that represents the amount of taxpayer money spent by the District in a given year has absolutely nothing to do with “confidential, personally-identifiable, education-related information about a particular BCSD student.” Ex. B.

Plaintiff asks this Court to find that the Defendant violated the law in responding to these requests, and to award attorney fees, costs, and civil penalties as permitted by the ORA.

### **PARTIES**

1. The Macon Melody is a newspaper based in Macon, Georgia.
2. The Bibb County School District (“District”) is an “agency” and “custodian” of records as defined by the ORA. O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70(a)(2)(A).

### **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

3. This Court has jurisdiction under the ORA, O.C.G.A. § 50-18-73, which states that “[t]he superior courts of this state shall have jurisdiction in law and in equity to entertain actions against persons or agencies having custody of records open to the public under [the Open Records Act] to enforce compliance with the provisions of” that Act, as well as through its equitable and injunctive powers stated in Ga. Const. Art. VI, Sec, IV, Para I and O.C.G.A. § 9-5-1 *et seq.*
4. Venue is appropriate because the Defendant is located in Bibb County. O.C.G.A. § 9-10-30.

### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

5. On June 2, 2025, Laura Corley, a journalist employed by the Macon Melody, sent an ORA request. Ex. A.

6. The request sought: “[r]ecords that reflect the dollar amounts of settlements the school board approved in 2024. I am not seeking **access to any other information within** any settlement agreements, only the dollar amounts.”  
*Id.*
7. The request also asked the records custodian to “[p]lease provide these records in a digital format via email and inform us of any costs before charges are incurred.” *Id.*
8. Exhibit A to this Complaint is a true and accurate copy of the request that was sent to the Bibb County School District on June 2, 2025.
9. On June 5, 2025, Stephanie Hartley responded on behalf of Bibb County School District. Ex. B.
10. The District’s response is set forth below:

We are in receipt of your Open Records Request dated June 2, 2025, requesting ‘records that reflect the dollar amounts of settlements the school board approved in 2024’ pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act. As a professional courtesy, I can confirm that the JH settlement from the Bibb County Board of Education’s July 18, 2024 meeting is the only settlement approved by the Board in 2024. As a result, any information we provide about the dollar amounts for 2024 settlements will inherently be tied to that individual settlement. That fact prevents the District from providing you with the requested financial records. The dollar amounts contemplated by the JH settlement include confidential, personally-identifiable, education-related information about a particular BCSD student. As you are aware, minor students enjoy robust privacy protections under such federal statutes as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (‘FERPA’), among others. FERPA is a federal law that affords parents the right to have access to their children’s education records and the right to have control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records. The FERPA statute is found at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the FERPA regulations are found at

34 CFR Part 99. Georgia's Open Records Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(1), allows withholding of records 'specifically required by federal statute or regulation to be kept confidential,' and O.C.G.A. §50-18-72(a)(37) allows the withholding of '[a]ny record that would not be subject to disclosure, or the disclosure of which would jeopardize the receipt of federal funds, under 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g or its implementing regulations.' FERPA's definition of 'personally identifiable information' includes (1) information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to specific students that likely would allow a reasonable person in the school community without personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances to identify the students with reasonable certainty; and also (2) information requested by a person whom the District reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates. It is the District's position that information related to the JH settlement, including the dollar amount associated with its approval, is protected by the robust confidentiality provisions of FERPA and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ('IDEA'). The District is therefore constrained by state and federal law from providing you with the information you seek.

*Id.*

11. Exhibit B to the Complaint is a true and accurate copy of the response sent by the District to Ms. Corley on June 5, 2025.
12. That same day, Ms. Corley responded: "A dollar amount wouldn't include 'confidential, personally-identifiable, education-related information about a particular BCSD student.'" *Id.*
13. The District never responded to Ms. Corley's follow up message.
14. The District has routinely disclosed settlement amounts on their meeting minutes.
15. For example, the District Board's meeting minutes from the February 28, 2019 meeting state:

The Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommendation for the following workers compensation settlement:

J.G. - \$17,500.00

The Board of Education approved the proposal in the civil litigation against Dallemand, et al. from Cliffard Whitby, Whitby Inc., Positiventures Initiatives LLC, and Integrated Technologies Consulting LLC to settle the claims against them. As part of the agreement, Positiventures agrees to pay \$157,500.00, Whitby Inc. will pay \$45,000.00, and Cliffard Whitby will pay \$22,500.00 for a total of \$225,000.00.

The Board of Education approved the proposal in the civil litigation against Dallemand, et al. from Central Georgia Partnership for Individual and Community Development (CGPICD) to settle the claims against them. As part of the agreement, CGPICD agrees to pay \$10,000 to the District to be used for educational purposes.

Ex. C.

16. Exhibit C to the Complaint is a true and accurate copy of the meeting minutes from the District Board's February 28, 2019 meeting.

17. Similarly, the District Board's meeting minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting state:

The Board of Education approved the following Workers' Compensation settlement agreements:

- M.M. for \$100,000.00 plus \$44,000.00 in Medicare set aside
- S.M. for \$125,000.00

Ex. D.

