



# BOARD BRIEFING

An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office



## **Public Session 5/9/23**

### **Announcements**

- 5/10-12 Western Maryland Teacher of the Year Retreat
- 5/11 4<sup>th</sup> Grading Period Progress Reports released
- 5/15 MABE Board Service Academy: New Laws Passed in 2023 Affecting Your School System – Implications and Opportunities (virtual) 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- 5/16 Staff Development, 3-hour early dismissal
- 5/24 MABE Board Service Academy: Parliamentary Procedures – Maximizing the Benefits and Rewards (virtual) 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- 5/29 Memorial Day, schools closed
- 5/31 Senior's Last Day of School
- 6/3 High School Graduation, Garrett County Agricultural Hall – NGHS 10:00 am, SGHS 2:00 pm
- 6/6 GCPS Retirement Dinner 6:00 pm
- 6/7 MABE Board Service Academy: Ethics – What You Need to Know (virtual) 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- 6/12 Students dismissed 3 hours early
- 6/13 Student's last day of school, 3-hour early dismissal
- 6/14 Teacher's last day of school

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

Ms. Alexis Shaffer, Student Member of the Board, shared the following updates:

- GCASC held its last General Assembly on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Garrett College. During the assembly, Natalie Warne and Alexis Shaffer conducted a workshop on Leadership where student council members learned the

characteristics of a good leader. Mr. John Hummel, the Director of Student Services, also talked with the students regarding equality in the schools.

- Mrs. Candy Maust, Supervisor of ELA & Social Studies, held a discussion on the Reopening and Recovery Plan where students gave input on what was good about the plan and recommendations for improvement.
- The GCASC Officer Elections were conducted during the General Assembly meeting also.
- Three seniors of the executive board, Sophia Brown, Natalie Warne, and Alexis Shaffer, were recognized and given graduation cords. Overall, GCASC had a very successful year and is working on plans for this summer and SY23-24.
- Southern Student Council recently wrapped up Teacher Appreciation Week where teachers were provided with lunch on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. They also conducted elections for the upcoming school year. Currently, the council has a volleyball event scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Northern Student Council also recently wrapped up an event for Teacher Appreciation Week where they worked with different clubs in the school to provide the teachers with various treats each day. They conducted elections for the next school year and are continuing their work in organizing a field day scheduled for late May.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup>, there was a teen safety assembly conducted at SGHS.
- SGHS held its prom on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Brodak's Banquet Hall. The dance was successful

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Garrett County Board of Education Meeting – May 9, 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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and many students provided positive feedback.

- SGHS's Theatre Program has scheduled its spring play "Spamalot" at the Performing Arts Center at Garrett College on May 11, 12, and 13, 2023.
- Northern High School held its prom on May 6<sup>th</sup>, with a great turnout.
- On Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> SGHS seniors had a movie night in the library where they got to watch "Grown Ups" and enjoyed snacks.
- Students from both high schools are nearing the end of AP testing and Garrett College classes.
- SGHS's Unified Track Team placed 1st at Regionals and will be heading to the state tournament on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in Landover, MD.

## Board Recognitions

- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tom Woods recognized the following teachers for achieving National Board Certification during the current school year: Mrs. Lorie Burdock, Mrs. Laura Dahlen, Mrs. Erica Foley, Ms. Katherine Landen, Mrs. Ali Schilpp, and Ms. Amy Warnick. Mr. Woods indicated that there were many more teachers in the pipeline working to obtain NBC.
- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Rodney Glotfelty presented a proclamation recognizing National School Nurse Day, Wednesday, May 10, 2023. Mrs. Becky Aiken, GCPS Nurse Manager, accepted the recognition on behalf of the nurses.
- On behalf of the Board, Ms. Barbara Baker, GCPS Superintendent, recognized Mrs. Ali Schilpp, a Media Specialist Teacher at Northern Garrett Middle School, for being

selected as the 2023-2024 GCPS Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Schilpp will now go on to compete for MD State Teacher of the Year.

## Continuing Business

- Dr. Nicole Miller, Chief Academic Officer, provided an update on the grade band alignment in GCPS. Superintendent Baker indicated that GCPS has opted to pause the GBA process for northern area schools. Dr. Miller gave an overview of the status of the southern end. She also reviewed the implications that the decision will have on programming.

