

BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monthly Newsletter of Bryan County School Board

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD:

Greetings,

We hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and spring blooms.

We've had many questions about the search for a new Superintendent. As an update, the Superintendent job listing has been posted, and applications are being accepted through March 29th. Once the applications are vetted and compiled, our next step will be to determine which candidates to interview. Your feedback helps us establish the criteria our staff and community feel is important in the next leader of Bryan County Schools. If you haven't taken the opportunity to complete our community superintendent search survey, please give us your feedback: <https://sprw.io/stt-sh616>. As a reminder, the Board hopes to name the final Superintendent candidate before teachers leave for summer break.

Lastly, ESPLOST and bonds will be on the May 19th primary election ballot. We hope the parents of our almost 11,000 students will make their voices heard about the future of Bryan County Schools. Please continue to read information shared through our website and social media posts. We've also developed an entire page with specific ESPLOST and bonds information.: <https://www.bryan.k12.ga.us/page/esplost-facts>.

Thank you for your support of our teachers and staff who work hard for our students every day. It truly takes community engagement and support to sustain a top 10 school district.

Your partner in education,

*Bryan County
Board of Education*



BOARD WORK SESSION - FEBRUARY 19, 2026

DIVISION OF OPERATIONS UPDATES

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

- Very few items remain to be completed at Richmond Hill High School. The outstanding items include the Monumental signs, which will be installed by the entrances, and an outdoor education building that will be built by the pond.
- Renderings will be coming soon of the future Bryan County High School and future second middle school in Richmond Hill.
- The maintenance staff did an exceptional job communicating with emergency management and fire department in North Bryan during the potential snowstorms that hit our area. Maintenance made sure all schools were thoroughly checked so staff and students could return to school. The roads were also checked to make sure our buses were safe on the roads.
- North Transportation will begin using the Versatrans routing platform next year for bus routes. This platform is currently being used at South Transportation with great success.
- This year's End of Course and End of Grade (EOC & EOG) state testing will have a lot of visuals which will require more bandwidth. The technology department is working to increase the bandwidth to accomodate the changes in testing.
- Renderings of the McAllister Elementary School's addition are completed. If ESPLOST funding is continued, the addition will be completed for move in during the 2027-2028 school year.

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES

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

- Community Education Center will be offering SWAN (Senior Wellness & Active Network) classes during the day for those 55 and older. These classes kick off on March 11th.
- The graduation celebration for Bryan Academy will be held on May 8th at 5:00 p.m. in the Ogeechee Room at the Instructional Support Center. At this time, 10 students are eligible to graduate.
- Georgia's House Bill 68 passed and is providing \$20,000 per high school and middle school to use for mental health support services. The crisis counselors researched information on Cartwheel and interviewed three agencies affiliated with them. Cartwheel is a school community mental health partner for school districts. The team is looking at the administrative costs for services and any scholarships available to students in need. Cartwheel does not take Medicaid but will take insurance. There will be more to come on this program.



DIVISION OF BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATES

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

- Pre-K registration is under way and will close on February 28th.
- District leaders are considering a potential amendment to the May school calendar due to transportation logistics, including the possibility of converting the final two student days into half days for all grade levels.
- Currently, there are forty-seven vacancies in the district for next school year.
- The 2026 Teacher Recruitment EXPO welcomed over 100 applicants and positive feedback was received by those who attended.
- Ms. McNeal reviewed the resolution for the Public Facilities Authority that will be brought forward for approval at the next board meeting.
- A schedule with key dates for ESPLOST was shared with the board. Information will be shared through social media posts, webpages, and with the advisory councils.
- Ms. Habets, director of finance, shared information from Governor Kemp's budget, which is \$43.5 million due to enrollment growth throughout the state. As of right now, the \$2000 one time pay to teachers will fund like the one time pay in FY24. Using the calculation that was used in FY24, the district would need \$1.1 million for those positions that are not state funded. Health insurance will increase from \$22,620 per member to \$24,336 per member, per year.
- The district is currently watching Senate Bill 150 – return to work for teachers and House Bill 1193 – literacy act.

DIVISION OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION UPDATES

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

- In the fall, the district shifted to iReady, which will be the new testing platform to replace MAP. Every school will use iReady next school year.
- Dr. Bennett shared information on websites where school district data is pulled from and reviewed Bryan County's data. One important piece of information to note is that the CRCT assessment was retired in Spring 2014 and the first year Georgia Milestones was introduced was 2015. This resulted in a decrease in data statewide.
- Curriculum and Instruction is creating a data dashboard that will be linked to the district website. This dashboard will provide an explanation of the district performance data.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

- The Board Chair and district staff spent last week in Atlanta at the GSBA legislative session.
- Due to the upcoming election season, the Board briefly reviewed the protocols on local political elections and communication through social media.

BOARD MEETING - FEBRUARY 26, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Dr. Brooksher invited the principal of Bryan County Middle High School, Mr. Russ Winter, to speak. Mr. Winter introduced Ms. Cindy Bennett, school counselor. Both Mr. Winter and Ms. Bennett gave a presentation and activity on bullying.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ACTION ITEMS:

The following items were approved at the February 26, 2026 meeting:

- The 2026 January Financial Report.
- Approval for the board chair and superintendent to execute a resolution to ratify the actions of the Public Facilities Authority and approve the form of the intergovernmental contract to secure the repayment of the Series 2026 Bonds.
- Field trip approvals for the following:
 - Richmond Hill High School:
 - Gymnastics
 - HOSA
 - Math Team
 - FBLA
 - Technology Student Association
 - Academic Quiz Bowl
 - Orchestra
 - Exceptional Student Services students
 - McAllister Elementary School:
 - 5th grade students
 - BETA Club
- Facilities Use Request was approved for the following:
 - Life Moves Dance Studio to utilize the gymnasium at Richmond Hill Middle School from 5/26/26-5/30/26
 - Pembroke Public Library was approved to utilize Bryan County Elementary School for the 2026 Summer Reading program in June