18. In contrast, the meeting minutes from July 18, 2024 state: "Settlement for Student JH (ACTION). The Board voted unanimously to approve this action item." Ex. E.

19. To be perfectly clear, the only reason why Plaintiff knows that "JH" is a student is because the District volunteered that information on their meeting

minutes and in correspondence with the Plaintiff—which is arguably a genuine FERPA violation. Ex. B, Ex. E.

20. Now, the District self-servingly argues that Plaintiff cannot know the dollar amount of the settlement agreement “because it relates to a student,” missing the critical fact that the only reason why Plaintiff has any reason to believe that the settlement relates to a student is because Defendant inexplicably chose to publicly state that information on their meeting minutes. *See id.*
21. Further, the dollar amount of the settlement reveals nothing whatsoever about the allegedly involved student or the nature of the litigation or the claims that were settled.
22. The District has provided no reasonable explanation, factual or legal, for its absurd statement that “The dollar amounts contemplated by the JH settlement include confidential, personally-identifiable, education-related information about a particular BCSD student.” Ex. B.
23. Ms. Corley filed previous requests for similar information with the District.
24. The District responded to those requests by relying on *Mullins v. City of Griffin*, 886 F. Supp. 21 (N.D. Ga. 1995).
25. In response, Ms. Corley sent a complaint regarding the District’s denial of access to the Attorney General.
26. After receiving the complaint and a response from the District, the Attorney General concluded: “it does not appear that *Mullins v. City of Griffin*, 886 F. Supp. 21 (N.D. Ga. 1995) supports the school district’s position on the non-

release of the settlement agreement, should a financial settlement have been reached.” Ex. F.

27. Exhibit F is a true and accurate copy of the Attorney General’s response relating to a similar request for information denied on the same basis, sent to both counsel for the District and the Macon Melody on April 24, 2025.
28. The Attorney General has indicated by its response that it agrees with Plaintiff that Defendant does not have legal grounds for withholding this information. *Id.*
29. Despite receiving this warning letter from the Attorney General in April 2025, the District denied the request at issue (which was even more narrowly tailored than the original, broader request that the Attorney General reviewed) in June 2025.

**VIOLATIONS OF GEORGIA’S OPEN RECORDS ACT  
COUNT I: DENIAL OF ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS**

30. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated as if set forth fully herein.
31. The Open Records Act, § 50-18-70 *et seq.*, provides a broad right of access to public records:

The General Assembly finds and declares that the strong public policy of this state is in favor of open government; that open government is essential to a free, open, and democratic society; and that public access to public records should be encouraged to foster confidence in government and so that the public can evaluate the expenditure of public funds and the efficient and proper functioning of its institutions. The General Assembly further finds and declares that there is a strong presumption that public records should be made available for public inspection without delay. This article shall be broadly construed to allow the inspection of governmental records.

O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70.

32. O.C.G.A. § 50-18-71(b)(1)(A) requires agencies to provide a specific kind of response to an ORA request within three business days.

33. The agency's response must either (1) provide for inspection of all records requested, if available, (2) provide a description of unavailable records and a timeline for when they will become available for inspection, and/or (3) deny the request for records. *Id.*

34. "In any instance in which an agency is required to or has decided to withhold all or part of a requested record, the agency shall notify the requester of the specific legal authority exempting the requested record or records from disclosure by Code section, subsection, and paragraph within a reasonable amount of time not to exceed three business days...." O.C.G.A. § 50-18-71(d).

35. In other words, if the agency decides that it needs to redact records, they are required to provide the specific legal justification for the redaction. *See id.*

36. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") is a federal statute that governs the disclosure of student educational records by schools that receive federal funding.

37. When FERPA applies, it acts as an exemption to the Open Records Act.

O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72 (a)(1) ("Public disclosure shall not be required for records that are... [s]pecifically required by federal statute or regulation to be kept confidential....")

38. The question posed by this case is whether FERPA "specifically requires" the dollar amount of a settlement agreement "to be kept confidential." *See id.*

39. FERPA does *not* specifically require the dollar amounts of public agency settlement agreements—devoid of any other information—to be kept confidential.
40. To be clear, Plaintiff is only seeking the ***dollar amounts*** of the settlement agreements entered into in the year 2024.
41. The citizens of Bibb County have a legal right to know how their tax dollars are being spent by the Bibb County School District. O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70(a) (“...public access to public records should be encouraged...so that the public can evaluate the expenditure of public funds...”); *see also Cent. Atlanta Progress, Inc. v. Baker*, 278 Ga. App. 733, 735 (2006) (holding that a NASCAR bid prepared by a private corporation was nevertheless a “public record” where the evidence showed that significant public funds had been expended).
42. Defendant violated the ORA by unlawfully denying Plaintiff access to the sought records, which could have easily been redacted to protect any FERPA protected information.
43. Defendant acted without substantial justification in withholding records, and no special circumstances exist which would preclude the Requester from obtaining relief in the form of attorney’s fees and costs. *See* O.C.G.A. § 50-18-73 (b) (“In any action brought to enforce the provisions of this chapter in which the court determines that either party acted without substantial justification either in not complying with this chapter or in instituting the litigation, the court shall, unless it finds that special circumstances exist, assess in favor of

the complaining party reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred.”).

