

**EXHIBIT 1**  
**EVIDENCE OF THREE (3) PUBLIC HEARINGS**



**HB 581 Public Hearing #1**  
**01/14/2025 06:00 PM**  
Bibb County School District  
2003 Riverside Drive, PLC-1  
Macon, GA 31204

**Printed : 2/5/2025 9:08 AM ET**

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- I. Call to Order**
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- III. HB 581 Presentation**
- IV. Invitations to Visitors to Address the Board**
- V. Adjourn**

## MEETING MINUTES

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### Attendees

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#### Voting Members

Mr. James Freeman, President  
Dr. Sundra Woodford, Vice President  
Mr. Daryl Morton, Treasurer  
Mr. Barney Hester, Board Member  
Ms. Myrtice Johnson, Board Member  
Mrs. Kristin Hanlon, Board Member  
Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd, Board Member  
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Board Member

#### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

Motion made by: Mr. Daryl Morton

Motion seconded by: Ms. Myrtice Johnson

#### Voting:

Mr. James Freeman - Yes  
Dr. Sundra Woodford - Not Present  
Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes  
Mr. Barney Hester - Yes  
Ms. Myrtice Johnson - Yes  
Mrs. Kristin Hanlon - Yes  
Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd - Yes  
Dr. Henry Ficklin - Yes

#### III. HB 581 Presentation

Eric Bush presented information on HB 581.

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

There were no requests to address the Board.

#### **V. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Motion made by: Dr. Henry Ficklin

Motion seconded by: Mr. Barney Hester

Voting:

Mr. James Freeman - Yes

Dr. Sundra Woodford - Not Present

Mr. Daryl Morton - Yes

Mr. Barney Hester - Yes

Ms. Myrtice Johnson - Yes

Mrs. Kristin Hanlon - Yes

Dr. Lisa Garrett-Boyd - Yes

Dr. Henry Ficklin - Yes



**HB 581 Public Hearing #2**  
**02/05/2025 11:00 AM**  
Bibb County School District Central Office  
484 Mulberry Street, 4th Floor Board Room  
Macon, GA 31201

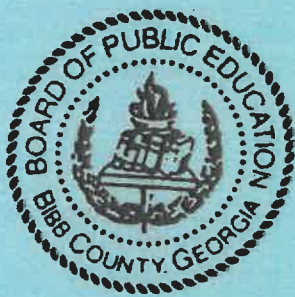
Printed : 2/5/2025 9:27 AM ET

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- I. Call to Order**
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- III. HB 581 Presentation**
- IV. Invitations to Visitors to Address the Board**
- V. Adjourn**

For BOE Use Only.  
#



# REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

(Please print)

DATE: 2/5/25

NAME: Candyn Hargrove

ADDRESS: 1723 Adams St

CITY: Macon STATE: GA ZIP CODE: 31201

PHONE NUMBER: (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (WORK) C-478-737-8038

EMAIL ADDRESS: hargrovecb@yahoo.com

REPRESENTING:  SELF  
 GROUP (PLEASE SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

SPEAKER IS A:  District Parent/Guardian  Student  Macon-Bibb County Resident  
 Non-Resident Property Owner  District Employee  Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED: Bill 581 opt out

IS YOUR TOPIC AN ITEM ON THE MEETING AGENDA?  YES  NO  
LIST THE SCHOOL OFFICIALS TO WHOM YOU HAVE ALREADY REFERRED YOUR CONCERN:

NONE

DO YOU HAVE MATERIALS TO SUBMIT TO THE BOARD?  YES  NO  
If yes, please submit the materials to the Board Clerk via email ([board@bcsdk12.net](mailto:board@bcsdk12.net)) to allow time for copying the materials before the meeting. If materials cannot be submitted electronically, speakers are asked to provide eleven (11) copies of any materials at the Board meeting.

HAVE YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM AND POLICY BCBI, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS?  YES  NO

*I support the Board's intent to reject the cap on school tax. Bibb Co students need & deserve a high quality education.*

## **RULES FOR ADDRESSING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Board of Public Education for Bibb County ("Board") recognizes the need for communicating with citizens and encourages such individuals to attend its meetings to understand the role of the Board and the operations of the Bibb County School District ("District"). To assure that citizens who wish to address the Board will be heard and allow the Board to conduct its meetings in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board of Education encourages citizens to carefully read Policy BCBI, Public Participation in Board Meetings, and adopts the following guidelines for the public comment portion of its meetings:

