

October 2, 2026

Dear Macon R-1 Community,

The Board of Education had a special open session meeting Tuesday evening. At this meeting, the superintendent explained that the district is low enough on operating funds that we cannot support our currently budgeted expenses through the end of the year. He asked that the BOE approve a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) in the amount of \$3.3m to cash flow operations and payroll for the rest of this calendar year.

A Tax Anticipation Note is a short-term loan that is borrowed against the local property tax revenue that is paid to schools beginning in January. The school district will pay interest on this borrowed amount, with the option of paying it off early to save on interest. The district expects to receive approximately \$4m in local revenue early in 2027, and will use this to pay off the TAN.

School districts also receive state revenue to support their operations. This amount is estimated for the entire year and divided up evenly and distributed on a monthly basis. At the beginning of this fiscal year, the state announced that they would be reducing the amount of money per student that is sent to public schools. This has decreased the amount of state funding we are receiving each month.

As a school board, we would like to offer you some background to this situation. In the last 24 months, the district did a major repair job on the brick work and windows in the Middle School. While this was a project that was in dire need of completion it was very costly. More recently, we completed a remodel of the Central Office (formerly a MODOT building) that added preschool, alternative, and special education classrooms to our campus. These projects used a significant amount of the money the district had kept in reserves.

Each member of the Macon R-1 Board of Education understands that local people are funding our school and we are devoted to being good stewards of those funds. As a board, we want you to know how seriously we are taking this situation and let you know we are committed to analyzing programs, budgets, efficiencies, and reducing spending. At the August 18, 2026 Board meeting, the BOE approved having a third party complete a financial evaluation, and once that evaluation is complete, we will use this information to make careful decisions in the future. Last, we are committed to being transparent; the BOE welcomes discussion over this topic and invites all patrons to attend our public meetings.

Sincerely,

The Macon R-1 Board of Education

Dr. Stacy Quinn, President

Lydia McClellan, Vice President

Bruce Weimer, Treasurer

Greg Bruno

Millicent Dawdy

Nick Dille

Donny Wyatt