### **RELIEF SOUGHT**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

1. That this Honorable Court compel the Defendant to release all requested records;
2. That this Honorable Court find that the Defendant violated the Open Records Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq.*;
3. That this Honorable Court award reasonable attorney fees and litigation costs to Plaintiff pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-73(b);
4. And that this Honorable Court provide any other relief as it deems appropriate, just, and lawful under the circumstances of this case.

Respectfully submitted this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

RAMSINGH LEGAL

*/s/ Joy Ramsingh*

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Joy Ramsingh (GA Bar #862332)

544 Mulberry St. Suite 513

Macon, GA 31201

Phone: (478) 246-7319

[joy@ramsinghlegal.com](mailto:joy@ramsinghlegal.com)

*Counsel for Plaintiff*

# EXHIBIT A

# The Macon Melody

June 2, 2025

**VIA EMAIL**

Stephanie Hartley  
Bibb County School District, spokesperson  
[Stephanie.hartley@bcsd.k12.ga.us](mailto:Stephanie.hartley@bcsd.k12.ga.us)

*Subject: Request for settlement amounts in 2024*

Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72), I request the following records:

- Records that reflect the dollar amounts of settlements the school board approved in 2024. I am not seeking **access to any other information within** any settlement agreements, only the dollar amounts.

Please provide these records in a digital format via email and inform us of any costs before charges are incurred. Feel free to call us directly with any questions.

Laura Corley, senior accountability reporter  
Casey Choung, general assignment reporter  
Macon Melody  
1675 Montpelier Ave. Macon, Georgia 31201  
478.394.0194 Laura | 478.207.7852 Casey

# EXHIBIT B

**From:** [Laura Corley](#)  
**To:** [Hartley, Stephanie](#)  
**Cc:** [Joy Ramsingh](#); [Porter DuBose](#); [Casey Choung](#); [Micah Johnston](#); [Everidge, Tiffany](#); [Lovett, Katika](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Open Records Request  
**Date:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 1:19:30 PM

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A dollar amount wouldn't include "confidential, personally-identifiable, education-related information about a particular BCSD student. "

On Thu, Jun 5, 2025 at 1:21 PM Hartley, Stephanie <[Stephanie.Hartley@bcsdk12.net](mailto:Stephanie.Hartley@bcsdk12.net)> wrote:  
Good afternoon,

Please see the response to the ORR.

We are in receipt of your Open Records Request dated June 2, 2025, requesting 'records that reflect the dollar amounts of settlements the school board approved in 2024' pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act. As a professional courtesy, I can confirm that the JH settlement from the Bibb County Board of Education's July 18, 2024 meeting is the only settlement approved by the Board in 2024. As a result, any information we provide about the dollar amounts for 2024 settlements will inherently be tied to that individual settlement. That fact prevents the District from providing you with the requested financial records. The dollar amounts contemplated by the JH settlement include confidential, personally-identifiable, education-related information about a particular BCSD student. As you are aware, minor students enjoy robust privacy protections under such federal statutes as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ('FERPA'), among others. FERPA is a federal law that affords parents the right to have access to their children's education records and the right to have control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records. The FERPA statute is found at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the FERPA regulations are found at 34 CFR Part 99. Georgia's Open Records Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(1), allows withholding of records 'specifically required by federal statute or regulation to be kept confidential,' and O.C.G.A. §50-18-72(a)(37) allows the withholding of '[a]ny record that would not be subject to disclosure, or the disclosure of which would jeopardize the receipt of federal funds, under 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g or its implementing regulations.' FERPA's definition of 'personally identifiable information' includes (1) information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to specific students that likely would allow a reasonable person in the school community without personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances to identify the students with reasonable certainty; and also (2) information requested by a person whom the District reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates. It is the District's position that information related to the JH settlement, including the dollar amount associated with its approval, is protected by the robust confidentiality provisions of FERPA and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ('IDEA'). The District is therefore constrained by state and federal law from providing you with the information you seek.

Thank you,

**STEPHANIE HARTLEY**

Chief Communications Officer  
Bibb County School District  
[www.bcsdk12.net](http://www.bcsdk12.net)  
O: 478-765-8620  
C: 478-952-1753  
@bibbschools

GALLUP® CliftonStrengths  
Harmony | Empathy | Consistency | Discipline | Connectedness

On Jun 2, 2025, at 11:29 AM, Laura Corley <[laura@maconmelody.com](mailto:laura@maconmelody.com)>  
wrote:

You don't often get email from [laura@maconmelody.com](mailto:laura@maconmelody.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[Caution]:** This email originated from outside of the BCSD organization.  
Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.  
Do not forward suspicious messages to groups or other people.  
Report suspicious emails with the "Report Message" button in Outlook.

Hi Stephanie,

Please see the attached request for public records.