1. Citizens may request to speak regarding any item on the monthly agenda.
2. Under circumstances to be determined by the Board President, citizens may speak regarding items not on the monthly agenda.
3. Before addressing the Board, individuals are urged to seek a satisfactory solution to their concerns by following the proper staff and administrative channels (Example: teacher -\* principal -\* director -\* assistant superintendent -\* superintendent).
4. Citizens must submit a written request to speak, stating name, address, and the topic to be addressed, and the names of school officials with whom the problem has already been discussed using the "Request to Address the Board Form." These forms made be submitted by mail (Attn: Board Clerk, 484 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201) or electronically ([board@bcsdk12.net](mailto:board@bcsdk12.net)) by noon on the day of the Board meeting. Individuals completing the form in person at a meeting must register in person at the sign-in table at least 30 minutes prior to start of the Board meeting.
5. Groups/Organizations are asked to designate a single spokesperson;
6. If several individuals wish to address the same matter, the Board President may select representatives of each side of the issue to speak;
7. Speakers shall have a maximum of three (3) minutes each and must stop speaking promptly when their time is up.
8. Speakers may not address confidential student or personnel matters.
9. Speakers should be courteous and professional. Speakers may offer objective criticisms of school operations and programs, but abusive language and/or personal attacks will not be permitted.
10. The Board will not permit abusive language, comments, applause, or shouts from the audience. Disruptive persons will be asked to leave the meeting room.
11. Board members will not respond to comments from speakers. The Board President will refer speakers to the Superintendent and District staff, as necessary, for further resolution.

Speakers who fail to adhere to the above rules will have their allotted speaking time stopped.



**HB 581 Public Hearing #3**  
**02/05/2025 04:00 PM**  
Bibb County School District Central Office  
484 Mulberry Street, 4th Floor Board Room  
Macon, GA 31201

Printed : 2/5/2025 10:01 AM ET

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- I. Call to Order**
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- III. HB 581 Presentation**
- IV. Invitations to Visitors to Address the Board**
- V. Adjourn**

**EXHIBIT 2**  
**PROOF OF THE ADVERTISEMENT**

# Headline Posted on Bibb County School District home page -- bcsdk12.net -- December 20, 2024



## LATEST HEADLINES

### Pre-K Registration Now Open!

The application is open through February 28.

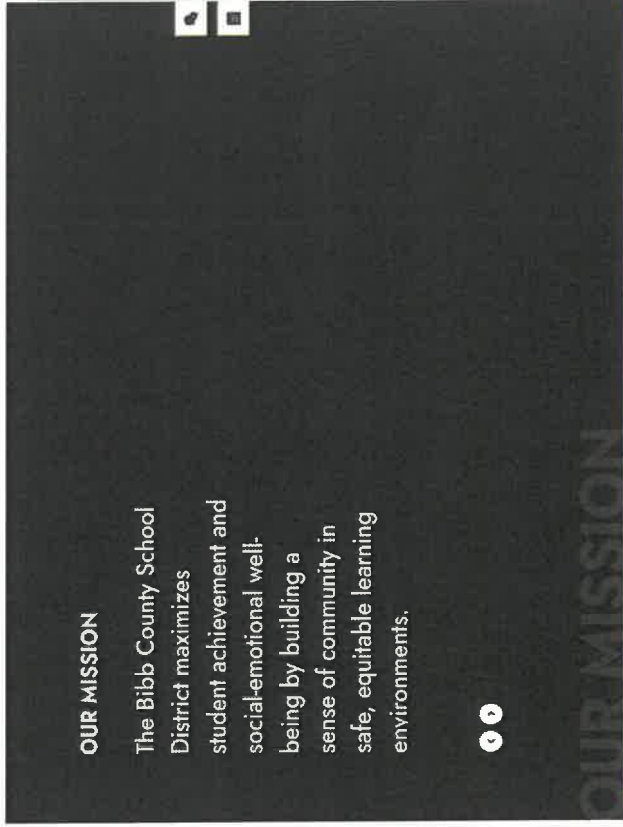
### BOE Intends to Opt Out of House Bill 581

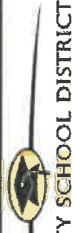
As a part of the opt-out process for House Bill 581, the District will engage in public hearings.

### BCSD School Consolidation Review Updates

Check this page for updates regarding the school consolidation review process.

[View All News](#)





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# BCSD HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON HB 581

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Dec 20 2024

At the Bibb County Board of Education meeting on **November 21, 2024**, Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims presented an update for Board members with information on House Bill (HB) 581 and the impact on the Bibb County School District. The Board must vote to opt in or opt out of HB 581. The decision to opt in or opt out of HB 581 will remain in place for the next 50 years. It is critical to understand the local impact of this bill as the Board considers what is best for the present and future of the District. This is a one-time local decision that could have a lasting impact on the District. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

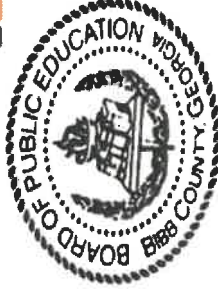
At the Board of Education meeting on **December 19, 2024**, the District shared its intent to recommend that the Bibb County Board of Education approve a decision to opt out of HB 581. This legislative decision introduces significant changes to property tax caps, homestead exemptions, and school funding. Opting out will ensure long-term financial stability and flexibility for our district, protecting essential revenue streams necessary for student achievement, staff effectiveness, and stakeholder engagement. For more information, [click here](#).

