



Bibb County School District Stakeholders,

On January 25, 2010, the Board of Education approved a **reduction in work days for all employees (regardless of funding sources)**. I will be taking a reduction in my salary for FY2010 equal to five days of pay, but I will continue to work my full contract.

By reducing employee work days, expenditures for the district will be reduced for the remainder of the year from the general fund by approximately **\$2.7 million**.

To allow staff members to have some time for school close out, the last two days of the 2009-2010 school year – May 20 & 21, 2010 – would be structured so half the day would encompass exams and other instructional activities. Students would then be dismissed and the second half of the day would be for the staff to complete year end procedures.

This decision comes in response to Governor Sonny Perdue's amended FY2010 budget – which he released on January 15, 2010. It included the following additional cuts to the public education funding:

- an additional 3% reduction in QBE funding for public schools; and
- a withholding of an amount of money which equals three days of state salary and benefits for personnel employed in local school systems.

This would result in a reduction in state funding for the Bibb County School District of approximately **\$5.1 million**.

These cuts are in addition to previous reductions this fiscal year, including: withholding three days of state salary at the beginning of the school year; reducing QBE funding; eliminating the Homestead Tax Relief Grant; not funding a cost of living increase; not providing school supply cards for teachers; requiring a higher contribution from districts and employees for the Teacher Retirement System; and continuing to increase health insurance premiums.

Additionally, there are uncertainties at the local level. To date, a local tax digest has not been set, which delays the setting of the millage rate and final property tax billing and collection. The later it is finalized, the greater the possibility that final tax collection receipts could come at the end of the district's fiscal year. At that point, the district would be committed to an entire year of expenditures before knowing the exact amount of revenue received from local property taxes.

This reduction in work days for affected employees will **NOT** reduce the educational opportunities for students. The schedule of days to be reduced was selected to minimize the impact on students and their opportunity for a high-quality education. This change will only affect the remainder of this school year. Due to the continued uncertain times and prospect of further funding cuts, the district is unable to predict or speculate on what adjustments will need to be made for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Governor continues to make **significant** reductions to public education funding. The continued reduction of support and funding to public education is distressing to me, to the Board of Education, and it is most distressing to the employees of the Bibb County School District who work so diligently to provide a high-quality education to our students. The district has a monthly process to review and make adjustments in response to a changing financial climate. As a result, the district has reduced expenditures in response to reductions in state funding and austerity cuts.

For the complete details on this decision, please visit our Web site at www.bibb.k12.ga.us.

I want to thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Sharon Patterson
Superintendent of Schools