Sincerely,

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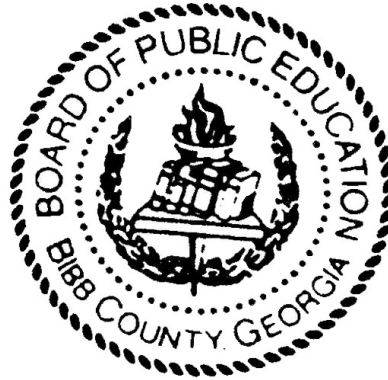
Laura Corley  
Senior accountability reporter



# EXHIBIT C

## MEETING MINUTES

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### Attendance

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#### Voting Members

Mr. Lester Miller, President  
Dr. Sundra Woodford, Vice President  
Dr. Thelma Dillard, Treasurer  
Mrs. Ella Carter, Board Member  
Mr. Robert Easter, Board Member  
Dr. Lisa Garrett, Board Member  
Mr. Daryl Morton, Board Member  
Mrs. Susan Sipe, Board Member

#### Non-Voting Members

Dr. Curtis Jones, Superintendent

### I. Call to Order

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

#### i. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by London Simms, 2nd grade student at Springdale Elementary School.

#### ii. Invocation

The invocation was given by Dr. Lisa Garrett.

## **II. Report of the Superintendent**

### **2018 Keep America Beautiful National Award**

The Springdale Eagle Recyclers group recently received a national Keep America Beautiful Award after being recognized at the state level. The club is led by teacher Holley Stejskal and includes the following students: Raven Bradberry, Krysten Buckner, Anna Busbee, Charleigh Carlton, Whit Davidson, Aiden East, Jordan French, Jon Emory Hall, Jeremiah Hawkins, Freddie Hill, Thomizia Holston, Sanford Horne, Kaden Jones, William Martin, Emma Miller, Micheal Ogoh, Ma'Kaylia Paul, Seth Rider, Londyn Rodgers, Vincent Santamarina, Caroline Stejskal and Zane Wimberly.

### **Bibb County Spelling Bee**

The Bibb County Spelling Bee was hosted by the Bibb Association of Educators each year and sponsored by the Masab Temple No. 11. This year's bee was won by Samantha Lee from the Academy for Classical Education. Howard Middle School's Babar Dar came in second, followed by Rutland Middle School's Tea Solomon in third.

### **2019 National Superintendent of the Year Recognition**

Dr. Curtis Jones was chosen as the 2019 National Superintendent of the Year by AASA, the National School Superintendents Association. He received this recognition in February 2019 at the AASA National Conference in Los Angeles, CA.

## **III. Invitations to Visitors to Address the Board**

There were no individuals to address the Board of Education.

## **IV. Executive Session – Personnel Matters/Future Acquisition of Property/Pending Litigation/School Safety**

Mr. Morton made a motion to go into Executive Session for personnel matters/future acquisition of property/pending litigation/school safety at 6:52 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Sipe and approved 8-0. Mrs. Carter, Dr. Dillard, Mr. Easter, Dr. Garrett, Mr. Miller, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Sipe and Dr. Woodford voted yes.

Dr. Dillard made a motion to end Executive Session at 6:57 p.m.; seconded by Dr. Woodford and approved 8-0. Mrs. Carter, Dr. Dillard, Mr. Easter, Dr. Garrett, Mr. Miller, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Sipe and Dr. Woodford voted yes.

## **V. Consent Agenda**

Dr. Dillard made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda; seconded by Dr. Woodford and approved 8-0.

Motion made by: Dr. Thelma Dillard

Motion seconded by: Dr. Sundra Woodford

Voting:

Mr. Lester Miller - Yes

Dr. Thelma Dillard - Yes  
Mrs. Ella Carter - Yes  
Mr. Robert Easter - Yes  
Dr. Lisa Garrett - Yes  
Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes  
Mrs. Susan Sipe - Yes  
Dr. Sundra Woodford - Yes

**i. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Board confirmed the minutes of the following meeting:

- Board Meeting - January 17, 2019

**ii. FSS-1 Audit of the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018**

The Board of Education accepted the audit of the Financial Statements for the Bibb County School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, as presented.

**iii. FSS-2 RFP 19-21 – Network Upgrade**

The Board of Education awarded RFP 19-21 to One Accord. The BCSD funding portion of the project will not exceed \$496,492.42 and will be contingent on the receipt of the E-rate Funding Commitment letter and available E-rate funds.

**iv. FSS-3 RFP 19-22 – Switch Upgrade**

The Board of Education awarded RFP 19-22 to CDW-G. The BCSD funding portion of this project will not exceed \$62,847.12 and will be contingent on the receipt of the E-Rate Funding Commitment letter and available school funds.

**v. FSS-4 RFP 19-23 – WAN and Internet Access**

The Board of Education awarded RFP 19-23 to Cox Business and authorized the Superintendent to enter into a five-year contract with Cox Business to provide the District WAN connectivity and internet access from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024.

**vi. FSS-5 RFP 19-24 – Williams Network Upgrade**

The Board of Education awarded RFP 19-24 to CDW-G. The BCSD funding portion of the project will not exceed \$12,345.62 and will be contingent on the receipt of the E-rate Funding Commitment letter and available school E-rate funds.

**vii. FSS-6 RFP 19-25 – New Appling Middle and Northeast High Network Install**

The Board of Education awarded RFP 19-25 to CDW-G. The BCSD funding portion of the project will not exceed \$45,839.15 and will be contingent on the receipt of the E-rate Funding Commitment letter and available schools' E-rate funds.

