

# BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Monthly Newsletter of Bryan County School Board

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD:

Greetings,

We hope the month of September was full of learning and fun for students as well as full of opportunities for families and community members to support students in the classroom or on the field. Thank you to Carver Elementary for hosting our September Regular Meeting.



This month the Board of Education approved our training schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. Did you know that school board members are the only elected officials required by law to complete annual training every year? New school board members must complete 15 hours of training their first year and board members with one or more years of service are required to complete 9 hours of training a year.

The board also continues to receive updates on our capital projects plans. The Guaranteed Maximum Price for the addition at McAllister Elementary was approved. Also, Canoochee EMC was approved as the power provider for the new Bryan County High School. Both of these projects remain on schedule.

Thank you to parents, staff and students who took the time to complete the calendar survey. This month the board reviewed all feedback and the final calendar schedules for 27-28 and 28-29 will be released soon.

Lastly, congratulations to all Bryan County employees as our graduation rate at 94.4% remains nearly six percentage points above the state average of 88.8%!"

*Bryan County  
Board of Education*

# **BOARD WORK SESSION - SEPTEMBER 17, 2026**

## **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

- Mr. Miller welcomed members of the Aspiring Leaders program and provided an update on district enrollment and progress toward the goals outlined in his 90-Day Entry Plan.
- Updates focused on school visits, advisory councils, academic performance, financial stewardship, student safety, leadership, and enhanced communication across all stakeholder groups.

## **DIVISION OF OPERATIONS UPDATES**

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

- Mr. Hodges introduced his staff to provide updates regarding facilities, transportation, utilities, and ongoing capital projects.
- The Board discussed the HVAC replacement project at Richmond Hill Elementary School and requested additional information regarding vendor references prior to consideration of approval at the 9/24/26 BOE Meeting.
- The Board reviewed the proposed electrical service provider for the new Bryan County High School and received updates regarding the new South Bryan Middle School, the new Bryan County High School, and the Early Learning Center.
- Mr. Hodges shared that BOE approval will be requested for the following items at the upcoming BOE Meeting on 9/24/26:
  - Request for Approval for Pope Construction to provide classroom additions at McAllister Elementary School at a Guaranteed Maximum Price not to exceed \$7,591,023.
  - Request for Approval for Canoochee EMC as the electrical service provider for the new Bryan County High School.
  - Request for Approval for (4) school buses to be purchased from Peach State Truck Centers through state contract pricing (\$631,038).

## **DIVISION OF BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATES**

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

- Debi McNeal provided updates regarding Georgia Pre-K Week, National School Lunch Week, enrollment/FTE reporting, employee benefits, and applicable Board policy review.
- District enrollment remains near projected levels for the 2026-2027 school year.

## **DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES**

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

- Dr. Scott provided an attendance update and highlighted ongoing efforts by schools, counselors, social workers, and support staff to address chronic absenteeism. Particular attention is being given to attendance patterns in kindergarten and ninth grade.
- Dr. Marcy Smith, Director of Community Education, reported continued expansion of Community Education programming, with approximately 75 course offerings and more than 300 sections. Staff also discussed opportunities to expand adult, weekend, and family programming.

## **DIVISION OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION UPDATES**

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

- The Board reviewed results from the district calendar survey, which received approximately 2,500 responses. Feedback included preferences regarding holiday schedules, school start dates, half-days, military calendar alignment, and advance communication of calendar changes. Staff will use the feedback in developing calendar recommendations for the next two school years.
- Dr. Bennett provided an update on the Aspiring Leaders program and provided members an opportunity to introduce themselves and share reflections regarding their participation in the program.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES**

- The Board reviewed its norms and protocols, the FY27 Board Training Plan, and information related to the GSBA Winter Conference.

## **BOARD MEETING - SEPTEMBER 24, 2026**

### **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

Mr. Miller shared the following information:

- Mr. Miller met with the South Bryan Advisory Council today and had a great conversation reflecting on the great work happening across our school system while also listening to valuable feedback from community members on how we can continue to grow and improve.
- Mr. Miller turned it over to Karen Smith, Principal of George Washington Carver Elementary School. She welcomed everyone to Carver and shared about year two of the Richmond Hill Elementary and Carver Elementary schools, focusing on building a 2-5 learning experience centered around clarity, consistency, trust, and connection across both campuses, as well as accountability and equity.
- Instructional Lead Teachers Elisabeth Nelly and Brooke Bartlam presented on what their recent curriculum night entailed, highlighting opportunities for families to explore learning across both campuses; connect with special areas, counselors, and support staff; understand the connection between daily instruction and End of Grade/Milestones assessments; and allow families to experience the district curriculum firsthand.
- The Board members and Mr. Miller then experienced the Book Bistro and/or Wildcat Math Lab led by 4th and 5th grade Carver Elementary students.



# BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## ACTION ITEMS:

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

- August 2026 Financial Report
- Pope Construction to provide classroom additions at McAllister Elementary School for a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) not to exceed \$7,591,023.
- Authorize the superintendent to sign a contract with Canoochee EMC to serve as the power provider for the new Bryan County High School.
- Ogeechee Heating and Air as the winning bidder to purchase and install a 40-ton rooftop A/C unit at Richmond Hill Elementary School for \$143,929.
- The purchase of up to three 72-passenger Type C school buses and one Type C school bus outfitted with a chair lift from Peach State Truck Centers utilizing state contract pricing for a total amount of \$631,038.
- Approved the FY27 Board Training Plan
- Field Trips approvals for Richmond Hill High School and Richmond Hill Middle School
- Facility Approval for Coastal Athletics

