



# BOARD BRIEFING



An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office

## **Public Session 11/12/24**

### **Public Comment**

- Mr. Nathaniel Watkins, a community member, spoke to the Board about the proposed Swan Meadow Heritage Charter School.

### **Recognitions**

- Mr. Don Morin recognized American Education Week, November 18-22, 2024, by presenting a proclamation on behalf of the Board. Mrs. Heather Gosnell, Teacher and President of the Garrett County Education Association, received the declaration on behalf of all teachers and staff members.

### **New Business**

- Ms. Gloria Smith, Director of Finance, presented a preliminary report on the FY2025-26 budget development, including an enrollment update and revenue estimates. She answered various questions from the Board.
- Dr. Brenda McCartney made a recommendation regarding Swan Meadow Heritage Charter School to extend the application period by one year and amend the benchmark dates, for a targeted charter status for the 2026-27 school year. The Board discussed the recommendation. The Board voted unanimously to approve the measure.

### **Continuing Business**

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of System Operations, presented the FY2024-25 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan to the Board for approval. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the plan. The Board voted unanimously to approve the plan.

### **Student Board Member Report**

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

#### **Student Reports**

- Athletics – NGHS Girls Soccer finished the season first in the region. SGHS Boys Soccer finished with a record of 12-3, marking the most successful team in the school's history.
- SGHS Marching Band finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place for their division.
- The SGHS Football team performed a community service project at Crellin Elementary School.
- Emelee Parks and Ben Brobst were recognized as all-staters in cross country.
- Karma Spak, Ava Stewart, and Kathryn Sweitzer each have artwork selected for the MAEA BWI Fall 2024 exhibition.
- Hank Lewis and Carter Goff participated in the state golf tournament. Lewis finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place. The NGHS golf team finished in the top ten.
- Fox45—Baltimore featured Crellin Elementary for achieving five stars in the state ratings. They were the only Title I school to achieve this feat in the state.

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

- GCASC held its first General Assembly at the PAC, led by President Kambria Kyle.
- The Fall Leadership Conference will occur on 11/23 at Havre de Grace High School.
- They are participating in the Festival of Trees, with an "Honoring Veterans" themed tree.
- Broad Ford Elementary is collecting materials and money for Flood Buckets, which will be used for disaster relief from Hurricane Helene.
- SGHS 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades: Students met to plan the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Dance. They are also discussing service projects for the year.
- SGHS 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades: Held their Homecoming. Planned for the Ram Rumble taking place the day before the Thanksgiving break. Building the holiday light show at Broadford Park. Celebrated

National Bus Driver Appreciation Week with a breakfast for drivers.

- NGMS: Received the “Silent Heroes” grant to honor soldiers from the Korean War. Building a LEGO centerpiece for the Festival of Trees. Delivered an impressive donation of aluminum can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Morgantown.
- NGHS: Planned the “War of Classes” taking place the day before Thanksgiving Break. Planning Spirit Week, which takes place the week leading up to Winter Break. Working with Principal Yoder on the purchase and installation of vape detectors.

#### **Grade-Band Alignment Updates**

- The transition continues to go smoothly. SGHS updated its phone policy for 7th-8th grades. Students met with Mr. Edwards regarding schedules.

#### **SMOB Initiatives/Agenda**

- Visit other schools across the county and visit with students at each location.
- Planning a new video series to further engage with students.

#### **Board Member Updates**

- Mr. Woods wished the NH football team good luck in the playoffs.
- Mr. Rodney Glotfelty will once again be serving on the MABE Board.
- Mr. Jason VanSickle attended the Accident Fall festival. He will also be facilitating a Business Roundtable for 8th-grade students.
- Mrs. Sadie Liller toured several schools in the northern area with Dr. McCartney. She was impressed with the way each school functions.

#### **Superintendent Updates**

Dr. McCartney provided the following updates:

- She applauded the community support for our schools in recognition of Veteran’s Day. “It was magnificent.” She thanked everyone who participated in these very meaningful activities.
- She shared that two Coffee with the Superintendent meetings have occurred. She appreciated the input from members of the community who were able to attend and share their views. These meetings will be hosted periodically.

- She highlighted a community meeting, which will be held on November 25th at Northern Middle School from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, regarding the proposed relocation of Accident Elementary to the Northern Middle building, creating a PK-7 school, and moving the 8th-grade students to Northern High School.
- The Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be administered at NX, NH, and SH in early December. The survey is posted on the county website for parents/guardians to review. She emphasized that the information from the survey helps plan student services support programs. She also noted that parents/guardians may opt out on behalf of their child.
- Finally, she shared a calendar reminder: There will be a 3-hour early dismissal on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, and then schools will be closed on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and December 2<sup>nd</sup> for Thanksgiving break.

#### **Public Comment**

- Mrs. Barbara Law, a community member, signed up but chose not to speak at this meeting.
- Mr. Michael Henderson, a community member, addressed the Board regarding the budget.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, in the Community Room of the Dennett Road Educational Complex in Oakland, MD. Details of the meeting will be announced ahead of time.