**viii. FSS-7 Dell Lease Program - CTAE**

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to enter into a contractual leasing agreement with Dell Computers in the amount of \$140,428.47 to enhance CTAE technology as required by the Carl D. Perkins Grant.

**ix. FSS-8 Resolution to Purchase Property – 1256 Oglethorpe Street**

The Board of Education adopted the resolution authorizing the Superintendent to negotiate the purchase of the property at 1256 Oglethorpe Street.

**x. FSS-9 Facility Agreement with Foothills Education Center, Inc.**

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to sign the Facilities Use Agreement with Foothills Education Center, Inc.

**xi. PR-1 Revision of Policy BBA – Board Officers (Second Reading)**

The Board of Education approved the revision of Policy BBA - Board Officers.

**xii. PR-2 Revision of Policy BBAA – Board Officers Method of Election (Second Reading)**

The Board of Education approved the revision of Policy BBAA - Board Officers Method of Election.

**xiii. PR-3 Revision of Policy BBC – Board Committees (Second Reading)**

The Board of Education approved the revision of Policy BBC - Board Committees.

**xiv. PR-4 Revision of Policy JB – Student Attendance (First Reading)**

The Board of Education approved the revision of Policy JB - Student Attendance for first reading.

**xv. PR-5 Revision of Policy JBB – Entrance Age (First Reading)**

The Board of Education approved the revision of Policy JBB - Entrance Age for first reading.

**xvi. PR-6 Revision of Policy JBCB – Nonresident Students (First Reading)**

The Board of Education approved the revision of Policy JBCB - Nonresident Students for first reading.

**xvii. PR-7 Revision of Policy JCDA – Student Code of Conduct (First Reading)**

The Board of Education approved the revision of Policy JCDA - Student Code of Conduct for first reading.

**xviii. PS-1 Certified Personnel Report**

The Board of Education approved the Certified Personnel Report that includes the new hires,

transfers and retirements/resignations of certified personnel.

**xix. PS-2 Classified Personnel Report**

The Board of Education approved the Classified Personnel Report that includes the new hires, transfers and retirements/resignations of classified personnel.

**xx. PS-3 Personnel Recommendations**

The Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommendation for the following administrative appointments:

- Samuel Kitchens - Executive Director of Capital Improvements
- Dr. Wendy Pooler - Principal, Rutland High School
- Dr. Latrina Pennamon-Nash - Principal, Ballard-Hudson Middle School

The Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommendation for the following classified terminations

- Cedrick May - Electrician I, Maintenance
- Samuel Denmark - Nutrition Assistant, School Nutrition

**xxi. PS-4 Settlement Recommendations**

The Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommendation for the following workers compensation settlement:

- J.G. - \$17,500.00

The Board of Education approved the proposal in the civil litigation against Dallemand, et al. from Cliffard Whitby, Whitby Inc., Positiventures Initiatives LLC, and Integrated Technologies Consulting LLC to settle the claims against them. As part of the agreement, Positiventures agrees to pay \$157,500.00, Whitby Inc. will pay \$45,000.00, and Cliffard Whitby will pay \$22,500.00 for a total of \$225,000.00.

The Board of Education approved the proposal in the civil litigation against Dallemand, et al. from Central Georgia Partnership for Individual and Community Development (CGPCID) to settle the claims against them. As part of the agreement, CGPCID agrees to pay \$10,000 to the District to be used for educational purposes.

**xxii. PS-5 Recommendations for Contract Renewals of Assistant Principals and Central Office Certified Staff for 2019 – 2020**

The Board of Education approved the contract renewals of assistant principals and Central Office certified staff for 2019 - 2020 school year.

## **VI. Recommendation for Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources**

Mr. Morton made a motion to amend PS-3 Personnel Recommendations to add the Superintendent's recommendation of Dr. Mack Bullard for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; seconded by Dr. Dillard and approved 8-0.

Motion made by: Mr. Daryl Morton

Motion seconded by: Dr. Thelma Dillard

Voting:

Mr. Lester Miller - Yes

Dr. Thelma Dillard - Yes

Mrs. Ella Carter - Yes

Mr. Robert Easter - Yes

Dr. Lisa Garrett - Yes

Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes

Mrs. Susan Sipe - Yes

Dr. Sundra Woodford - Yes

## **VII. New Business**

### **i. NB-1 Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority Update**

Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority Chairman Robert Fountain and Executive Director Stephen Adams gave an update to the Board of Education concerning its economic development efforts and its plan to combat industrial blight in Macon-Bibb County. Additionally, the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority presented the District will a PILOT payment check.

## **VIII. Old Business**

There were no items for old business.