As a part of the opt-out process, the District will engage in public hearings and advertisements in the local newspaper prior to the proposed adoption of a resolution.

BCSD's timeline for Public Hearings regarding the intent to opt out of HB 581:

- Public Hearing 1: Jan. 14, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Professional Learning Center at Martin-Whitley Educational Complex, 2003 Riverside Drive
- Public Hearing 2: Jan. 21, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the BSCD Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor Board Room
- Public Hearing 3: Jan. 21, 2025 at 4 p.m. at the BSCD Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor Board Room
- Called Board of Education Meeting to vote on HB 581: Jan. 21, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. at the BSCD Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor Board Room

The District must file its resolution to opt out of HB 581, pending board approval, with the Secretary of State by March 1, 2025.



# Revised web posting: Reschedule due to inclement weather the week of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, updated January 24, 2025

BOE Intends to Opt Out of Ho... x +  
Certificate of Achie...

bcsc12.net/department/communications/district-news/default-board-post-page--board/bcsc12-net/post/bcsc12-holding-public-hearings-on-hb-581

Home / District News / Communications

BOE INTENDS TO OPT OUT OF HOUSE BILL 581

Jan 24 2025

The Bibb County Board of Education intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the Bibb County School District. All concerned citizens are invited to the second and third public hearings on this matter to be held at the Bibb County School District Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor board room on **February 5, 2025, at 7:00 a.m., and at 4:00 p.m.**

The first public hearing on this matter was held on January 14, 2025 at 6:00 a.m. Due to inclement weather and a statewide State of Emergency, the previously scheduled second and third public hearings were cancelled and are now scheduled on the date and times set forth above.

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CONTACT

484 Mulberry Street  
Macon, GA 31201  
Phone: 478.265.6771

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## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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17655	624607	Legal Display Ad-IPL02108110 - IPL0210811	HB 581 Bibb Notice of Int	\$645.80	3	10.18 in

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 PO BOX 6157  
 TS  
 MACON, GA 31213  
 Tiffany.Everidge@bcsdk12.net

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To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify the legal advertisement in the above stated case was published in The Telegraph legal section on:

2 insertion(s) published on:  
 01/05/25, 01/12/25

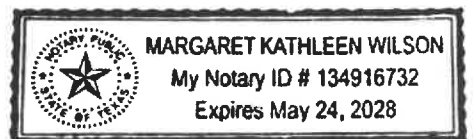
By placing your legal organ advertisement with this newspaper, you agree that your sole remedy if the newspaper should make a mistake in the text or the timing of publication of your advertisement is a refund of the cost you paid for the advertisement or re-advertisement at no additional cost to you.

*Willmenta Serrano*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of January in the year of 2025

*Margaret K. Wilson*

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County



Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.  
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# **INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**

The Bibb County Board of Education intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the Bibb County School District. All concerned citizens are invited to the first public hearing on this matter to be held at the Professional Learning Center at Martin Whitley Educational Complex, 2003 Riverside Drive, Macon, Georgia on January 14, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at the Bibb County School District Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor board room on January 21, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., and at 4:00 p.m.

# Nonprofit is helping young soccer players change lives

BY KEVIN BAXTER  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES

Adversity was on the schedule every week for the South Los Angeles Legends, a soccer team of 11- and 12-year-olds from many of whom were growing up in underserved communities.

"We were trying to navigate a pay-to-play system that had basically cuttied our community," said LaShon Woodriddle, the team manager and single mother of its goalkeeper.

That was not the only thing that made the Legends, well, legendary. In what is largely a white suburban sport, especially at the youth level, the Legends' roster was made up entirely of Black youths from South L.A., girls who had to fight for access and equality before they got close to a playing field.

Yet they didn't lose a game, going unbeaten in 96 matches en route to an AYSO national championship.

That was five years ago and those pint-sized trailblazers have become high school seniors. For most of them the skills, self-assurance and success they developed in that magical summer on the field have followed them into the classroom, where they have continued to excel and defy expectations.

"It definitely gave me confidence," said Ameeerah Kelleff, 17, an honor student who also plays soccer at the academically challenging Girls Academic Leadership Academy, the only public all-girls STEM school in Cali-



COURTESY OF LASHON WOODRIDGE. Dreamstime/TMO

Some of the players from the South Los Angeles Legends, an AYSO team that won a national title in 2019, have gone on to excel with the South Los Angeles SoCal United and in the classroom since their odds-defying championship victory.

fornia. "It showed me that if we fight hard enough, we can get what we want."

Soccer is also opening doors and opportunities for Sidney Woodriddle, Kelleff's 17-year-old club teammate at SoCal United who is also an honor student at GALA, where she has won two L.A. City championships.

"I think it started my idea that I want to continue in soccer in college," she said. "Having that support system around me, the same people who were there in 2019, having the same people now gave me the reassurance that I can do it."

