



# BOARD BRIEFING

An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office



## **Public Session**

### **New Business**

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, Operations, and Transportation, presented the recommended vendor, Keystone Sports, to the board to refinish the Northern Garrett and Southern Garrett High School gymnasium floors. He also presented the recommended vendor, Howard Shockey, to construct the storage facility at Broad Ford Elementary School. He explained the reasoning for the facility and the timeline for completion. He also noted that the subcontractor is a local vendor. Dr. Brenda McCartney recommended the approval of both vendors. Mr. Wesolowski answered various questions from Board members. The Board voted unanimously in favor of both selections.

### **Policies and Procedures**

- Mr. John Hummel, Director of Student Services, presented the revisions to the JCB Admission to School Out of Attendance Area Policy and Procedure to the Board. This was a first read. No action was taken.
- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, presented the revised GCBDA Family Medical Leave Act Procedure to the Board.
- On behalf of Mr. Scott Germain, Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services, Dr. McCartney discussed the retirement of EFJ Food Service Satelliting Program Policy and Procedure. Additionally, she recommended the retirement of the EFAAA School Lunch Procedure. Stating that it should be retired as other COMAR and federal regulations cover all of EFAAA's rules and regulations for school lunches. Last, she recommended the retirement of KGAB Serving Dinners - Banquets to Non-School Related Groups Procedure. Each of these was a first read. Therefore, the Board took no action.

### **Continuing Business**

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, recommended the Board adopt the proposed SY2024-25 School Calendar. Dr. McCartney provided an update that was recently received regarding virtual learning days that will affect make-up snow days. The Board provided several comments and a question about the calendar. The Board voted 3-1 to amend the calendar to have Autumn Glory as a day off. The Board then voted 3-1 in favor of this amended calendar.
- Mrs. Megan Knepp, Community School Specialist at Yough Glades Elementary, and Mr. John Hummel, Director of Student Services, presented on Community Schools to the Board and how Yough Glades has implemented programming. This is part of Pillar 4 of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Board asked several questions. No action was taken as this was an informational topic.

### **Public Comment**

- Pastor William Skipper, a community member, addressed the Board regarding two issues.
- Mr. Kevin Lyons, a parent, addressed the Board regarding a student concern.
- Mrs. Whitney Lyons, a parent, spoke to the Board about a student concern.
- Ms. Cathy Snyder, a grandparent, addressed the Board regarding a student concern.
- Mr. Paul Snyder, a grandparent, addressed the Board regarding a student concern.
- Mr. Jonathan Yoder, president of the Swan Meadow PTO, spoke to the Board regarding the Swan Meadow Heritage Charter School.
- Mrs. Arlene Lantz, a former teacher and charter school committee member, spoke to the Board about the Swan Meadow Heritage Charter School.
- Mr. Jeremy Gosnell, a parent, spoke to the Board about an issue at a local school and activities that occur across the state.

### **Continuing Business**

- Dr. Brenda McCartney, Interim Superintendent, recommended the approval of the Swan Meadow Heritage Charter School

Application and the development of a contract that includes reasonable benchmarks for preparedness to open for the 2025-2026 school year, thus allowing for the development of final implementation plans. Dr. McCartney answered various questions from the Board, which voted unanimously in favor of approving the application.

- Ms. Gloria Smith, Director of Finance, presented information to the Board regarding the SY2024-25 Draft Superintendent's Budget. She elaborated on the budget process to date. Dr. McCartney and Board members provided comments related to the budget.

### **Student Member of the Board**

Ms. Hailey Wildesen, Student Member of the Board, shared the following updates:

#### **GCASC Business:**

- The Executive Board met recently to begin planning their final general assembly, which was set for April 11th and will include officer elections for the next school year and a visit with Mr. Germain.
- From February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>, several leaders attended the Maryland Association of Student Councils Convention in Ocean City to vote for state officers & SMOB, attend workshops, and more.
- The board is hosting a virtual *How to be an Officer* night on March 19th for potential candidates to learn the responsibilities and goals for each position.

#### **General Student Updates:**

- Students from across the county participated in the Cool Schools Dunk on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Northern High Class of 2024 hosted their spring fling.
- Southern & Northern High student councils hosted tours for upcoming freshmen.
- Several of the FLL robotics teams competed at the State competition.
- GACO also recently competed in the first qualifier of the season in Blacksburg, VA.
- Northern High's FFA has visited elementary schools to teach agricultural lessons.
- Northern & Southern Middle 8th grade students participated in the county National History Day competition.

### **Board Updates**

- Mr. Tom Woods attended the GCPS Foundation meeting. Thirteen individuals applied for mini-grants.
- Mr. Jason VanSickle participated in the "Real Deal" at NGMS & SGHS. He provided an overview of the events.

### **Superintendent Updates**

- Dr. McCartney provided an update on the Superintendent's Equity Advisory Board. She noted that forty applicants were received and ten were selected to serve on the Board.
- Mr. Paul Edwards will be forming a committee to explore the possibility of sports at the middle school level. The committee will work through the 2024-25 school year.
- School Improvement Plans have been updated and are available on each school's website page.
- She highlighted the Cool Schools Dunk participation, indicating that over \$45,000 was raised through this event. Southern Garrett Middle School was the top fundraising school, and Ms. Kyla Carr was the top fundraising individual. Funds from previous events allowed the implementation of Unified Bocce at the elementary level this year.
- She also made a statement regarding the Health Services program offered by GCPS. She stressed the level of care offered by the licensed nurses in place at each school.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the Dennett Road Educational Complex Community Room in Oakland, MD. Details will be announced ahead of time.