



BOARD BRIEFING

An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office



Public Session 3/14/22

Announcements

- 3/20 Staff Development – Three-hour early dismissal for students
- 3/22 MABE Board Service Academy – Crisis Communication How-Tos for Boards of Education 9:00 am-12:00 pm (virtual)
- 3/30 Northern Area Community Meeting at Northern Middle School 6:00-7:30 pm
- 4/3 Presentation to the Garrett County Commissioners on GCPS' Blueprint for Maryland's Future Implementation and Budget Impact
- 4/6 Staff Development – Three-hour early dismissal for students
- 4/7 Good Friday – Schools closed
- 4/10 Easter Monday – Schools closed
- 4/11 Board of Education Meeting at Southern Garrett High School. Public session 6:00 pm.

Board Recognitions

- On behalf of the Board, Dr. Matthew Paugh recognized Mrs. Angela Biggs, Instructional Assistant at Swan Meadow School, for winning the 2023 'Friend of the Blind' Award by the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) on March 10, 2023.



- Mr. Jason VanSickle recognized Mr. Jacob Brenneman on behalf of the Board. He is a Senior at Northern Garrett High School, who won the MPSSAA Title 1A/2A State Wrestling Championship in 2023, 2022, and 2020, and the MDWAY Maryland State Championship in 2021. Coach Casey Kamp also attended the meeting to support Mr. Brenneman.



- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tom Woods recognized Ms. Barbara Baker for serving as Superintendent from July 2016 - June 2023. On February 28, 2023, Ms. Baker announced her retirement at the end of June 2023. He also recognized Dr. Matthew Paugh for his service to the Board and community. Dr. Paugh will be relocating to a different area on July 1, 2023.

Student Member of the Board

- Ms. Alexis Shaffer, Student Member of the Board, shared that the GCASC members met virtually on February 21st to plan the details for the Officers' positions for next school year.
- The February 15th General Assembly that was held at Garrett College was a huge success and they conducted SMOB candidate elections. At the meeting, a hygiene product drive was held. They collected over 250 products that were donated to the Dove Center.

Garrett County Board of Education Meeting – March 14, 2023

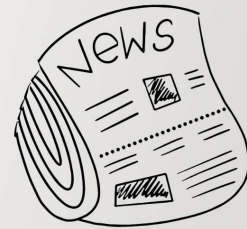
Prepared by: Public Relations Office

Board of Education Members: Mr. M. Thomas Woods, President; Mr. Rodney Glotfelty, Vice President; Mr. Joshua D. Hinebaugh, Dr. Matthew A. Paugh, and Mr. Jason E. VanSickle, Associate Members; Ms. Alexis X. Shaffer, Student Board Member; Ms. Barbara L. Baker, Superintendent; Mr. Brandon Hoover, Attorney



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- Ms. Shaffer talked to students regarding their opinions on the SY2023-24 Calendar. The feedback was mixed between both calendars, but many students expressed their liking for the post-Labor Day calendar.
- The next General Assembly meeting is scheduled for April 26th at Garrett College.
- On Wednesday, March 8th, GCASC members met at Oakland Library to create a display board about our Hygiene product drive. Some GCASC members attended the Make a Difference Youth Summit at Allegany College of Maryland. The students learned about programs offered at ACM, spoke with representatives to learn more about different service organizations in the community, and learned about different service projects students were doing.
- Southern High Student Council successfully finished organizing Winter Homecoming. They had a great turnout and many of the students really enjoyed the dance. They held a blood drive on March 6th at the school where they raised 68 pints that can save up to 157 lives. The blood drive was successful. There was a good turnout where students signed a pledge to be vape/smoke-free. Those students received ice cream in their RAMS period. They also worked to create an event for Pi Day where students could donate money to nominate a teacher to be pied.
- Northern Student Council is continuing to work on its plans for Field Day. They are also currently working to get microwaves in the cafeteria, similar to what Southern Student Council was able to do. They are also starting to plan elections for next year.
- The Cool Schools Dunk was held on February 24th and was very successful and fun for students.
- Southern High's National Honors Society hosted a canned food drive the first week of March and had over 400 donations.

New Business

- Mr. Tom Woods, Board President, discussed the Superintendent search process with the public.
- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, Operations, and Transportation, presented a contract recommendation from Daiken Applied/Omnia Partners to complete the Yough Glades Elementary HVAC project. He also presented a contract recommendation from Daiken Applied/Omnia Partners to complete the Northern Garrett High School HVAC project. He answered a question from the Board regarding the project. Additionally, Mr. Wesolowski requested the Board approve Daikin Applied Americas Inc to complete the design-build phase of the Southern Garrett High School limited renovation and HVAC project. He clarified what the Healthy Schools Fund entails. He requested the Board approve TJ Distributors Inc. to complete the installation of the visitor stadium bleachers at Northern Garrett High School. Last, he requested the Board approve the recommended vendor, Day Star Builders, to complete the Northern Garrett High School Press Box modifications. The Board voted unanimously to approve each of these action items.