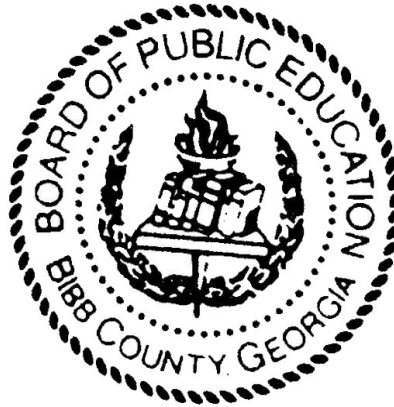
## **IX. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

# EXHIBIT D

## MEETING MINUTES

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### Attendance

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#### **Voting Members**

Mr. Daryl J. Morton, President  
Dr. Thelma D. Dillard, Vice President  
Mr. Robert M. Easter, Board Member  
Mr. Lester M. Miller, Board Member  
Dr. Wanda S. West, Board Member  
Dr. Sundra M. Woodford, Board Member

#### **Non-Voting Members**

Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Superintendent

### **I. Call to Order**

Mr. Morton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Sipe were not present at the meeting.

#### **i. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sydney Andrews, 5th grade student at Skyview Elementary School.

## ii. Invocation

The invocation was given by Dr. Wanda West.

## II. Report of the Superintendent

### PBIS Operational Schools

When implemented with fidelity, the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system can change the culture and productivity at schools dramatically. Four District schools – Elam Alexander at Burke, Elam Alexander at Northeast, Howard Middle School and Rutland High School – have followed through with PBIS so well that they were recognized as Operational Schools for the 2016-17 school year. In addition to recognition for properly implementing PBIS, this designation allows these schools to serve as demonstration sites for districts across the state.

### 2017-2018 State School Superintendent Student Advisory Council

More than 1,500 students applied to be part of State School Superintendent Richard Woods' Student Advisory Council this year. From that pool, 142 were chosen to meet throughout the school year with the superintendent to discuss issues affecting public education and complete service projects in their communities. The Bibb County School District was fortunate enough to have two students selected – Howard Middle School's Brinda Patel and the Academy for Classical Education's Benjamin Trofemuk. Benjamin was selected for the second consecutive year.

### Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders provides students with an opportunity to visit a college campus and participate in activities related to the field they'd like to pursue. This year, the Congress was held at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Westside High School senior Faith Smith was one of the students chosen for this honor, and she has received an Award of Excellence for completing the program.

## III. Invitations to Visitors to Address the Board

The following individuals addressed the Board of Education:

- Ronald Miller concerning L.H. Williams Elementary School
- Mary Anderson concerning L.H. Williams Elementary School closure
- Sherri English concerning L.H. Williams Elementary School closure
- George Muhammad concerning Pleasant Hill neighborhood and L.H. Williams Elementary School

#### **IV. Executive Session – Personnel Matters/Future Acquisition of Property/Pending Litigation**

There was no Executive Session.

#### **V. Consent Agenda**

Dr. Dillard made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda; seconded by Dr. West and approved 5-0. Mr. Easter, Dr. Dillard, Mr. Morton, Dr. West and Dr. Woodford voted yes. Mr. Miller was not present for the vote.

Motion made by: Dr. Thelma D. Dillard

Motion seconded by: Dr. Sundra M. Woodford

Voting:

Mr. Daryl J. Morton - Yes

Dr. Thelma D. Dillard - Yes

Mr. Robert M. Easter - Yes

Mr. Lester M. Miller - Vote Not Recorded

Dr. Wanda S. West - Yes

Dr. Sundra M. Woodford - Yes

##### **i. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Board of Education confirmed the minutes of the following meetings:

- Board Meeting - September 21, 2017
- Called Board Meeting - September 28, 2017

##### **ii. IS-1 Memorandum of Understanding with MidSouth Federal Credit Union**

The Board of Education approved the Memorandum of Understanding with MidSouth Federal Credit Union, William S. Hutchings College and Career Academy Governance Board of Directors, and Bibb County Board of Education related to the partnership to operate a student-run credit union.

##### **iii. IS-2 Continuation of 21st Century Community Learning Grant for FY 2018**

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to accept and approve the FY 2018 funds of \$330,876.00 (sub-grantee 4) and \$349,412.00 (sub-grantee 5) for the continuation of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants at Riley, Ingram-Pye, Southfield and Veterans Elementary School.

##### **iv. FSS-1 RFP 18-20 Architectural Services for Renovation of Weaver Middle School**

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to enter into a contract with SP Design Group to provide the design services for the renovation of Weaver Middle School.

##### **v. FSS-2 RFQ 18-11 Classroom Furniture Unit Price Award – Georgia Specialty Equipment**

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to issue a purchase order to Georgia

Specialty Equipment, not to exceed \$860,881.31, to provide the classroom furniture for Union, Heritage, Skyview, Southfield, Springdale, Taylor, Vineville, Hartley, and Lane Elementary Schools.

**vi. FSS-3 RFQ 18-11 Classroom Furniture Unit Price Award – Commercial Furnishings**

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to issue a purchase order to Commercial Furnishings, not to exceed \$547,709.00, to provide the classroom furniture for Union, Heritage, Skyview, Southfield, Springdale, Taylor, Vineville, Hartley, and Lane Elementary Schools.

**vii. FSS-4 ESPLOST Request to Purchase Two-Way Radios – Academy for Classical Education**

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to issue a purchase order on behalf of the Academy for Classical Education to Macon Communications in an amount not to exceed \$14,325.00 using ESPLOST funds.