To take that success to the next level, both girls have expanded their support systems to include ACCESS U, a nonprofit foundation that provides students from underserved

communities who stand out in soccer and academics with the resources and guidance they need to negotiate the college recruitment process. The foundation was established in 2016 by Joaquin Escoto, now executive vice president of MLS expansion club San Diego FC, and Brad Rothenberg, son of Alan Rothenberg, a former U.S. Soccer president and the man behind the 1994 World Cup, the only one held in the U.S.

The program is not designed to turn young players into pros. Rothenberg said few of the kids currently in the program have the skill or desire to make a living playing soccer. But many, such as Kelleff and Woodriddle, are good enough to get a college scholarship and that alone can be life-

changing.

"I'm perfectly happy to help them get to college. So I really think of it as an education program that filters through socio-economic challenges and funds kids," he said. "By just helping them connect the dots to college coaches and scholarships ... these kids are going to elite schools that they didn't know was in their grasp."

And they'll graduate from those schools with little to no debt.

Before launching ACCESS U, Rothenberg was co-founder of Alianza de Futbol, a nationwide program focused on creating soccer opportunities for Hispanic youth, who often found their entry into the game blocked by the same pay-for-play system that frustrated the South Los Angeles Legends.

well for themselves. They know I'm coming after them. They're hiding but I'm coming to get them."

Kelleff hopes her resume eventually includes a degree from Howard University, a historically Black college that recently placed Stanford at her top choice.

"I wanted to be on a team that looked like me," she said.

Woodriddle's mother said her daughter is considering Chicago University, Greenville University and Texas Southern, among other schools.

"In a student before I'm an athlete. So in order to succeed on the field I now have to succeed in school as well," said Sidney Woodriddle, whose club soccer obligations not only include excellent grades but community service hours as well.

"They set the bar high for the younger of girls generation following them," LaShon Woodriddle said.

ACCESS U graduates will have little influence on the world of elite soccer that Rothenberg's father has long moved in.

Yet it can make a life-changing impact on the families of people such as Ortega, Kelleff and Woodriddle. And the value of that hasn't escaped the elder Rothenberg, who has the most successful World Cup in history on his resume.

But his son, he said, might be doing more important work.

"He's provided smart, talented kids the opportunity to receive a college education without debt," he said. "I've always felt organized soccer has left so many behind because of economics, the pay-to-play system. ACCESS U is filling that gap."

"We have two kids at Harvard, one on his way to Penn," Rothenberg said. "For these kids that does matter. It's a resume-maker for them."

There are a record 66 soccer players — 62 of them girls — currently in the program, said Rothenberg, who would like to see that number grow to four times that many by 2026. To do that, he says the \$500,000 budget he had this year will have to triple.

"I went to an Ivy League school," said Rothenberg, who graduated from Brown "and a lot of my friends have done very

well for themselves. They know I'm coming after them. They're hiding but I'm coming to get them."

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"They set the bar high for the younger of girls generation following them," LaShon Woodriddle said.

## Discovery looks to shed new light on early Christianity

BY ARISTOS GEORGIU  
New York Times

Researchers have deciphered a mysterious inscription hidden within an ancient amulet, uncovering fascinating new insights into the early history of Christianity.

The small, silver amulet was originally found in 2018 at the archaeological site of Nida — an ancient Roman town located near the former northern frontier of the empire in what is now the suburbs of the city of Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Excavations at the site revealed the amulet in a Roman grave dated to between A.D. 230-270, tucked under the lower jaw of a man's skeleton. Known as a phylactery, this type of amulet served as a kind of container to hold objects believed to be imbued with magical properties that were intended to protect the wearer.

The Frankfurt amulet, in particular, contains a wafer-thin piece of rolled up silver foil featuring an inscription, which researchers have finally managed to decode with the help of advanced technology, the city of Frankfurt am Main announced in a statement.

After its discovery, the silver amulet was conserved and restored at the Archaeological Museum in Frankfurt. Microscopic examinations and X-ray scans conducted in 2019 identified the presence of an inscription on the thin silver foil.

But the foil was too brittle and fragile to be unrolled, preventing researchers from investigating the inscription any further.

A breakthrough came in May 2024 though when experts examined the artifact using a state-of-the-art CT scanner at the Leibniz Center for Archaeology in Mainz (LEIZA).

"The challenge in the analysis was that the silver sheet was rolled, but after around 1,800 years, it was of course also creased and pressed. Using CT, we were able to scan it at a very high resolution and create a 3D model," Ivan Calandra, head of the imaging laboratory at LEIZA, said the statement.

"This 'digital unrolling' allowed researchers to decipher the inscription for the first time, although some sections have been lost. Intriguingly, the text — which was found to contain references to St. Titus, a disciple and confidant of the Apostle Paul, as well as Jesus — is written entirely in Latin.

"That's unusual for the time. Normally, such inscriptions

written in Greek or Hebrew," Markus Scholz from Frankfurt's Goethe University, who deciphered the text in collaboration with other experts, said in the statement.

