



BOARD BRIEFING



An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office

Public Session 4/8/25

Public Comment 4:00 p.m.

- Mr. Craig Tupper, a community member, spoke in opposition of the *Promoting Health Among Teens! Abstinence-Only Intervention Curriculum*, which is included on the public session agenda for Board review.

New Business

- Mr. Paul Edwards, Director of Secondary Education, and Mr. James Michaels, Health Education and Outreach Program Coordinator from the Garrett County Health Department, presented the high school health supplemental resource to the Board for review. The *Promoting Health Among Teens! Abstinence-Only Intervention* supplemental resource is an evidence-based curriculum proven effective in reducing the risk of HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy. The proposed resource is available for review online or at the Ruth Enlow Libraries of Accident and Oakland. The Board is expected to act on this item during the May 2025 Board Meeting.
- Mr. Robert Witt, Director of System Operations, recommended the vendor, Hite Associates, to complete the partial roof replacement at Northern Garrett High School. Dr. Brenda McCartney, Superintendent, recommended approval of the vendor as presented. Mr. Witt answered various questions from the Board. The Board voted unanimously to approve the project. Mr. Witt also presented the recommended vendor, SGK Contracting, Inc., to complete the partial roof replacement at Southern Garrett High School. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the vendor as presented. Mr. Witt responded to the Board's comments and questions. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this project.

Finally, Mr. Witt presented the recommended vendor, Daikin Applied Americas, Inc., to update the HVAC system at Route 40 Elementary School as part of a decarbonization project. This project is funded through a Maryland Energy Administration grant for Maryland Public Schools. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the vendor as presented. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this project.

Continuing Business

- Mrs. Candy Maust, Supervisor of Instruction - Elementary Education, and Mrs. Amy Warnick, Supervisor of Instruction - Secondary Education, requested Board approval of the following science instructional materials as presented at the March Board Meeting. The instructional materials were available for review for three weeks, from March 12 to April 2, 2025.
 - Discovery Education: Mystery Science for Grades K-2 Instructional Materials - Review
 - Discovery Education: Science Techbook for Grades 3-5 - Review
 - Savvas Learning Company: Experience Physics Instructional Materials Grades 9-12 - Review
 - Savvas Learning Company: Experience Biology Instructional Materials Grades 9-12 - Review
 - Savvas Learning Company: Miller & Levine Biology Program Grades 9-12 - Review

Dr. Brenda McCartney recommended approval of the curricula. The Board voted 3-1 to approve the curricula.

- Ms. Gloria Smith, Director of Finance, and Dr. McCartney provided an update about the FY2026 budget, primarily regarding the impact of House Bill 504: Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act. This was an informational item.

Student Board Member Report

Ms. Cadence Natividad, the Student Member of the Board, shared her update, which may be found on [BoardDocs](#).

Board Member Updates

- Mr. Rodney Glotfelty made comments about the finalization of the state budget. He indicated that there is one more legislative committee meeting. They will wrap up the legislative session, and he will share information with the Board once it occurs.

Superintendent Updates

Dr. McCartney shared the following:

- She reminded everyone that Thursday, April 10th, is a staff development day with a 3-hour early dismissal for students.
- She noted that Monday, April 21, 2025 (Easter Monday), is scheduled as a make-up day due to inclement weather earlier this school year. Schools will be in session this day.
- She stated that GCPS will present the FY2026 budget to the Garrett County Commissioners at their meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.
- The 2025 Student Honors Arts Fair will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center of Garrett College.
- She commented on the success of the Health Fair and thanked those involved with the GCPS booths.

Public Comment 7:00 p.m.

- Mr. Michael Henderson, a community member, spoke to the Board about charter school funding and status.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in the Cafeteria of Northern Middle School in Accident, MD. Details of the meeting will be announced in advance.