

BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monthly Newsletter of Bryan County School Board

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD:

Greetings from the Board of Education,

We wish you each a relaxing and refreshing Spring Break and hope you will enjoy meaningful time with family and friends.

This month the Board celebrated an amazing Bryan County Schools accomplishment. The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) released its financial efficiency ratings for school districts and Bryan County Schools once again received 4.5 out of 5 stars. Even more importantly, we were ranked the third most financially efficient school district in the state out of 180 school districts. This is a true testament to the incredible people who work for Bryan County Schools and a cause for community celebration. Read more about the efficiency scores from GOSA here: <https://gosa.georgia.gov/accountability/financial-efficiency-star-rating>.

As an update on our Superintendent search, the application window closed on March 29th. We received 29 applications and will begin reviewing them to identify which candidates to interview. Thank you to everyone who completed our community search survey, which will help the board identify criteria our staff and community feel is important in the next leader.

Thank you again for your support of our teachers, our staff, and of public education.

Your partner in education,

*Bryan County
Board of Education*



BOARD WORK SESSION - MARCH 19, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Dr. Brooksher will be attending faculty meetings at all schools to educate staff on the facts behind the ESPLOST and Bonds election for Bryan County Schools, as well as reminding them of the importance of having a voice on May 19th. There are many upcoming elections that could directly impact public education.
- Dr. Brooksher shared the presentation with the board that he will be sharing at all school sites.
- Dr. Brooksher was interviewed for a podcast that will air soon on social media answering questions about ESPLOST & Bonds.

DIVISION OF OPERATIONS UPDATES

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

- Renderings for Bryan County High School are being updated and should be ready by April 4th and will be posted on the district website and social media once they are ready. Drawings for a second middle school in Richmond Hill and a wing addition at McAllister Elementary School are also in progress and will be added to the webpage and social media once they are complete.
- Mr. Hodges is working on scheduling a meeting with the city to find out what permits are needed for renovations at the old community education building.
- Mr. Hodges presented a discard list for buses and mowers that need to be sold. These items will be presented to the board for approval to discard at the next board meeting.
- A bid was posted for a 35-ton A/C unit for Richmond Hill Elementary School. This unit has already been budgeted for this fiscal year due to it having issues for a while now. The bid will close next week, and a vendor will be submitted to the board for approval to move forward with the purchase.

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES

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

- Dr. Scott shared pictures from the first SWAN (Senior Wellness and Active Network) class at Community Education Center. There were about 10 participants who attended.
- The crisis counselors and Dr. Scott held a kickoff meeting yesterday with directors and instructors at Cartwheel to develop a plan to expand the district's mental health services for students. The focus is on providing resources and support to families, especially during the summer months when school is not in session. The next meeting will include training sessions so staff can begin to implement the district's plan. Student Services will also open this up to the Exceptional Student Services department to offer resources and support to the district's ESS students.



DIVISION OF BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATES

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

- The district is requesting board approval for an intergovernmental agreement for special elections. This attachment will be placed on the agenda for review. If there are no concerns, it will be added to the agenda for approval at next week’s board meeting.
- In accordance with the Governor’s budget, teachers and other specified staff will receive a \$2,000 one-time payment. The funding for this will be received on March 26th, with the state also funding Medicaid and FICA. It will not be subject to TRS. The state is requesting that the funds are distributed as soon as possible, so we are recommending that the payments be given to staff on April 3rd, the Friday before spring break. Our board is in support of using the same guidelines used on the last payout, which includes a one-time payment to all staff, not just staff included as part of the Governor’s budget. In addition, the board agreed to cover taxes and benefits to allow staff to receive a check for the full \$2000.
- Ms. Habets shared information on the proposed FY26 budget amendment that includes grants received for the construction of Richmond Hill High School. An amendment will be on next week’s board agenda for approval.
- Ms. McNeal reviewed the salary study for all positions and flagged some areas that need further review. This salary study is conducted each year to make sure Bryan County Schools is staying competitive in the market for pay.
- One section of Pre-K will move from North Bryan to South Bryan due to enrollment numbers.
- Legislative updates were reviewed for HB1193, HB1023, and HB1032 that all impact public education.

