



# BOARD BRIEFING

An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office



## **Public Session 9/10/24**

### **Public Comment 4:00 p.m.**

- Richard Perando, a grandparent, questioned the Family Life Network letters sent to K-4 parents.
- Sharon Perando, a grandparent, addressed the Board regarding concerns about a Family Life letter received by families.

### **Recognitions**

- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tom Woods recognized Ms. Abby Harrison, an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Northern Garrett High School, for her artwork chosen by the Fine Arts Committee at the Student Arts Fair in April 2024. The Board of Education purchased and will display her artwork at the Central Office.



### **New Business**

- Mrs. Janet Gregory, Dr. Brenda McCartney, and Mr. Paul Edwards presented the student achievement test results for 2023-24 to the Board and answered questions. The Board also recognized the successes of the AP teachers from Northern and Southern Garrett High Schools.



- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of System Operations, presented the draft FY2025-30 Capital Improvement Plan to the Board. He provided a recap of FY24 projects. Dr. McCartney shared proposed updates to schools.
- Dr. McCartney, on behalf of Dr. Nicole Miller, Chief Academic Officer, presented the draft Virtual Learning Day Plan to the Board for review. She discussed changes from previous years. Public feedback is sought through September 25, 2024. The Board is expected to take action on the plan at the October 3, 2024, Board Meeting.
- Ms. Gloria Smith, Director of Finance, presented a budget transfer request to the Board for approval. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the transfer as presented. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the transfer.

### **Public Comment 7:00 p.m.**

- Mr. Brian Morel, a parent, discussed the Gifted & Talented Program. He asked that the GT programs' consistency be maintained between various schools.
- Ms. Michelle Burnett, a parent, expressed school-related concerns.

### **Policies and Procedures**

- On behalf of Dr. Nicole Miller, Dr. McCartney presented the revised ADA Goals for the Garrett County Public Schools Policy to the Board. She indicated that the proposed changes are to align more with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.
- Mr. Michael Bittinger, Manager of Safety and Security, presented the new draft ECA School Safety and Security Policy and Procedure to the Board.

### **Student Board Member Report**

Ms. Cadence Natividad, Student Member of the Board, shared the following updates:

### **Student Reports**

- Student input on the new schedule/changes to Southern High received positive feedback.
- School sports are underway. Many held their first games this week.
- Both Northern and Southern High Schools have had their meet-the-squad nights.

### **Student Council (GCASC)**

- GCASC will hold another executive board meeting in the coming weeks to discuss plans for the General Assembly in October.
- All officer and appointed positions have been filled.
- GCASC released a statement following the school shootings.
- Mrs. Andrea Sessa will take over as the new advisor for the school year.

### **SMOB Initiatives/Agenda**

- Ms. Natividad gave closing remarks at the WED event in August, speaking on Title IX's importance in today's society.
- She also continues gathering input on changes and how students feel at Southern High School.

### **Board Member Updates**

- Mr. Jason VanSickle shared that the Accident Elementary PTO will hold their Mum & Pumpkin sale on September 25, 2024, from 10 am to 6 pm at the Fratz Farm, 29915 Garrett Highway, Accident.

### **Superintendent Updates**

Dr. McCartney provided the following updates:

- She complimented Ms. Natividad's speech at the WED event.
- Dr. McCartney was complimentary of the opening of the school year. She thanked parents and community members for their patience as we worked through minor issues with transportation.
- She reminded everyone of the September 26, 2024, FY24 Financial Audit results meeting. Additionally, she noted the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at the Dennett Road Educational Complex in the Community Room.

### **Next Meeting**

The FY24 Financial Audit meeting will be held at the Dennett Road Educational Complex on

Thursday, September 26, 2024. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be **Thursday, October 3, 2024**, in the Community Room of the Dennett Road Educational Complex in Oakland, MD. Details will be announced ahead of time.