## Public Comment

- Ms. Linda Bradley, a citizen, addressed the manner in which Swan Meadow would be staffed for SY23-24.
- Bethani Hayhurst, a parent, addressed the Board regarding the decision to adopt GBA separately for each end of the county. She asked for information including the pros and cons of each GBA.  
*Mr. Woods addressed a few concerns. He indicated that the Interim Superintendent may have ideas we had not yet realized. He also addressed the decision that was made on the southern end and commented on the public comment in the process.*
- Ms. Jessica Beachy, parent and substitute teacher, addressed the Board regarding the reduction of staffing at Swan Meadow, indicating that it had not previously been mentioned to the school closure advisory committee. She asked the Board to reconsider the structure of the staffing for the coming year. *Dr. Paugh later reiterated that the Board does not make staffing decisions. Individual school staffing is an administrative decision.*

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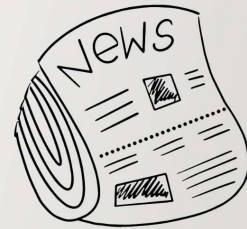
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- Mrs. Stephanie Boyd, a parent, addressed the Board regarding communication. She referenced portions of the Communications Plan presented during the Feb 2022 Board Meeting that have not yet reached fruition.
- Mr. Michael Henderson, a citizen, addressed the Board regarding Swan Meadow. He addressed discrepancies in the IAC rating and GCPS indication of status. He stated that he believed students are leaving GCPS for homeschooling rather than leaving the county.
- Mrs. Terah Crawford, a parent, addressed the Board regarding GBA. She stressed the need to have communication between all stakeholders.
- Michelle Hetrick addressed the Board concerning the money being transferred out of Food & Nutrition Services.
- Jonathan Yoder, a parent, addressed the Board regarding Swan Meadow staffing and charter school status. He asked the Board to reconsider the plan for staffing during the SY23-24. He indicated that the community would be open to charter school status and asked that avenue be explored and discussed. *Ms. Baker indicated that there is an existing GCPS policy IHBHA regarding Charter schools. She indicated that an open school does not normally convert to a charter school. Dr. Paugh indicated that a school could initiate the charter school process if 85% of staff and 85% of parents of students sign an application to do so. Ms. Baker also clarified that the motion voted on last month was to keep Route 40 Elementary and Swan Meadow School Open (not necessarily just for a one-year period).*
- revisions to the JKE Student Behavior Intervention Policy and Procedure to the Board. He also presented the new JKG Students Arrested and Charged with Reportable Offenses in the Community Policy and Procedure to the Board. These were presented for their first review.
- Mr. Mark Greene, Manager of Communications and Public Relations, presented the revised KDB Public School Inquiries Policy and the new KDB Public School Inquiries Procedure to the Board for their first review.

## Continuing Business

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, and Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, provided the draft Superintendent's FY24 Operating Budget to the Board for their review. Mrs. Sweitzer reminded the Board and the public of the dedicated landing page on our website. She provided a review of projected revenue and expenditures. She answered various questions from the Board.

## New Business

- Mr. John Hummel, Director of Student Services, presented the draft FY2023-24 Student Handbook to the Board for their review. A summary of the revisions was also made available. He responded to various questions and comments from the Board.
- Mrs. Sweitzer requested the Board approve a budget transfer. She provided explanations for each of the transfers. Ms. Baker reiterated the reasons for the various needs. The Board voted unanimously to approve the budget transfer.

## Policies and Procedures

- Mr. John Hummel, Director of Student Services, presented the recommended

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## Board Business

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, presented the ratification of two bargaining group contracts for FY2024 to the Board. AFT and GASA contracts were presented for ratification individually. The Superintendent recommended the ratification of each contract. The Board voted unanimously to ratify each contract.
- Mr. Tom Woods, Board President, provided an update on the Interim Superintendent search and process. He indicated that the interim term would run from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023. The Board named Dr. Brenda McCartney as the GCPS Interim Superintendent.
- Mr. Jason VanSickle, a Board member, indicated that Yough Glades and Crellin Elementary students received a visit from First United Bank where they learned about saving. He also assisted with the Northern and Southern after-prom.
- Mr. Josh Hinebaugh, a Board member, accompanied GaCo Team 1629 to the National Robotics Competition. The team was inducted as the 34<sup>th</sup> member into the F.I.R.S.T. World Robotics Hall of Fame.
- Mr. Rodney Glotfelty, a Board member, indicated that MABE is interviewing five candidates to replace Francie Glendening, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.
- The Superintendent provided some responses during the Public Comment portion of the meeting as previously indicated. She also indicated that she attended the mock trial recognition dinner. She thanked the Garrett County Bar Association for supporting the program. She also reminded everyone that the state-wide

teachers of the year retreat will be in Garrett County May 10-12, 2023.

## Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in the cafeteria of Southern Garrett High School, Oakland, MD. Details of the meeting will be announced ahead of time.

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