**viii. FSS-5 EPLOST Request to Purchase a Volleyball System – Academy for Classical Education**

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to issue a purchase order on behalf of the Academy for Classical Education to H.E.Hodge Company for an amount not exceed \$3,889.00 using ESPLOST funds.

**ix. PR-1 FY 2018 Local Board Training Plan**

The Board of Education approved the FY 2018 Local Board Training Plan for submission to the Georgia Department of Education.

**x. PS-1 Certified Personnel Report**

The Board of Education approved the Certified Personnel Report that includes the new hires, transfers, and retirements/resignations of certified personnel.

**xi. PS-2 Classified Personnel Report**

The Board of Education approved the Classified Personnel Report that includes the new hires, transfers, and retirements/resignations of classified personnel.

**xii. PS-3 Personnel Recommendations**

The Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommendation for the following certified termination:

- Demetria Parker - Teacher, Bruce Elementary School

The Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommendation for the following classified termination:

- Valerie Johnson - School Secretary, Lane Elementary School

### **xiii. PS-4 Settlement Agreements**

The Board of Education approved the following Workers' Compensation settlement agreements:

- M.M. for \$100,000.00 plus \$44,000.00 in Medicare set aside
- S.M. for \$125,000.00

### **VI. New Business**

There were no items for new business.

### **VII. Old Business**

There were no items for old business.

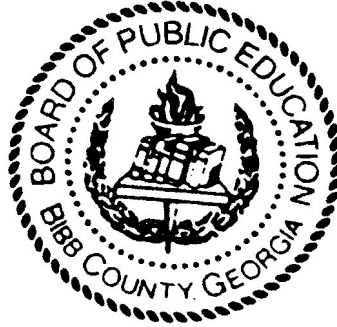
### **VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

# EXHIBIT E

## MEETING MINUTES

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### Attendance

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#### Voting Members

Mr. James Freeman, President  
Dr. Sundra Woodford, Vice President  
Mr. Daryl Morton, Treasurer  
Dr. Juawn Jackson, Board Member  
Ms. Myrtice Johnson, Board Member  
Mrs. Kristin Hanlon, Board Member  
Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd, Board Member  
Dr. Thelma Dillard, Board Member

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Bibb County Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:53 p.m.

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended, to remove IS-9 and PS-1 from the Consent Agenda and place them under new business, as well as settlement for student JH.

Motion made by: Dr. Juawn Jackson

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Kristin Hanlon

Voting:

Mr. James Freeman - Yes  
Dr. Sundra Woodford - Yes  
Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes  
Dr. Juawn Jackson - Yes  
Ms. Myrtice Johnson - Yes  
Mrs. Kristin Hanlon - Yes

Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd - Yes  
Dr. Thelma Dillard - Yes

### III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

i. Gabriel Gilbert, rising 6th grade student at Miller Magnet Middle School

### IV. INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Mr. James Freeman, President, Bibb County Board of Education

### V. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

#### i. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Sims narrated video highlights of activities that took place throughout the Bibb County School District.

#### ii. Honors, Awards, and Recognitions

The Bibb County Board of Education Finance Department was recognized for receiving the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.**

### VI. INVITATION TO VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

George Muhammad, a citizen, and Stanley Stewart, Commissioner-Elect, requested to address the Board.

### VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

### VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved minutes from the June meetings and voted to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, moving IS-9 and PS-1 to New Business and also adding Settlement for Student JH to New Business.

Motion made by: Dr. Sundra Woodford

Motion seconded by: Ms. Myrtice Johnson

Voting:

Mr. James Freeman - Yes

Dr. Sundra Woodford - Yes

Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes

Dr. Juawn Jackson - Yes

Ms. Myrtice Johnson - Yes

Mrs. Kristin Hanlon - Yes

Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd - Yes

Dr. Thelma Dillard - Yes

- i. Confirmation of Minutes - Board Meetings (2024) - June
- ii. IS-2 Purchase of Wonders Practice Books for Students in Grades K-5 (ACTION)
- iii. IS-3 Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Professional Development Volume 2 Professional Learning Course (ACTION)
- iv. IS-4 Renewal of Imagine Learning-Edgenuity (ACTION)
- v. IS-5 Renewal of School City Assessment Platform (ACTION)
- vi. IS-6 Kelly Services - Contract Extension (ACTION)
- vii. IS-7 Certified Teacher Staffing Services (ACTION)
- viii. IS-8 Renewal of Renaissance Suite (ACTION)
- ix. IS-9 Renewal of Communities in Schools of Central Georgia Services (ACTION)
- x. IS-10 Charter School Petition for the Infinity Academy (ACTION)
- xi. FSS-2 FY 2025 Attorney Fees (ACTION)
- xii. FSS-3 Mason Produce Contract, DBA: Bi-City (ACTION)
- xiii. FSS-4 Harry Thompson Complex Phase 4 - GMP (ACTION)
- xiv. FSS-5 ESPLOST 2021 Budget Amendment #4 (ACTION)
- xv. FSS-6 Safety & Security Improvements – Campus Police (ACTION)
- xvi. PR-1 Policy MDA, Shared Services/RESAs (ACTION - Second Reading)
- xvii. PR-2 Policy GBRE, Professional Personnel Extra Duty (ACTION - Second Reading)
- xviii. PR-3 Policy BE, School Board Records (ACTION - Second Reading)
- xix. PS-1 - Certified Personnel Report (ACTION)
- xx. PS-2 - Classified Personnel Report (ACTION)

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- i. a. Norms & Protocols (ACTION)

The Board voted 7-1 to approve the Norms and Protocols document.