It is also unusual that the text contains no reference to any other faith besides Christianity. Up until the 5th century, these types of precious metal amulets typically exhibited influences from other faiths and belief systems, including Judaism and paganism. But the Frankfurt amulet appears to be purely Christian in nature.

In the 3rd century — when the amulet appears to date to — Christianity was growing and spreading throughout the Roman Empire. But its followers were still sometimes subject to reprisals and persecution, potentially making it risky for people to identify as Christians.

## INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

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Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at the Bibb County School District Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor board room on January 21, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., and at 4:00 p.m.

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## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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 PO BOX 6157  
 T S  
 MACON, GA 31213  
 Tiffany.Everidge@bcsdk12.net

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1 insertion(s) published on:  
 01/29/25

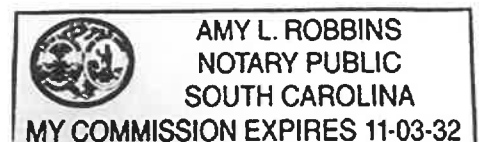
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*Mary Castro*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of January in the year of 2025

*Amy Robbins*

Notary Public in and for the state of South Carolina, residing in Beaufort County



Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.  
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## **INTENT TO OPTOUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**

The Bibb County Board of Education intends to opt out of the state-wide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the Bibb County School District. All concerned citizens are invited to the second and third public hearings on this matter to be held at the Bibb County School District Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor board room on February 5, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., and at 4:00 p.m.

The first public hearing on this matter was held on January 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Due to inclement weather and a state-wide State of Emergency, the previously scheduled second and third public hearings were cancelled and are now scheduled on the date and times set forth above.

# Trump moves to shake up top career Justice Department ranks

BY DEVLIN BARRETT, KAREN ZRAICK AND CHARLIE SAVAGE  
NYY News Service

## WASHINGTON

The frenetic scale and speed of leadership changes that the Trump administration has made at the Justice Department in its first week alone indicate the degree to which it intends to remake not just the political direction of the department, but also the makeup of its senior career ranks.

Senior officials handling national security and public corruption at the department have been transferred to areas far outside their expertise, as have high-ranking employees overseeing environmental, antitrust and criminal cases. Top officials overseeing the immigration court system were outright fired.

Every new administration replaces the political leadership of federal agencies and, over time, changes some of the senior career officials. But what happened in just a matter of days at the department is much different — sloughing off decades of apolitical expertise to new assignments widely seen in the building as punishments likely to result in resignations.

Collectively, the early moves suggest a deep distrust of the career, nonpartisan staff that typically makes recommendations to the political appointees on whether to charge cases, negotiate settlements or close cases without taking action.

President Donald Trump and his backers have long complained about a "deep state" of career government officials

who they believe are hostile to Republican political leadership, and in many ways, the moves are a blitz against parts of the department that enforce laws that some conservatives do not like but cannot get Congress to change.

At the Environment and Natural Resources Division, which brings civil and criminal cases to enforce the nation's environmental protection laws, attorneys have been ordered to freeze all of its efforts, including making no court filings. For the time being, it cannot file new complaints about companies that are breaking environmental laws, lodge or enter consent decrees to wind down such litigation, or move to intervene in other cases.

The order has led to early problems because the division was negotiat-

ing settlements to existing lawsuits and, in some instances, was required by court order to issue filings, like procedural updates.

The changes also targeted some of the career officials who carry the most authority and institutional experience. At least four of the environment division's section chiefs — nearly half its total — were reassigned last week to a newly created task force focused on going after so-called sanctuary cities that do not cooperate with immigration enforcement as much as the new administration would like.

Most of the senior officials who have been reassigned to immigration issues have little to no legal expertise in the field, having dedicated their legal careers to other issues, such as

environmental law. They were told that their pay would remain unchanged and that they had up to 15 days to either accept the transfer or face the possibility of being fired.

Some measures underway at the department are not entirely surprising. Trump has made plain his distaste for the Justice Department and the FBI over criminal investigations of him and his allies, referring to them over the years as "scum."

But in the case of some reassignments, career officials in the Justice Department find it hard to discern a reason, other than removing people whose legal views carry great weight in the building.

The reassignment of the senior environmental lawyers is viewed by some in the division as effectively decapitating their leadership structure and demoralizing the officials who remain,

according to people familiar with the changes who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal.

Andrew Mergen, who retired in 2023 after more than three decades at the division, said that while senior officials were sometimes reshuffled under previous administrations, it was "more as a prerogative of management than sort of as this big political move. So nothing like this has ever happened."

He said he worried that the moves might drive away the department's institutional expertise.

"Everybody who was there the day that Trump walked in had made the choice to work in the Trump administration, and to do their very best," Mergen said, warning of the consequences if there were an exodus of career officials.

"It will be a loss to the country if these people leave, and if other attorneys in the Justice Department leave."

