

BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monthly Newsletter of Bryan County School Board

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD:

Greetings from the Board of Education.

This month the Board of Education held a day long work session. The board reviewed our Strategic Plan, including goals related to planning for future facilities, responsible financial stewardship, student safety, and student achievement. Of note, we took an in depth look at our ongoing projected growth and the short term and long term needs of our school district.



Bryan County is projected to add over 1500 new students by 2031. Short term needs include expanding McAllister Elementary and Bryan County Elementary, building an additional middle school in South Bryan and building a replacement Bryan County High School. Longer range needs include new elementary schools in both North and South Bryan.

The board also began the timeline for our FY 2027 budgeting. The process of developing our budget begins at the school level with staffing needs at individual schools. As a reminder, the board tentatively approves our budget in May and votes on the final budget in June.

As our district's focus is always on student success, the board reviewed the newly released CCRPI scores. Based on the most recent Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) scores, Bryan County Schools continues to be the top performing district in our region and remains in the top 3% in comparison to the other 180 Georgia school districts.

A huge thank you to everyone who works hard for our students. We remain incredibly grateful to our teachers and staff. Our students' success is behind every decision we make and we are incredibly proud that our some of the most recent content mastery scores are the highest in Bryan County history!

Lastly, this month our long time Superintendent, Dr. Paul Brooksher, announced his plans for retirement at the end of this school year. While most Superintendents serve an average of 4 years, Dr. Brooksher is one of the longest serving Superintendents in Georgia. During his 14-year tenure, his tireless attention to doing what is best for students is unparalleled. As a champion for teachers and staff, his leadership has been a driving factor in our district's ability to recruit and retain high quality employees. Dr. Brooksher has led Bryan County Schools to its highest academic success in history, becoming a top 10 school district, all while managing significant growth.

The board is currently in the beginning phase of our search for the next Superintendent of Bryan County Schools. We look forward to collecting input from our community and our staff. Please be on the lookout for a survey that will be coming soon. We hope all our employees and parents will take time to provide feedback.

Your partner in education,

*Bryan County
Board of Education*

BOARD WORK SESSION - JANUARY 17, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- A mid-year review with all coordinators, directors, principals, and assistant superintendents was held January 13th and included an overview of what each division is working on as part of their strategic plan. Information shared during this meeting will be shared with the board during the work session.

DIVISION OF OPERATIONS UPDATES

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

- The board was updated on the balanced scorecard for each strategic goal under Operations.
- Capital project planning involves looking at enrollment trends, capacity in each building, and growth projections based on data analysis. The information is then used to best utilize funding and stay ahead of the curve.
- Bryan County Schools averages 221 new students per year.
- Our greatest need right now is relief for Richmond Hill Middle School and McAllister Elementary School.
- Richmond Hill Middle Schools has 2,111 students meeting the capacity of the building and causing some teachers to float among classrooms to teach students.
- Bryan County will need the largest gains from its current housing supply totals by 2030 to meet expected demand, which equates to a 40% increase in housing units.
- Fortunately, Bryan County has never had significant growth on both ends of the county at one time.
- One of our biggest challenges right now is determining how big Bryan County High School will need to be and to plan for it.
- Short term projects that are needed are the Early Learning Center's renovation, McAllister Elementary School's expansion, a second middle school in Richmond Hill, a new Bryan County High School, and a wing addition to Bryan County Elementary School. These projects will require approximately \$182 million dollars to complete.
- Long term needed projects are a South Bryan Operations Center, a North Bryan Operations Center, a new South Bryan Elementary, a new North Bryan Elementary, and Bryan County Middle School's rebuild and expansion. These projects will require approximately \$321 million dollars to complete.
- We have increased our bus ridership in South Bryan by 1,570 students over the last couple of years, which is a 65.6% increase.
- The transportation tier adjustments in South Bryan have reduced the time of afternoon bus loading, allowed students to get home sooner, saved in fuel costs, and has improved the climate, culture and staff retention for administration.
- Our bus ridership in North Bryan is 876.

DIVISION OF BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATES

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

- The board was updated on the balanced scorecard for each strategic goal under Business Services.
- Handouts were given on Read United, which is on January 30th, Bragging on Bryan County Schools Winter edition that will go out next week, and the quarterly donation report for October through December.
- The district will be reviewing the governor's budget and discussing the impacts of the budget at our February work session.
- Finance stays in close collaboration with Human Resources, Principals, and Directors regarding staffing. Each vacated position is reviewed before the position is filled.
- The budget timeline for FY2027 was shared. The board will take action to approve the final FY2027 budget at the June 25th board meeting.
- The finance department is researching expansion of electronic payments and reimbursement processes to employees.
- Social media engagement reached 1.2 million views this year.
- Top content for last year was weather updates and for this year was the opening of the new Richmond Hill High School.
- New signage has been installed at Community Education, School Nutrition, the Instructional Support Center, and the new Bryan County High School site.
- ESPLOST education will be important over the next few months leading up to the election. Early voting begins April 27th.



DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES

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

- The board was updated on the balanced scorecard for each strategic goal under Student Services.
- Before and after school programs are offered at Bryan County Elementary, Frances Meeks Elementary, McAllister Elementary, Richmond Hill Primary, and Richmond Hill Elementary schools.
- There are currently 18 high school student interns working in ASP classrooms
- Richmond Hill Middle School ASP students participate in youth mentoring programs for younger students.
- 1,900 students enrolled in community education classes with the enrollment projected to increase 3% this year.
- Bryan County Schools has two crisis counselors on staff that provide immediate mental health support for students in crisis at each grade level.
- The crisis counselors work collaboratively with school administrators, school counselors, and families and community mental health partners.
- Three social workers on staff that participate in support teams to address school-related concerns such as mental and behavioral health and attendance.
- Student services support students who are homeless and in foster care.
- The district has two residency officers who conduct home visits to deliver materials and supplies, and to check on students with attendance concerns. Officers may also conduct investigations on student residency as requested by administration.
- Bryan Academy is the alternative schools that currently has 42 students enrolled with a total of 80 total students having attended since the beginning of the school year. During first semester, 8 students graduated from Bryan Academy.
- Dr. Eileen Emerson is the Transition Coordinator who works with the students that are part of the Transition Education Program. This program gives students the opportunity to remain with the transition program after their requirement at Bryan Academy is complete. We've had 16 total students this school year and four graduates.
- All schools and building sites have been provided APEX 900 radios to have available for when cellular lines and other types of communication are down.
- All school safety plans have been updated to meet GEMA/HS and GaDOE requirements.



DIVISION OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION UPDATES

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

- The board was updated on the balanced scorecard for each strategic goal under Curriculum and Instruction.
- Content Mastery as part of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) showed increased percentages in all grade levels.
- The current graduation rate for Bryan County Schools is 94.6%.
- Bryan County Schools ranks in the top 3% of the state according to the College Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) single score received by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).
- Focus areas for Curriculum and Instruction are the new standards for ELA (GELAS), Literacy, Math, Science, Instructional Resources, CTAE, Co-teaching, and Instructional Lead Teachers. This division will soon be focusing on writing as well.
- Action teams include GELAS creation team, artificial intelligence, science, social studies, and standards-based grading.
- Bryan County Schools will be transitioning from MAP testing to iReady.
- The district offer over 20 CTAE pathways between the two high schools.
- Exceptional Students showed an increase in reading achievement at all levels.
- On January 27th, the district will celebrate the Teachers of the Year at a reception.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

- Ms. Murphy will be attending the Georgia School Boards Association's Legislative Date at the State Capitol on February 4th and 11th. This event provides local education leaders to engage directly with lawmakers. Dr. Brooksher will be attending on February 11th. Board members are to let Ms. Murphy know if they plan to attend either or both days.



BOARD MEETING - JANUARY 22, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Dr. Brooksher thanked all the parents and students in attendance and wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- Dr. Brooksher invited the principal of Richmond Hill Primary School, Ms. Cassie Cooper to speak. Ms. Cooper introduced Ms. Tori Byrd, art teacher. Ms. Byrd, along with many of her art students, facilitated an art lesson with the board. The students provided supplies along with assistance during the drawing portion. At the conclusion of the lesson, the board showcased their artwork to those in attendance.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ACTION ITEMS:

The following items were approved at the January 22, 2026 meeting:

- The 2025 December Financial Report
- Approval of Pope Construction as Construction Manager at Risk for an addition at McAllister Elementary School and for a second middle school in South Bryan County
- Approval of the resolution calling for a special election to authorize General Obligation Bonds and the Renewal of the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) on May 19th
- Field trip approvals for Richmond Hill High School's Chorus, Swim Team, Band, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Track and Field, Winter Guard, Boys and Girls Golf, and Gymnastics. Approvals for Richmond Hill Middle School's 7th and 8th grade Chorus and Girls Lacrosse.
- Facilities Use Request was approved for General Motors/BG Products to utilize space at Community Education Center on 2/10/26.