Motion made by: Dr. Juawn Jackson

Motion seconded by: Dr. Sundra Woodford

Voting:

Mr. James Freeman - Yes  
Dr. Sundra Woodford - Yes  
Mr. Daryl Morton - No  
Dr. Juawn Jackson - Yes  
Ms. Myrtice Johnson - Yes  
Mrs. Kristin Hanlon - Yes  
Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd - Yes  
Dr. Thelma Dillard - Yes

**ii. b. Cell Phone Policy (REVIEW & DISCUSSION)**

**iii. c. (IS-9) Renewal of Communities in Schools of Central Georgia Services (ACTION)**

The Bibb County Board of Education authorized the renewal of the contract with Communities In Schools of Central Georgia for \$600,000, funded by \$300,000 from General funds and \$300,000 from Title funds.

Motion made by: Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd

Motion seconded by: Mr. Daryl Morton

Voting:

Mr. James Freeman - Yes  
Dr. Sundra Woodford - Yes  
Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes  
Dr. Juawn Jackson - Yes  
Ms. Myrtice Johnson - Yes  
Mrs. Kristin Hanlon - Yes  
Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd - Yes  
Dr. Thelma Dillard - Yes

**iv. d. (PS-1) Certified Personnel Report (ACTION)**

A motion was entertained to approve PS-1. This item passed with a 7 to 1 vote.

Motion made by: Mr. Daryl Morton

Motion seconded by: Dr. Sundra Woodford

Voting:

Mr. James Freeman - Yes  
Dr. Sundra Woodford - Yes  
Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes  
Dr. Juawn Jackson - Yes  
Ms. Myrtice Johnson - Yes  
Mrs. Kristin Hanlon - Yes  
Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd - Yes  
Dr. Thelma Dillard - Abstain

**v. Settlement for Student JH (ACTION)**

The Board voted unanimously to approve this action item.

Motion made by: Dr. Juawn Jackson

Motion seconded by: Dr. Sundra Woodford

Voting:

Mr. James Freeman - Yes

Dr. Sundra Woodford - Yes

Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes

Dr. Juawn Jackson - Yes

Ms. Myrtice Johnson - Yes

Mrs. Kristin Hanlon - Yes

Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd - Yes

Dr. Thelma Dillard - Yes

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

**XI. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Motion made by: Ms. Myrtice Johnson

Motion seconded by: Dr. Sundra Woodford

Voting:

Mr. James Freeman - Yes

Dr. Sundra Woodford - Yes

Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes

Dr. Juawn Jackson - Yes

Ms. Myrtice Johnson - Yes

Mrs. Kristin Hanlon - Yes

Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd - Yes

Dr. Thelma Dillard - Yes

# EXHIBIT F



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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April 24, 2025

**Via Email Correspondence: Corleyccj@gmail.com; andrew.davidson@jonescork.com**

Laura Corley  
1675 Montpelier Avenue  
Macon, Georgia 31201

Andrew Davidson, Esquire  
Jones Cork, LLP  
435 Second Street  
Post Office Box 6437  
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RE: *Follow-Up Letter on Open Records Act Complaint from Laura Corley regarding the Bibb County School District*

Dear Ms. Corley and Mr. Davidson:

The purpose of Georgia's Open Records Act ("Act") is to allow the public to evaluate the expenditure of public funds and to foster confidence in government through openness to the public. *City of Atlanta v. Corey Entm't, Inc.*, 278 Ga. 474, 476 (2004). Not only do these requirements permit people to know what actions their public servants are undertaking, but they also foster public confidence in officials and the decisions that they make. The failure to serve those underlying purposes can lead to mistrust and controversy. The Attorney General believes the Open Records Act is one of the public official's most valuable tools in communicating with and serving citizens across the state.

Over the past months, our office's Open Government Mediation Program has mediated a dispute involving an Open Records Act request made by Ms. Laura Corley to the Bibb County School District ("school district"). Our office's mediation program does not have the statutory authority under the Open Records Act to conduct an *in camera* inspection of the settlement agreement at issue to formally opine as to whether its non-release under the exemption at O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(37) is legally sound under the Act. However, after further review of the school district's

Laura Corley and Andrew Davidson, Esq.  
April 24, 2025  
Page 2

response, it does not appear that *Mullins v. City of Griffin*, 886 F. Supp. 21 (N.D. Ga. 1995) supports the school district's position on the non-release of the settlement agreement, should a financial settlement have been reached.

Our mediation program has therefore reached an impasse with the parties and is unable to assist further. This requires us to conclude the mediation. Our office reminds the parties of the private enforcement provisions under the Open Records Act set forth at O.C.G.A. § 50-18-73(a). Should assistance be needed with an Open Government dispute again in the future, please feel welcome to contact our mediation program.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kristen Settlemire

KRISTEN SETTLEMIRE  
Senior Assistant Attorney General