A spokesperson for the environment division declined to comment.

# Trump signs orders to reshape military, transgender troops, missile defense

BY SHERI WALSH  
UPI.com

President Donald Trump signed executive orders Monday night to reshape the military as he focused on transgender service members; diversity, equity and inclusion programs; troops who refused COVID-19 vaccines and a missile defense system called the "Iron Dome."

The president signed the four executive orders aboard Air Force One as he flew back to Wash-

ington, D.C., after speaking at a House GOP retreat in Florida.

While Trump did not immediately ban transgender service members from the armed forces, his executive order directs the Pentagon to come up with a policy for transgender troops based on readiness.

"To ensure we have the most lethal fighting force in the world, we will get transgender ideology the hell out of our military. It's going to be gone."

Trump told House Republicans on Monday at his property in Doral, Fla.

Trump's second executive order bans the use of DEI, race or "gender ideologies" in the military. Last week, Trump signed an executive order to end DEI programs throughout the federal government, placing DEI workers on paid leave.

"I ordered the end to all of the lawless diversity, equity and inclusion nonsense policies across the government and all across the private sector and the military," Trump said Monday. "We're getting it out and we've gotten cut pretty much. We did that

in one week, and it wasn't easy, but everybody wanted it."

Earlier Monday, newly confirmed Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters outside of the Pentagon that reinstating troops who resisted the COVID-19 mandates and creating a missile defense system were also among Trump's executive orders.

"Today, there are more executive orders coming, ... on removing DEI inside the Pentagon, reinstating troops who were pushed out because of Covid mandates, iron dome for

America."

"This is happening quickly, and as the secretary of defense, it's an honor to salute smartly, as I did as a junior officer, and now as the secretary of defense, to ensure these orders are complied with rapidly and quickly," Hegseth added.

Hegseth was confirmed Friday as defense secretary by a narrow margin of 51-50 in the U.S. Senate with Vice President JD Vance casting the tie-breaking vote. Monday marked his first official week on the job.

Trump's third executive order directs Hegseth to reinstate all active and reserve military, who were discharged for failing to get the COVID-19 vac-

cine. The service members will be reinstated with their former rank and provided back pay and benefits. Approximately 8,000 service members were discharged between August 2021 and January 2023 for refusing COVID-19 mandates.

The fourth executive order would begin the process of creating a "next generation" short-range missile defense shield for the United States, much like Israel's Iron Dome.

"Immediately begin the construction of a state-of-the-art Iron Dome missile defense shield, which will be able to protect Americans," Trump added. The project is expected to take years.

## INTENT TO OPTOUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The Bibb County Board of Education intends to opt out of the state-wide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the Bibb County School District. All concerned citizens are invited to the second and third public hearings on this matter to be held at the Bibb County School District Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor board room on February 5, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., and at 4:00 p.m.

The first public hearing on this matter was held on January 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Due to inclement weather and a state-wide State of Emergency, the previously scheduled second and third public hearings were cancelled and are now scheduled on the date and times set forth above.



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\*To earn the advertised APY, a minimum balance of \$500.00 is required, which is effective as of January 13, 2025, for a limited time. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal.

Offer may be withdrawn at any time without notice.



## Bush, Eric

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**From:** Lemons, Willmenta <wlemons@macon.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 2, 2025 3:39 PM  
**To:** Bush, Eric  
**Cc:** Everidge, Tiffany  
**Subject:** Re: Newspaper Ad Request  
**Attachments:** HB 581 Bibb Notice of Intent to Opt-Out.pdf

**[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.

Hello, Attached is the ad order confirmation. Size 3x10.18  
Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Vetia

- **New Telegraph print schedule effective Monday 8/19/2024.**
- **Digital Days: Daily**
- **Print days: Sunday and Wednesday**



**Vetia Lemons**  
Account Executive- Legals

P (478) 744-4283  
c (800) 342-5845

E [legals.east@mcclatchy.com](mailto:legals.east@mcclatchy.com)  
W [mcclatchy.com](http://mcclatchy.com)

On Thu, Jan 2, 2025 at 2:54 PM Bush, Eric <[Eric.Bush@bcsdk12.net](mailto:Eric.Bush@bcsdk12.net)> wrote:  
Hey Ms. Lemons,

I just wanted to touch base on the ad to see if you heard any recommendations. Just want to make sure it gets printed this weekend!

**EXHIBIT 3**  
**PRESS RELEASE**



## **Bibb County School District**

**Department of Communications / Community & School Affairs**

484 Mulberry Street, Suite 365, Macon, Georgia 31201, (478) 765-8548

<http://www.bcsdk12.net>

**Dr. Dan A. Sims**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**James M. Freeman**  
*Board President*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MEDIA CONTACT  
Brooke Moore (478) 765-8642

### **BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO HOST PUBLIC HEARINGS ON HOUSE BILL 581**

January 6, 2025

(MACON, GA) – During the Bibb County Board of Education on December 19, 2024, the Bibb County School District shared its intent to opt out of House Bill (HB) 581.