Public Comment

- Donna Jo McDaniel spoke to the Board regarding Swan Meadow School.
- Eric Follett, a parent and Rt 40 teacher, spoke to the Board regarding the effect that closing Route 40 Elementary would have on families and the community.
- Rob Smith, a community member, spoke to the Board regarding the town of Friendsville and concerns over the possibility of closing Friendsville

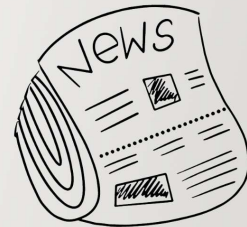
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Elementary. He believes that the town will be increasing in population if the school remains open. He also expressed concerns over long bus rides for students.

- Jessica Brown, former student and current parent, spoke to the Board regarding concerns over grade band alignment procedures adopted by the Board. She also addressed concerns sent via email were later answered by the GCPS administration.
- Abby McDaniel, a Swan Meadow student, spoke to the Board regarding Swan Meadow School. She spoke favorably of the individual level of instruction that she has received at the school.
- Stephanie Boyd, a former student, spoke to the Board regarding the Central Office and collaboration between the school system and the community/parents.
- Bethany Hayhurst, a parent, questioned the implementation of Blueprint by GCPS and the options for grade band alignment/student relocation and upgrades to schools. She stressed the need for schools to serve the community.
- Linda Bradley, a community member, spoke to the Board regarding Swan Meadow School. She addressed concerns over the loss of funding by students withdrawing from GCPS if school closure occurs. She questioned the decisions made regarding school boundaries and out-of-area requests.
- Cindy Garlitz, a parent, spoke to the Board regarding the forthcoming presentation and why school closure is being considered over redistricting. She questioned enrollment trends from the state vs. county information.
- Mrs. Terah Crawford, a parent, spoke to the Board surrounding the impact of school closures on the community. She indicated that funding amounts do not match. She asked the Board to consider other options and slow the process down.
- Michael Henderson, a community member, spoke to the Board regarding the decision-making process and the change in Superintendent. He also requested that these decisions be postponed.
- Allie McKenzie, a parent, addressed the Board about leaving Route 40 Elementary open with the addition of sixth grade. She expressed outdoor areas/opportunities that are available around the school that are not available on the Grantsville campus.
- Rebecca Gordon, a parent, spoke to the Board regarding the Vision of GCPS. She asked the Board to take time to go through a day in the life of a student. She requested that the Board go to our County Commissioners for additional needed funding to keep schools open.
- Suzanne Hannas, a parent, spoke to the Board about the advantages of smaller classes. She stated that a lot of questions remain from the public hearing, but not a lot of answers.
- Spencer Schlossnagle, a community member, asked the Board to discuss finances with Governor Moore, Delegate Hinebaugh, and Senator McKay. He expressed concerns over long bus rides for the students of Friendsville Elementary.
- Jennifer Rankin, a former student and a parent, spoke to the Board regarding different perspectives that could work together to form a path forward. She bragged about the schools that received 5 stars and those that just missed it.
- Monica Rinker, a parent and a former Board member, spoke to the Board expressing concerns over items in the consent agenda. She shared criteria for placing items in the consent agenda she found on a website. She also asked for clarification on the recommendation/report from the Superintendent.

Continuing Business

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- Ms. Barbara Baker, GCPS Superintendent, presented regarding the status of Swan Meadow School and Route 40 Elementary School. She reviewed various aspects of each school including overfunding and under-utilization, she addressed concerns previously mentioned during each public hearing, and stressed the fact that if no action is taken she fears the concerns of stakeholders will come true. She addressed concerns from the Board. The Board is expected to take action on this topic during the April 11, 2023, monthly Board of Education Meeting.
- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, presented the proposed FY2024 School Calendar to the Board for their approval. The calendars were revised to include the Primary Election Day. The Calendar Committee and Superintendent recommended a Pre-Labor Day start, however, Mr. Jason VanSickle made a motion for a post-Labor Day start, and the Board voted 3-1 in favor of a Post-Labor Day start.

New Business (cont.)

- Mrs. Candy Maust, English Language Arts (ELA) and Social Studies Supervisor; Mrs. Carrie Wampler, Coordinator of Judy Centers; and Mr. Brian Schilpp, STEM Supervisor and Local Accountability Coordinator; provided the 2022 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), Spring 2022 MCAP ELA and Math Performance Data, and iReady Diagnostic Winter Assessments update. The current recovery strategies were also shared for ELA and Mathematics.

Continuing Business

- The GCPS Blueprint Implementation Plan presentation was removed from the agenda due to the length of the meeting and inclement winter weather occurring at that time. A video recording occurred presenting this information

after the Board meeting. It may be accessed on BoardDocs on the agenda item or on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future page under the Public Information Sessions section.

- The FY2024 Operating Budget presentation was removed from the agenda due to the length of the meeting and inclement winter weather occurring at that time. A video recording occurred presenting this information after the Board meeting. It may be accessed on BoardDocs on the agenda item or on the Finance page of the website under the FY2024 Budget Development tab.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Southern Garrett High School, Oakland, MD, in the cafeteria. Details of the meeting will be announced ahead of time.

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