



# BOARD BRIEFING

An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office



## Public Session 3/11/25

### Recognitions

- On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Sadie Liller recognized Ms. Abigail Georg, a Southern Garrett High School student whose artwork was selected for the 2024 GCPS holiday card. Abigail is a 9th-grade student and she designed a candle and wreath centerpiece with a Merry Christmas message for this year's card.



- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Matthew Trezise recognized Northern Garrett High School's Unified Flag Football Team for winning the State Skills Competition on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, in Baltimore, MD.



- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Rodney Glotfelty recognized Ms. Kambria Kyle, a senior at Northern Garrett High School, who has accepted an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., with a report date of June 30, 2025.



### New Business

- Mrs. Candy Maust, Supervisor of Instruction - Elementary Education, and Mrs. Amy Warnick, Supervisor of Instruction - Secondary Education, presented five sets of instructional materials to the Board for review. The instructional materials will be available for review online or at the Ruth Enlow Library of Grantsville and Oakland through April 1, 2025, before the Board takes action on these items at its April meeting.

### Policies and Procedures

- Mr. Jeff Gank, Director of Technology and Cybersecurity, presented the revised GBEE Acceptable and Responsible Use of Technological Resources for Employees Procedure to the Board.
- Mrs. Rebecca Aiken, School Health Nurse Manager, presented recommended revisions to the JLCC Communicable Diseases and Related Conditions of Public Health Importance Policy and Procedure. Mrs. Aiken also presented recommended revisions to the JLCDA Opiate Response Policy and Procedure. Finally, Mrs. Aiken presented recommended revisions to the JLCEB Automated External Defibrillator Policy and Procedure. She provided clarification and answered questions from the Board. These policies were a first read. The Board is expected to act on these during the April Board meeting.

## **Public Comment**

- Mrs. Terah Crawford, a parent, addressed the Board regarding the anonymity of the calendar feedback and expressed gratitude for the work involved in the Northern Area Proposal.
- Mr. Michael Henderson, a community member, addressed the Board regarding charter school status.

## **Continuing Business**

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources and Chair of the Calendar Committee, recommended the Board approve June 12, 2025, as a revised make-up day for this school year, as February 17<sup>th</sup> was not utilized as a make-up day due to inclement weather. The Board voted unanimously to approve this make-up day.
- Dr. Wildesen also recommended the Board approve the proposed FY2025-26 School Calendar as developed by the GCPS Calendar Committee and revised based on feedback from the public. The Superintendent recommended approval of the post-Labor Day start for the calendar. There was a motion to change Veterans' Day to a day off from school, which failed after discussion. The Board voted 3-1 to approve the post-Labor Day calendar, attending a full day on Veterans' Day.

## **Student Board Member Report**

Ms. Cadence Natividad, the Student Member of the Board, could not attend this meeting. On her behalf, Mr. Tom Woods shared the following updates:

### **Student Reports**

- GaCo won this past weekend's FIRST Chesapeake - Pasadena Qualifier while also walking away with the Engineering Inspiration Award.
- Four students from FFA are advancing to the MD State Convention this summer.
- Students across the county raised over \$36k for the Cool Schools Dunk.

### **Student Council (GCASC)**

- Rescheduled February GA – Moved to March 4 at Hickory.

- How to Be an Officer Night – March 19 at 7 PM
- Executive Board Meeting – 6 PM
- County Leadership Elections – April 7 at the PAC, voting on new county leadership
- Donation Drive: Collecting donations for hygiene kits for the Dove Center

**SH Grades 7-8:** They are holding a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser. They celebrated 100 days of school with a nacho bar for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Additionally, they are working on Teacher appreciation for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

**SH Grades 9-12:** Student Council held a Blood Drive on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. They have continued anti-vaping discussions/initiatives. Elections will be held soon. A final blood drive is being planned for a date in April. Students participated in Spread the Word Inclusion Day.

**NX:** Students raised funds and purchased items for WVU Children's Hospital. Quarter 3 was kicked off with a treat at lunch for students. Students participated in Spread the Word Inclusion Day. They are also planning for Spring Pro-Play activities.

**NH:** Completed the Valentine's Wooden Rose sale. They are working on a Dawg Pound social media page for fans. There are plans to use the anti-vaping grant funds—the purchase of vape detectors has occurred. They are planning a blood drive for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Plans are being made for Field Day. They are also planning elections for next year's officers and graduation gifts for seniors.

### **SMOB Initiatives/Agenda**

- Ms. Natividad is attending the MASC Convention, representing Garrett County. She has been making school visits. Additionally, she attended the Divisional Caucus meeting, connecting with other students from our region.

### **Additional Info**

- Ms. Natividad attended the NH JROTC Cash Bash. The event had a great turnout.
- Students from NH & SH competed in the State Bocce Tournament on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Board Business**

- Mrs. Sadie Liller attended the anti-vaping presentation at Southern High.

## **Superintendent Updates**

Dr. McCartney provided the following updates:

- She reminded the public that Science testing is underway for grades 5 and 8 students. The testing window is March 3-21, 2025. Please refer to your local school calendar for school-specific dates. Spring Administration of MCAP English Language Arts (ELA) Grades 3-8 and 10; and MCAP Mathematics Grades 3-8, Algebra I & II, and Geometry will occur April 7-May 30, 2025.
- She shared that GCPS outperformed all other districts in Maryland in both favorable student and educator perceptions.
- She also shared that GCPS is among four school systems across Maryland to achieve an impressive 95% graduation rate for the 2023-2024 school year, which is the highest rate the state awards.

## **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the Dennett Road Educational Complex in Oakland, MD. The executive session will start at 4:00 p.m. and the public session at 6:00 p.m. Details of the meeting will be announced ahead of time.