HB 581 introduces significant changes to property tax caps, homestead exemptions, and school funding. Opting out will ensure long-term financial stability and flexibility for the school district, protecting essential revenue streams necessary for student achievement, staff effectiveness, and stakeholder engagement.

As a part of the opt-out process, the Bibb County School District will engage in public hearings and advertisements in the local newspaper prior to the proposed adoption of a resolution. Additionally, the District will file the resolution with the Secretary of State by March 1, 2025.

Below are the dates and times for the public hearings:

- January 14, 2025 – Public Hearing #1, held at Professional Learning Center, 2003 Riverside Drive, 6:00 p.m.
- January 21, 2025 – Public Hearing #2, held at 484 Mulberry Street, Board Room, 11:00 a.m.
- January 21, 2025 – Public Hearing #3, held at 484 Mulberry Street, Board Room, 4:00 p.m.

The Bibb County Board of Education is scheduled for a tentative vote on HB 581 at a Called Board Meeting on January 21, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at 484 Mulberry Street in the Board Room.

**XXXXX**

**From:** [Communications](#)  
**To:** [Communications](#)  
**Cc:** [mlewis@macon.com](mailto:mlewis@macon.com)  
**Bcc:** [Andrew Davidson](#); [Bailey, Daphne](#); [Bush, Eric](#); [Everidge, Tiffany](#); [Pelt, Kimberly](#); [habersham7@gmail.com](mailto:habersham7@gmail.com); [anperalta@sbgvtv.com](mailto:anperalta@sbgvtv.com); [bodonnell@13wmaz.com](mailto:bodonnell@13wmaz.com); [blong@41nbc.com](mailto:blong@41nbc.com); [caleb@maconmelody.com](mailto:caleb@maconmelody.com); [cdstephens@sbgvtv.com](mailto:cdstephens@sbgvtv.com); [casey@maconmelody.com](mailto:casey@maconmelody.com); [gainformer@yahoo.com](mailto:gainformer@yahoo.com); [blankenship\\_dr@mercer.edu](mailto:blankenship_dr@mercer.edu); [BriAsia.Kelley@wpganews.com](mailto:BriAsia.Kelley@wpganews.com); [ecarr@13wmaz.com](mailto:ecarr@13wmaz.com); [evelyn@maconmelody.com](mailto:evelyn@maconmelody.com); [fprice@13wmaz.com](mailto:fprice@13wmaz.com); [gblankenship@qpb.org](mailto:gblankenship@qpb.org); [dloyd@sbgvtv.com](mailto:dloyd@sbgvtv.com); [jason@maconmelody.com](mailto:jason@maconmelody.com); [jchisenhall@mcclatchy.com](mailto:jchisenhall@mcclatchy.com); [jfraqa@macon.com](mailto:jfraqa@macon.com); [jpayne@macon.com](mailto:jpayne@macon.com); [Joe.Kovac@ajc.com](mailto:Joe.Kovac@ajc.com); [jbennett@qpb.org](mailto:jbennett@qpb.org); [jbaxley@13wmaz.com](mailto:jbaxley@13wmaz.com); [kheck@13wmaz.com](mailto:kheck@13wmaz.com); [karlibeetv@gmail.com](mailto:karlibeetv@gmail.com); [LaurenHendrix@iheartmedia.com](mailto:LaurenHendrix@iheartmedia.com); [fabian\\_li@mercer.edu](mailto:fabian_li@mercer.edu); [lnjohnson@13wmaz.com](mailto:lnjohnson@13wmaz.com); [lolynch@13wmaz.com](mailto:lolynch@13wmaz.com); [mrosen@sbgvtv.com](mailto:mrosen@sbgvtv.com); [mlewis@macon.com](mailto:mlewis@macon.com); [majames@13wmaz.com](mailto:majames@13wmaz.com); [matt@georgiaceo.com](mailto:matt@georgiaceo.com); [mfrick@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mfrick@doe.k12.ga.us); [mjohnstonjournalism@gmail.com](mailto:mjohnstonjournalism@gmail.com); [news@middlegeorgiaceo.com](mailto:news@middlegeorgiaceo.com); [quepasa39@msn.com](mailto:quepasa39@msn.com); [mpirelanotivisionga@gmail.com](mailto:mpirelanotivisionga@gmail.com); [nwashington@13wmaz.com](mailto:nwashington@13wmaz.com); [NBaileycov@13wmaz.com](mailto:NBaileycov@13wmaz.com); [meamea77@gmail.com](mailto:meamea77@gmail.com); [sdunlap@georgiarecorder.com](mailto:sdunlap@georgiarecorder.com); [susannah@maconmagazine.com](mailto:susannah@maconmagazine.com); [TexJamespower1071@gmail.com](mailto:TexJamespower1071@gmail.com); [tsargent@41nbc.com](mailto:tsargent@41nbc.com); [news@13wmaz.com](mailto:news@13wmaz.com); [news@41nbc.com](mailto:news@41nbc.com); [news@maconmelody.com](mailto:news@maconmelody.com); [breaking@macon.com](mailto:breaking@macon.com); [news@wgxa-tv.com](mailto:news@wgxa-tv.com); [Newstips@wpganews.com](mailto:Newstips@wpganews.com); [macon@myocr.net](mailto:macon@myocr.net); [miller@maconbibb.us](mailto:miller@maconbibb.us); [mbcwynn@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbcwynn@maconbibb.us); [mbcbrownson@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbcbrownson@maconbibb.us); [mbcstewart@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbcstewart@maconbibb.us); [mbcjones@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbcjones@maconbibb.us); [mbchulett@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbchulett@maconbibb.us); [mbcclark@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbcclark@maconbibb.us); [mbcwilder@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbcwilder@maconbibb.us); [mbchowell@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbchowell@maconbibb.us); [mbcbailey@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbcbailey@maconbibb.us); [mbcwatkins@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbcwatkins@maconbibb.us); [mbcbryant@maconbibb.us](mailto:mbcbryant@maconbibb.us); [jross@maconbibb.us](mailto:jross@maconbibb.us); [cfloore@maconbibb.us](mailto:cfloore@maconbibb.us); [knoffett@maconbibb.us](mailto:knoffett@maconbibb.us); [KPHill@maconbibb.us](mailto:KPHill@maconbibb.us); [david.lucas@senate.ga.gov](mailto:david.lucas@senate.ga.gov); [john.kennedy@senate.ga.gov](mailto:john.kennedy@senate.ga.gov); [dale.washburn@house.ga.gov](mailto:dale.washburn@house.ga.gov); [robert.dickey@house.ga.gov](mailto:robert.dickey@house.ga.gov); [annisa.jones@house.ga.gov](mailto:annisa.jones@house.ga.gov); [miriam.paris@house.ga.gov](mailto:miriam.paris@house.ga.gov); [tangie.herring@house.ga.gov](mailto:tangie.herring@house.ga.gov); [Elizabeth.Ruark@mail.house.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Ruark@mail.house.gov); [somer.stafford@mail.house.gov](mailto:somer.stafford@mail.house.gov); [Haig.Hovsepian@mail.house.gov](mailto:Haig.Hovsepian@mail.house.gov); [Shavonda\\_Hill@warnock.senate.gov](mailto:Shavonda_Hill@warnock.senate.gov)  
**Subject:** BCSD Holding Public Hearings on HB 581  
**Date:** Friday, December 20, 2024 1:19:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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## **BCSD Holding Public Hearings on HB 581**

