

BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monthly Newsletter of Bryan County School Board

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD:

Greetings,

We hope you and your family are enjoying the long summer days and are looking forward to celebrating the United States' 250th anniversary. This month the board thanked our long-standing Superintendent, Dr. Paul Brooksher, for his 14 years of service to Bryan County Schools. His profound impact on Bryan County Schools included opening 5 new schools, adding programs such as orchestra, welding, outdoor education, and our employer sponsored daycare. The academic success under his leadership saw Bryan County rise to become the region leader and a top 10 school district in the state for the last 2 consecutive years. We wish Dr. Brooksher well and thank him for his steady leadership for so many years.

The board also officially took action this month to unanimously vote Mr. Bivins Miller as our new Superintendent. He began his new role on July 1 and we look forward to continued success under his leadership.

Additionally, the board heard updates this month on our capital projects plans. Bryan County High School continues to make progress as the school system works with the City of Pembroke on permitting. The drawings for McAllister Elementary's wing addition are completed, and have been submitted to the state for approval. The new middle school in South Bryan, which will be built on a portion of the former Richmond Hill High School campus, is currently under design and the operations team is preparing for demolition. Lastly, the Early Learning Center, located on Constitution Way, is set for inspection by the fire chief. We are grateful for the many community partners who work closely with our Division of Operations to help us meet stringent state guidelines for building safe schools.

Lastly, the board shared information about our FY27 budget with attendees at our public hearings on June 17th and June 25th. Thank you to those who came to hear about our budget. Due to significant growth in property values, Bryan County Schools lost about \$6 million in state equalization funding for FY27. Despite this loss in state funds, the board remains committed to maintaining the current millage rate. Our budget is being built with the same FY26 millage rate of 14.663. As a reminder, last year the board lowered the millage rate from 15.075 to the rollback rate of 14.663. One way we keep the same millage rate in our FY 27 budget, is through reducing the staffing budget for the upcoming school year, but solely through attrition. Additional information from the public hearings is on our website and can be found here: <https://www.bryan.k12.ga.us/page/budget-hearings>

Thank you for your support of Bryan County Schools.
Wishing you all a wonderful 4th of July holiday.



*Bryan County
Board of Education*

BOARD WORK SESSION - JUNE 18, 2026

DIVISION OF OPERATIONS UPDATES

Mr. Jeff Hodges, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, presented the following updates:

- Quick Start will be renewing their lease at Lanier Learning Center for next year.
- Several meetings were held with the City of Pembroke regarding next steps for building the new Bryan County High School. The city has requested a traffic impact analysis study, and the district is working with the architect to commission a group to do this.
- Bryan County Schools is working with the architect on a request for proposal (RFP) for the electric provider on the new high school.
- An asbestos inspection on the old Richmond Hill High School's west campus prior to the building's demolition. Mr. Hodges walked through the building with the construction manager and architect to salvage any items that could be repurposed. The district is working with the architect on renderings for the new middle school.
- An application for state funding will be submitted prior to the July 1st deadline.
- The architect has sent drawings for the McAllister Elementary addition to the state for approval.
- There will be a walk through at the old community education building on June 29th with the City of Richmond Hill and Richmond Hill Fire Chief.
- An RFP was posted for the purchase of two new work trucks, and the bid was awarded to J.C. Lewis Ford in Statesboro. The board will be asked to approve the purchase of the trucks at the next board meeting.
- The board will also be asked to approve the purchase safety laminate film for the windows at the new Richmond Hill High School. The bid was awarded to Safe Haven defense.



DIVISION OF BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATES

Ms. Debi McNeal, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the following updates:

- A resolution declaring the ESPLOST election held on May 19, 2026, will be presented on the board agenda for approval at the next board meeting.
- Ms. Jennifer Habets reviewed the latest financial audit and shared its findings. The audit assesses whether we are meeting state and federal regulations and that the process used on how money is spent is done correctly. All financial records were completed correctly with no findings, meaning no issues.
- The annual audit is posted on the Bryan County Schools website and Department of Audits website as well.
- Ms. Roberts is working on communications as we prepare for back to school. Two of the publications should post very soon, the Back-to-School webpage and guide.
- Policies GARH and BCBI were reviewed with the board. This is the first review, and a second review will occur at the July work session.

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES

Dr. Denise Scott, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, presented the following updates:

- Dr. Scott introduced Dr. Marcy Smith, Director of Community Education. Dr. Smith shared that registration for Before and After school care will go live on July 1st. She also shared information on the seventy-seven different offerings available this fall.

DIVISION OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION UPDATES

Dr. Elizabeth Bennett, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, presented the following updates:

- Preliminary data for the Georgia Milestones Assessment (GMAS) are in but the district is still waiting for the finalized data to post. Dr. Bennett reviewed the preliminary data findings with the board and indicated that Bryan County Schools scores look good.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

- The board reviewed code of ethics policy and acknowledged the review.
- No changes will be made to the current Board Norms and Protocols. As part of the Georgia School Boards Association's Exemplary Board application, the board is required to approve Board Norms and Protocols annually. They will be included on the board agenda at the next board meeting.
- The board reviewed the feedback provided by the Exemplary Committee who completed a governance team self-assessment. The board then completed a Governance Team Self-Assessment form to be submitted to the Georgia School Boards Association as part of the Exemplary Board application process.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ACTION ITEMS:

The following items were approved at the June 25, 2026 meeting:

- The 2026 May Financial Report
- Approval of the FY2027 Budget
- Approval of the Board Norms and Protocols
- Approval of the Vision Resolution
- Approval for the board chair and superintendent to sign off on a resolution of the board of education declaring results of an election held on May 19, 2026, and certificate of board of elections and registration of Bryan County, Georgia
- Approval of the revisions to Policy JCDAF – Use of Electronic Devices by Students
- Approval to purchase one F150 truck from JC Lewis Ford in the amount of \$37,849.00
- Approval to purchase one F250 truck from JC Lewis Ford in the amount of \$43,856.00
- Approval to purchase safety laminate film from Safe Haven Defense in the amount of \$72,140.00 to be installed at Richmond Hill High School
- Approval of the superintendent's contract
- Field trip approval for Richmond Hill High School's cross-country team
- Facility approvals for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and 3C Martial Arts, LLC.



Bryan County Middle High School students traveled to Bulle, Fribourg, Switzerland to compete in the H2 Grand Prix on the world stage! Congratulations, Redskins!