



BOARD BRIEFING

An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office



Public Session 4/9/24

New Business

- Dr. Chelsie Manges, Director of Special Education, requested that the Board approve School Therapy Services as the vendor to provide physical and occupational therapy services for the next three school years. Dr. Brenda McCartney recommended approval of the selected vendor. The Board voted unanimously to approve this contract.
- Mrs. Candy Maust, Supervisor of English Language Arts and Social Studies, presented the proposed 8th-grade instructional materials, *US History Voices and Perspectives*, to the Board for review. The materials are available for public review and feedback through April 24, 2024. The Board is expected to take action on the materials at the May Board Meeting.
- Mr. Paul Edwards, Director of Secondary Education, presented the recommended high school environmental instructional materials, *Your World, Your Turn*, to the Board for review. The materials are available for public review and feedback through April 24, 2024. The Board is expected to take action at the May Board Meeting.
- Mrs. Dawna Ashby, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, presented the recommended elementary (K-5) music instructional materials, *Quaver Music*, to the Board for review. The materials are available for public review and feedback through April 24, 2024. The Board is expected to take action on the materials at the May Board Meeting.
- Dr. Nicole Miller, Chief Academic Officer, presented the GCPS Prolonged State of Emergency Plan to the Board for review. She discussed the plan with the Board Members. The Board is expected to take action on this plan at the May Board Meeting.

Policies and Procedures

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, and Ms. Angela Flanigan, Manager of Human Resources, presented the revisions to the GCA Substitute Teacher Policy and Procedure. This was a first read. The Board is expected to take action at the May Board Meeting.
- Dr. Nicole Miller, Chief Academic Officer, presented minor revisions to the IHOA Leaving School for Curricular, Co-Curricular, or Extra Curricular Events Procedure. This informational update was provided, as the Board does not take action on procedures.

Continuing Business

- Mrs. Candy Maust, Supervisor of ELA and Social Studies, presented an update on the comprehensive literacy plan as required by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. This is a part of Pillar 3 of the Blueprint. The Board and Superintendent were very complimentary of the work put forth by Mrs. Maust, principals, and teachers on this subject.

Public Comment

- Mrs. Cathy Snyder, a grandparent, addressed the Board regarding a student concern.
- Mrs. Whitney Lyons, a parent, spoke to the Board about a student concern.
- Mr. Kevin Lyons, a parent, addressed the Board regarding a student concern.

Board Business

- Ms. Gloria Smith, Director of Finance, recommended the Rodeheaver Group, P.C., for the FY2024 audit. Dr. McCartney recommended retaining this organization for the audit. The Board voted unanimously to approve the auditor for FY2024.

Student Member of the Board

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

GCASC Business:

- The Executive Board met on March 25th to plan the final General Assembly & discuss MASC events.
- The final General Assembly for the year is April 11th at Garrett College. This assembly will include a presentation from Mr. Germain with GCPS Food & Nutrition, recognition for our seniors and advisors, and officer elections for the next school year. This election will also include the nomination of our SMOB candidates.
- Several members of the Executive Board will attend MASC's final conference Saturday, April 13th, at which GCASC President Laura and SMOB Hailey Wildesen will present a workshop and the "State of the Region" board. This will highlight the group's work throughout this school year.

General Student Updates:

- Northern Middle Student Council is organizing a Teacher Appreciation gift exchange.
- Northern High Student Council held a blood drive on April 8th.
- Southern Middle hosted the Real Deal program for its 8th graders.
- Southern Middle hosted a St. Patrick's Day dance for its students on March 15th.
- The annual Garrett County Mock Trial banquet commemorated on March 24th for both NGHS and SGHS's teams.
- Northern's FOR Club held a Kindness Spirit Week March 18-23 across all of the Northern end schools.
- Northern Middle's Theatre performed its production of The Little Mermaid.
- GACO Robotics were featured speakers at Common Ground 2024.
- Southern High Student Council held their second blood drive of the year. They will host a third event later this year.

Student Member Business

- Ms. Wildesen is working with other student members across the state to develop an SMOB Handbook, which should be ready for the 2024-2025 SMOB.

Board Business

- There were no Board member updates.

Superintendent Updates

- Dr. McCartney provided an update indicating that the budget presentation to the commissioners will occur on April 16, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.
- The May Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Northern Middle School, due to the primary election taking place on the normally scheduled evening.
- Dr. McCartney highlighted the 2024 Student Honors Arts Fair and thanked the Garrett County Arts Council for its support of students and the fine arts program in the school system.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be Wednesday, May 15, 2024, in the Cafeteria of Northern Garrett Middle School in Accident, MD. Details will be announced ahead of time.