



BOARD BRIEFING

An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office



Public Session 1/14/25

Welcome

- Mr. Bill Bittinger, Clerk of the Court, administered the Oath of Office for Mr. Matthew Trezise (newly elected) and Mr. Tom Woods (reelected).



- Mr. Tom Woods was reelected as the President of the Board. Mr. Rodney Glotfelty was reelected as the Vice President of the Board.

Continuing Business

- Dr. Nicole Miller, Chief Academic Officer and Blueprint Coordinator, requested Board action on the GCPS Strategic Plan which is aligned with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future 2024-27. She answered various questions from the Board. The Board voted unanimously in favor of adopting the plan.
- Dr. Brenda McCartney, Superintendent, discussed updates to the FY2024-25 School Calendar based on recent school closings due to inclement weather. She elaborated on how calls are made as needed, and the Board was complimentary of this method.

Student Board Member Report

Ms. Cadence Natividad, the Student Member of the Board, was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. McCartney shared the following updates on her behalf:

Student Reports

- Athletics—Haylee Sisler and Terry Lewis won Gold Medals in Bowling at the State Special Olympics. Emma Hostetler (NGHS) won Soccer Player of the Year.
- Serenity Bunner was selected as a student page for the MD State Page Program.

Student Council (GCASC)

- GCASC will hold its Executive Board meeting on January 21, 2025.
- The General Assembly (GA) is scheduled to meet in February at Hickory.
- President Kambria Kyle and Ms. Natividad attended the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) Executive Board meeting.
- The Winter Leadership Conference will occur on January 25th at Walter John High School.
- Broad Ford Elementary—met with Youth in Action to discuss upcoming projects.
- Southern Garrett High School—Grades 7 & 8 held a canned food drive for a local food pantry. Grades 9-12 hosted the student council's annual holiday light show at Broadford Park. Additionally, they will be using anti-vaping grant funds to host a speaker who will present a message to multiple groups, including schools and the public. Additionally, they participated in Operation Gift Giving and are planning the Winter Homecoming.
- Northern Middle—hosted a toy drive for the WVU Children's Hospital. They are planning a friendship Valentine Gram Exchange for students. Additionally, they were selected as a spotlight school for a virtual visit with author Jasmine Warga.
- Northern Garrett High—planning 6th Man club/spirit nights for basketball. They will also conduct a Valentine's Day wooden rose sale.

SMOB Initiatives/Agenda

- Ms. Natividad spoke at the "Your School, Your Voice" rally on the importance of youth voting. She will also attend Divisional

Caucus (1) meetings, connecting with other regional leaders.

Additional Info

- She Southern Garrett Marching Band will host the 2nd Annual "Showcase of Legos" on January 25th.

While not in the report, Dr. McCartney shared that Ms. Natividad is one of the top five finalists to serve as the Student Member of the Board for the State Board of Education for SY2025-26.

Board Business

- Mr. Tom Woods, Board President, requested a motion to approve the second Tuesday of every month for the Board meeting date and 4:00 pm start time for the Executive Session. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this measure. Locations will continue alternating between the northern and southern ends of the county unless otherwise announced.
- Mr. Woods requested a motion to approve Mr. Brandon Hoover, Attorney Costello & Hoover LLC, as the Board's Legal Counsel. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this request.
- The Board discussed GCPS and MABE committee assignments for FY2025. Board members will fill vacancies and make other adjustments in coordination with Mrs. Karen Brewer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and GCBOE.
- Mrs. Sadie Liller attended the holiday light show at Broadford Park, hosted by the SGHS Student Council. She was very complimentary of the display. She also indicated she will attend the upcoming anti-vaping presentation.
- Mr. Rodney Glotfelty attended a MABE Legislative Committee meeting. He will keep the Board apprised of legislation for the 2025 legislative session.
- Mr. Woods announced a White Coat Ceremony will be conducted at the Performing Arts Center of Garrett College at 6:00 p.m. on January 28, 2025.

Superintendent Updates

Dr. McCartney provided the following updates:

- She thanked students, staff, and parents for their adaptability and cooperation with the first virtual learning day of the school year. She also provided some background

information that plays a part in the decision-making process.

- She noted the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, expressing that all schools and offices will be closed.
- Dr. McCartney also reminded everyone that February 17th and April 21st have been submitted to the State Board for use as make-up days. An announcement will be made publicly once this request is acted upon.
- She reminded everyone of the Professional Day (91st Day), which was adjusted due to inclement weather days. The most current information is available on our website and GCPS Google Calendar.
- Last, she announced the Cool Schools Dunk will occur on Thursday, February 20, 2025.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, in the Community Room of the Dennett Road Educational Complex in Oakland, MD. The executive session will start at 4:00 p.m., and the public session will start at 6:00 p.m. Details of the meeting will be announced ahead of time.