DIVISION OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION UPDATES

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

- Bryan County Middle High School competed in the H2GP (Hydrogen Grand Prix) last Wednesday and placed first, second, and third, as well as first place for design. The team has been invited to compete in Switzerland. Hyundai will be allocating \$110,000.00 to allow several teams the opportunity to travel and participate in the international competition.
- 9 out of 13 students, who submitted a writing, placed in the Young Georgia Authors! Bryan County Schools had the most winners out of any school district.
- Dr. Bennett shared a professional learning sheet that included Curriculum and Instruction’s strategic plans and goals. One goal is to become more systematic with professional learning and to try and be more proactive. Professional learning will wrap up for this school year in March due to testing that begins in April.
- Curriculum and Instruction is working on a data hub that will be added to the district website soon. This will be available for anyone to view regarding Bryan County Schools’ Performance data.



Congratulations

YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS

1ST PLACE REGION WINNERS

2ND GRADE - MES Annelise Holmstead Addie's Adventure	9TH GRADE - RHMS Jihyun Song Watched, Yet Free	11TH GRADE - RHMS Alyssa Graham Belt Size Bible
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PLACED IN THE TOP 10 IN THE REGION

4TH GRADE - MES Aiden Shieh Gary the Screaming Goat	8TH GRADE - RHMS Grace Yule The Girl Who Learned to Stay
3RD GRADE - RHES Elizabeth Ross Bloom Little Flower	7TH GRADE - RHMS Emery Godineaux 2 nd Place
5TH GRADE - MES Zoe Oliver Downed and Dead	6TH GRADE - RHMS Woojoo Choi The Bloody Catalyst

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

- The board appointed Marianne Smith to serve as the board delegate and Amy Murphy to serve as the alternate for the 2026 GSBA Summer Conference.
- The board will check calendars for June 8th to confirm attendance at the summer conference workshop in Savannah that will go towards six hours of required board training.
- Ms. Aguirre will be sending out a calendar survey to determine open dates to begin scheduling Superintendent interviews.
- The 75th celebration for GSBA Region 1 will be held at Richmond Hill High School on May 4th.
- Elizabeth Norman with the Tos Theatre has made a request for our board to write a letter of support as part of the grant process. The board will work on writing a letter to submit.
- Ms. Murphy attended the COSSBA national conference last week that focused on transformative leadership of public education through times of significant change.
- Board norms will be reviewed in depth for any changes prior to this year's approval.

BOARD MEETING - MARCH 26, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Bryan County Schools received some exciting news received from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. Bryan County Schools is the 3rd most financial efficient school system out of 180 districts in the state of Georgia based on the release of the newest Financial Efficiency Ratings.
- Dr. Brooksher invited the principal of Frances Meeks Elementary School, Mr. Josh Cooper, to speak. Mr. Cooper gave an overview of highlights from this year that followed their three student goals: Intentional Instruction, Authentic Relationships, and Meaningful Experiences. Under Authentic Relationships, he shared information about Pawsitive 100, which recognizes positive behaviors throughout the school. This program was introduced this year and has been extremely successful for both students and staff.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ACTION ITEMS:

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

- The 2026 February Financial Report
- Approval for the board chair and board vice-chair to sign off on an intergovernmental agreement between the Bryan County School District and Bryan County to conduct a special election held between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026
- Approval of the FY2026 General Fund Budget Amendment
- Approval of the purchase of a 35-ton rooftop A/C unit from Mingledorffs, Inc. in the amount of \$92,430.00 for Richmond Hill Elementary School
- Appointment for Ms. Marianne Smith as delegate and Ms. Amy Murphy as alternate at the 2026 GSBA Summer Conference
- Approval to discard buses and mowers as presented
- Approval of the following field trips:
 - Richmond Hill High School:
 - Spanish IV class
 - Student council leadership
 - Frances Meeks Elementary School:
 - 5th grade class trip