

BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monthly Newsletter of Bryan County School Board

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD:

Greetings,

This month, the Board of Education was excited to celebrate an excellent start to the 2026-2027 school year. Thank you to all of our teachers and staff who worked behind the scenes to ensure a smooth transition back to school.



As Bryan County Schools continues to grow, the board remains focused on preparing for this ongoing growth. The addition to McAllister Elementary remains on track, as well as the new Bryan County High School. Bryan County High has recently had a few design changes, which include increasing the theatre size and adding a courtyard to the cafeteria. These final tweaks to get the best design possible are important before we begin the building process. Demolition of the west campus of the old Richmond Hill High School is being planned, as this will be the site of the new middle school in South Bryan.

Additionally, as we prepare for the future, the board remains focused on financial efficiency and financial stability. This month the board voted to adopt the rollback rate of 13.287 for our FY 27 budget. Thank you to our Finance Department - their hard work to review our final tax digest information helped us balance taxpayer impact with the needs of the district.

As a reminder, Bryan County Schools has asked for parent and staff for feedback regarding the 27-28 and 28-29 school calendars. Here is the link to share your preferences and comments:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T7WDXY6>

Lastly, the Board has recently received questions regarding continued growth and whether Richmond Hill High School is already nearing capacity. The school was intentionally designed to accommodate continued enrollment growth, and current enrollment remains well within the facility's planned capacity. In addition, our newer schools have been designed with future expansion in mind, allowing Bryan County Schools to respond thoughtfully as our community continues to grow.

Thank you to our parents and community partners for your ongoing support of Bryan County Schools.

*Bryan County
Board of Education*

BOARD WORK SESSION - AUGUST 20, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Mr. Miller shared the following information:

- Current enrollment is 10,836 students
- The Superintendent thanked Board members for attending the State of the Community event. He also recognized district directors and school staff for their contributions to a successful start to the 2026-2027 school year.
- The Superintendent recommended adoption of the full rollback millage rate after review of the final tax digest and the district's financial position.

DIVISION OF OPERATIONS UPDATES

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

- Operations reported a successful opening of the school year and recognized grounds, maintenance, and HVAC teams for their work across the district. Major capital projects continue to move forward, including the new Bryan County High School, the McAllister Elementary School addition, and planning for a new South Bryan middle school.
- Transportation reported a smooth start to the year, with route adjustments continuing as needed. Technology shared updates related to emergency communications at Richmond Hill High School and future telecommunications services in South Bryan.

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES

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

- Student Services highlighted continued implementation of Tip411 and Centegix, ongoing residency verification efforts, and positive early feedback regarding student cell phone procedures.
- Community Education continues to expand programming and transportation options between North and South Bryan. New signage for Bryan Academy has also been installed.

DIVISION OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION UPDATES

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

- Curriculum and Instruction reported that Bryan County Schools continues to perform among the strongest districts in Georgia, ranking within the top 10% statewide overall and among the top 3% on several measures. Comparative GMAS data also place the district near the top among districts with similar demographics.
- Additional 2025-2026 assessment data are expected later this fall. Eighth-grade science remains an area of focus, with instructional strategies and support being reviewed for the 2026-2027 school year.
- The district is gathering stakeholder feedback to help guide future school calendar development.



DIVISION OF BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATES

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

- Business Services reviewed the district's financial position and recommended adoption of the full rollback millage rate. The district will continue to monitor financial conditions and plan responsibly for current needs and future growth.
- The division also reviewed routine budget and staffing matters to ensure resources remain aligned with district needs.
- School Nutrition reported increased meal participation across the district. The Executive Team also reviewed proposed Media Coverage Procedures, and updated millage-rate information has been posted on the district website.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

- The Board reviewed its existing Norms and Protocols, including expectations for school visits and capital project/construction site visits.
- The Board supported a request for Ms. Amy Murphy to participate in a September NAACP presentation.
- The Board reviewed proposed revisions to Policy GARH related to employee leave. The policy may be presented for action in September.
- The Board reviewed proposed revisions to Policy BCBI, Public Participation in Board Meetings. Items under consideration include establishing timelines to sign up to speak at board meetings, ensuring consistent application of provisions involving guardians of minors, and clarifying procedures associated with recording meetings.

BOARD MEETING - AUGUST 27, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Mr. Miller shared the following information:

- The Georgia Chamber invited Mr. Miller to participate in its State of Rural Prosperity presentation on September 30 to highlight the Bryan Early Education (BEE) Childcare Program.
- Mr. Miller plans to attend the Development Authority Strategic Planning meeting on September 21 in Darien.
- Mr. Miller is gathering additional information on current tax abatements and will share an update with the Board.
- Mr. Miller highlighted Policy JCAC and plans to provide additional information at the September work session.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ACTION ITEMS:

The following items were approved at the August 27, 2026 meeting:

- The July 2026 Financial Report
- Approved the M&O Rollback Millage Rate from 14.667 to 13.287
- Approved Debt Service Millage Rate to remain at 1.5 mills
- Policy GARH - Employee Leaves and Absences
- Policy BCBI - Public Participation in Board Meetings
- Field Trip approvals for Richmond Hill High School, Bryan County Middle High School, and Richmond Hill Middle School
- Facility Approvals for First District RESA and Federal Bureau of Investigation