



# BOARD BRIEFING

An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office



## Public Session 2/11/25

### New Business

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources and Chair of the Calendar Committee, presented the committee's proposed 2025-26 GCPS Calendar to the Board for review. The draft calendar is available for public feedback from February 12, 2025, to March 7, 2025. She provided some clarification on the calendar development for the Board. The Board is expected to take action on the calendar at the March 11, 2025, meeting.
- Mr. Paul Edwards, Director of Secondary Education, requested Board approval to set May 28, 2025, as the last day for seniors. Dr. Brenda McCartney recommended approval of this date, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the measure.

### Continuing Business

- Ms. Gloria Smith, Director of Finance, presented an update regarding state aid revenue for the FY2025-26 budget. She answered various questions from the Board. This was an informational presentation.
- Dr. Jane Wildesen recommended June 9, 10, and 11, 2025, for Board approval as make-up days due to inclement weather closings. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of these make-up days, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of these days. *As previously approved, she also noted February 17th and April 21st as make-up days.*
- Dr. Brenda McCartney, Superintendent, presented her recommendation regarding the northern area proposal, along with Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of System Operations, and Dr. Nicole Miller, Chief Academic Officer. They responded to different questions from the Board. The Board is expected to act on this proposal during the March meeting.

### Public Comment

- Mrs. Terah Crawford, a parent, spoke about the Northern Area Proposal.
- Mr. Jason VanSickle, a parent, spoke about the Northern Area Proposal.
- Mrs. Jes Brown, a parent, spoke about the Northern Area Proposal.
- Mrs. Janet Taylor, a Bus Contractor and Grandparent, spoke about the Northern Area Proposal.

### Student Board Member Report

Ms. Cadence Natividad, the Student Member of the Board, shared the following updates:

#### Student Reports

- All schools (6-12) are raising funds to participate in the Cool Schools Dunk on February 20th.
- SH students Jared Haskell and Carly Wilt scored their 1000-point marks in basketball. Additionally, Ben Nazelrod got his 100th win in wrestling.
- Both SH and one NH unified bocce teams placed first in their divisions at the regional tournament. They now advance to the state championship.
- NH & SH students in the PLTW Biomed pathway recently earned their white coats.
- Four students from NH and SH have been selected to participate in the WVU Invitational Honor Bands.

#### Student Council (GCASC)

- GCASC had its executive board meeting on January 30th.
- President Kambria Kyle was recently accepted into West Point Military Academy.
- The February General Assembly will be held on February 18th at Hickory.
- Broad Ford Elementary—met with Youth in Action to discuss upcoming projects. They are also creating a play to educate 2nd graders on the importance of not vaping.
- Southern Garrett High School—Grades 7 & 8 are planning a St. Patrick's Day event.

They are assisting teachers in a 100<sup>th</sup>-day activity. And they recently completed a canned food drive.

Grades 9-12 rescheduled their anti-vaping presentation. Winter Homecoming was held on February 1<sup>st</sup>. They are planning for Pi Day (3/14/25) and for a blood drive scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Northern Middle—students are taking grade-level trips to go ice skating, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are completing their History Day projects and will hold the school competition on March 7<sup>th</sup>. They also held a Valentine's Dance, raising money for their spring musical, "Aladdin."
- Northern Garrett High—students are selling wooden roses for Valentine's Day. They are planning a color run/field day for the Spring. They also hosted the Travel Mug and Katie's Ice Cream for students.

#### **SMOB Initiatives/Agenda**

- Ms. Natividad spoke at the "Your School, Your Voice" rally on the importance of youth voting. She plans to attend Divisional Caucus (1) meetings, connecting with other regional leaders.

#### **Additional Info**

- College and Career Open Houses:
  - SHS Wednesday, ~~February 12<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm~~ rescheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm
  - NHS Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm
- NHS JROTC Cash Bash will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Board Business**

- Ms. Gloria Smith, Director of Finance, requested the Board retain The Rodeheaver Group, LLC, for the FY2025 annual audit. Superintendent McCartney recommended approval of the firm. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this selection.
- Mr. Rodney Glotfelty attended an MABE legislative meeting. Much of their focus was on the state budget cuts. He shared a summary of the meeting with the Board members and the Superintendent.
- Mr. Matthew Trezise visited Accident Elementary and Northern Middle with Dr. McCartney.
- Mrs. Sadie Liller visited Accident Elementary recently as well.

#### **Superintendent Updates**

Dr. McCartney provided the following updates:

- She reminded the public of the open enrollment period for our Pre-K and Kindergarten programs for 2025-26.
- She reiterated the upcoming make-up days. Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, Apr 21<sup>st</sup>, and June 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. She stressed the importance of attendance on these days.
- She reminded everyone of the Cool Schools Dunk on Thursday, February 20, 2025. All funds raised benefit the Garrett County Unified Sports.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at Northern Middle School Cafeteria in Accident, MD. The executive session will start at 2:00 p.m., the Budget Work Session at 3:45 p.m., and the public session at 6:00 p.m. Details of the meeting will be announced ahead of time.