At the Bibb County Board of Education meeting on [November 21, 2024](#), Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims presented an update for Board members with information on House Bill (HB) 581 and the impact on the Bibb County School District. The Board must vote to opt in or opt out of HB 581. The decision to opt in or opt out of HB 581 will remain in place for the next 50 years. It is critical to understand the local impact of this bill as the Board considers what is best for the present and future of the District. This is a one-time local decision that could have a lasting impact on the District. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

At the Board of Education meeting on [December 19, 2024](#), the District shared its intent to recommend that the Bibb County Board of Education approve a decision to opt out of HB 581. This legislative decision introduces significant changes to property tax caps, homestead exemptions, and school funding. Opting out will ensure long-term financial stability and flexibility for our district, protecting essential revenue streams necessary for student achievement, staff effectiveness, and stakeholder engagement. For more information, [click here](#).

As a part of the opt-out process, the District will engage in public hearings and advertisements in the local newspaper prior to the proposed adoption of a resolution.

BCSD's timeline for Public Hearings regarding the intent to opt out of HB 581:

- Public Hearing 1: Jan. 14, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Professional Learning Center at Martin-Whitley Educational Complex, 2003 Riverside Drive
- Public Hearing 2: Jan. 21, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the BSCD Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor Board Room
- Public Hearing 3: Jan. 21, 2025 at 4 p.m. at the BSCD Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor Board Room
- Called Board of Education Meeting to vote on HB 581: Jan. 21, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. at the BSCD Central Office, 484 Mulberry Street, fourth floor Board Room

The District must file its resolution to opt out of HB 581, pending board approval, with the Secretary of State by the March 1, 2025.



**Office of Communications  
Bibb County School District**

484 Mulberry Street  
Macon, GA 31201

[www.bcsdk12.net](http://www.bcsdk12.net)

[www.youtube.com/bibbschools](http://www.youtube.com/bibbschools)

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**Subject:** BCSD to host Public Hearings on House Bill 581  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2025 11:14:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Below is a link to a press release from the Bibb County School District. The community may stay connected with the District by following the District's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) pages, and checking the District's [website](#) regularly.

- **[Bibb County School District to host Public Hearings on House Bill 581](#)**



**Office of Communications**  
**Bibb County School District**  
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