



BOARD BRIEFING



An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office

Public Session 11/14/23

Recognitions

- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Jason VanSickle recognized Northern Garrett Middle, Northern Garrett High, Southern Garrett Middle, and Southern Garrett High Schools for being named Unified Champion Schools by Special Olympics Maryland. Students and staff members from each location were present to receive the recognition.



- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Joshua Hinebaugh recognized American Education Week, November 13-17, 2023, by presenting a proclamation. Several teachers and Instructional Assistants were in attendance to receive the declaration.



- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Cody Brill recognized National Education Support Professionals (ESP) Day - Wednesday, November 15, 2023, by presenting a proclamation. Staff from two schools were present to receive the recognition.



Garrett County Board of Education Meeting – November 14, 2023

Prepared by: Public Relations Office

Board of Education Members: Mr. M. Thomas Woods, President; Mr. Rodney B. Glotfelty, Vice President; Mr. Cody C Brill, Mr. Joshua D. Hinebaugh, and Mr. Jason E. VanSickle, Associate Members; Ms. Hailey N. Wildesen, Student Member of the Board; Dr. Brenda E. McCartney, Interim Superintendent; Mr. Brandon Hoover, Attorney



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New Business

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, Operations, and Transportation, presented the recommended vendor, Perry's Solid Waste Disposal, to complete the school system's Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the vendor for services. The Board voted unanimously in support of the vendor.
- Mr. Wesolowski requested Board approval of Daiken as the recommended vendor to complete the limited renovation for HVAC installation at Southern Garrett High School. The scope of services was broken into two separate contracts. Dr. McCartney recommended the approval of the vendor for services for each contract. Mr. Wesolowski answered a question from the Board regarding each contract. The Board voted unanimously to approve the vendor for each contract.
- Mr. Wesolowski asked for Board approval of the recommended vendor, Modular Genius, to install four portable classrooms at Broad Ford Elementary School. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the vendor to the Board. Mr. Wesolowski answered a question from the Board. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the contract.
- Dr. Brenda McCartney presented a budget transfer request to the Board for approval (due to the Director of Finance vacancy). As the Interim Superintendent, she recommended approval of the budget amendment. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the budget amendment.
- Mrs. Dawna Ashby, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, updated the Board regarding early childhood initiatives as required by the Blueprint for

Maryland's Future. She received compliments from the Superintendent and the Board for the progress made thus far.

Mrs. Ashby also presented the Dance I Course addition for the 2024-25 School Year Student Educational Planning Guide.

- Mrs. Candy Maust, Supervisor of English Language Arts and Social Studies, presented the CommonLit 360 Curriculum as supplemental instruction resources for the high schools to the Board for their review. Dr. McCartney elaborated on the use of the materials. Mrs. Maust answered questions from the Board. No action was taken as this was a first read.

Continuing Business

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski presented the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP) to the Board for approval. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the CMP to the Board. The Board voted 2-1 to approve the plan.

Public Comment

- Mrs. Kathy Shaffer, the Mayor of Oakland and a grandparent, addressed the Board regarding Broad Ford Elementary. She questioned how student behavior is addressed in the school. She asked that adjustments be made quickly.
- Mrs. Breann Lemley, a parent, addressed the Board regarding Broad Ford Elementary. She followed up on concerns previously presented to the Board via email. She also questioned the schedules of students assigned to the proposed portable classrooms.
- Mrs. Terah Crawford, a parent, addressed the Board regarding Accident Elementary. She communicated an adverse circumstance that

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occurred last school year, which turned out to be positive. She questioned the process involved in making a STARS determination for students.

- Mrs. Amanda Shaffer, a parent, addressed the Board regarding Broad Ford Elementary. She reiterated an email that was sent to the Board two weeks earlier. She asked that issues be controlled before adding additional students to the school. She asked that the safety of students be a priority.
- Dr. Becky Crowell, a parent, spoke about the Student Arts Fair. She reviewed the programs in place throughout the state that are unavailable to students in GCPS. She expressed her belief that changes implemented for the Student Arts Fair this current year would not permit ample time to prepare for a performance. She questioned the purpose of these changes. She encouraged the revocation of these changes, reverting to previous years' standards.
- Ms. Jordan Storey, a teacher and parent, addressed concerns over sending her children to school. She asked that teachers be supported as needed. She sought assurance that a plan was in place to ensure the safety of students and staff members.

Student Member of the Board

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

GCASC Business:

- On October 11th, 2023, GCASC held its first General Assembly of the year with two workshops: Communication and Service. This included discussion groups, a food drive service project, and more.

They also welcomed Board Member Mr. Jason Vansickle, who gave an encouraging message about student leadership. Superintendent Dr. McCartney attended and spoke to students about successes and issues they saw across the school system. Dr. McCartney also presented the Board's plan and funding to work with GCASC on vaping prevention.

- GCASC is participating in the Festival of Trees. The group voted to organize a Disney-themed tree and is currently accepting donations across the county at member schools.
- The Executive Board met last evening to begin planning the December General Assembly. They also began working with administrators and Mrs. Maust to brainstorm ways to improve school culture and character.

General Student Updates:

- Southern Garrett Marching Band placed 5th at the Atlantic Coast Championship.
- Southern High's Theatre department performed "Puffs" this past weekend. It was an excellent performance.
- Southern Middle held a Veteran's Day service project walk-a-thon for the Friendsville Veterans Memorial Foundation. They raised over \$3,000 for the initiative. The school also held a Unity Day against bullying, with students and staff wearing orange to recognize the day.
- Northern Garrett Middle School held a Veterans Day Breakfast, including a creative display of pride for veterans, which included essays and music.

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The school also held a Halloween Dance for its students, who could attend in costume.

- Many schools across the county celebrated Red Ribbon Week. This was a good spirit activity and a pledge for students to be drug-free.
- Both high schools' FFA chapters attended and competed at the National Convention in Indianapolis, IN.
- Fall sports are coming to a close, with playoffs occurring for student-athletes.
- Southern High Student Council is preparing a Christmas lights display beginning on November 30th at Broad Ford Park.
- Northern High Student Council is currently running a Bedford Candies fundraiser. Ms. Wildesen encouraged everyone to support these holiday initiatives. Mr. Glotfelty asked about the utilization of the Juul settlement money. Ms. Wildesen indicated that they have started forming plans, but nothing has been confirmed.
- She reiterated a minor change for Virtual Learning Days. She indicated that students may be asked to take their devices home if inclement weather is anticipated. Virtual days will now be called in the same manner that other delays and closings are announced. It is possible that no call is made, and students will return the next day on schedule with their devices.
- She also shared highlights from the Veterans Day activities in each school. This slideshow is available on BoardDocs.

Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in the Dennett Road Educational Complex cafeteria. The meeting agenda will be announced a week ahead of time.

Board Member Updates

- Mr. VanSickle was the BINGO caller for the GaCo BINGO fundraiser. He thanked those in attendance for their support of the program.
- Mr. Glotfelty attended a legislative committee meeting on 11/13/23. They set their proposed legislative priorities. He will share priorities with the Board upon approval. He indicated that MABE wants to hear where funds might be reallocated in the Blueprint.

Superintendent Updates

Dr. McCartney shared the following updates:

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