



# BOARD BRIEFING



An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office

## Public Session 12/12/23

them for the work they are doing every day with our students.

### Recognitions

- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tom Woods recognized Mrs. Ashley Kitzmiller, the Physical Education Teacher at Southern Middle School, for winning the Simon McNeely Award by SHAPE Maryland (Society of Health and Physical Educators).



### New Business

- Dr. Brenda McCartney, Interim Superintendent, shared the legislative position statements from GCPS for the 2024 General Assembly. She indicated sharing the positions with Senator McKay, Delegate Hinebaugh, and the County Commissioners. She shared the five different positions of GCPS. Mr. Glotfelty elaborated on the happenings of MABE as they relate to the legislative session. No action was taken on this agenda item.
- Mr. Jon Hinebaugh, Career Coach for the Northern Area, and Ms. Mary Keller, Career Coach for the Southern Area, updated the Board on the Career Counseling Program as part of the Blueprint requirements. They answered various questions from the Board. No action was taken on this agenda item. Dr. McCartney thanked

### Policies and Procedures

- Dr. Nicole Miller, Chief Academic Officer, presented the new GAAD School Counselor, School Psychologist, and School Social Worker Evaluation Policy and the revised Procedure to the Board for review. She explained the creation of the policy and the changes to the procedure. The Board commented but did not take action on this topic.

### Continuing Business

- Mrs. Candy Maust, Supervisor of English Language Arts and Social Studies, requested the Board approve the CommonLit 360 Curriculum as supplemental instruction resources for high school students. The online materials were available for public review and feedback at NGHS, SGHS, and the GCPS website from November 15 to December 8, 2023. Superintendent McCartney recommended the adoption of CommonLit 360. The Board voted unanimously to approve the curriculum.

### Public Comment

- There was no public comment during this meeting.

### Student Member of the Board

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

#### **GCASC Business:**

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**Garrett County Board of Education Meeting – December 12, 2023**

Prepared by: Public Relations Office

**Board of Education Members:** Mr. M. Thomas Woods, President; Mr. Rodney B. Glotfelty, Vice President; 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;

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- The Executive Board met on November 13th to plan the December General Assembly and the Disney-themed tree for the Garrett County Festival of Trees.
- On November 18<sup>th</sup>, GCASC members attended the Maryland Association of Student Councils' Fall Leadership Conference, where they presented and/or engaged in student-led workshops and roundtables, listened to a panel on AI in Learning, and more.
- Several Executive Board members met on November 22nd at the Fairgrounds to decorate their tree. They thank everyone who donated items at the schools across the county.



- The second General Assembly of the year on December 13th includes two workshops, a

discussion on school culture & climate, and more topics.

## General Student Updates:

- SGHS Student Council is hosting a Christmas light display every weekend in December at Broadford Park.
- Both Northern and Southern High theater programs performed Greater Tuna and Mean Girls, respectively.
- Winter sports season has begun. Ms. Wildesen wished the best of luck to all teams
- SGHS hosted its Ram Rumble, with Southern Middle joining them for the first time.
- NGHS hosted its War of Classes on December 5<sup>th</sup>. This was a greatly successful event.
- The Northern Garrett Educational Complex made Thanksgiving treats for Cherry Hill Assisted Living. NGHS National Honor Society made Thanksgiving cards & NGMS' STARS class made turkey gift bags.
- SGMS hosted its Ugly Sweater Dance on December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- NGMS hosted a Thanksgiving food drive.

## Student Member Business:

- On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Wildesen participated in a virtual call with other Student Members across the state of Maryland, which was hosted by the State Interim Superintendent, Dr. Carey Wright, and the Student Member of the State Board. They are working on a handbook for future incoming Student Members and how to connect the State Student member with more students.

Mr. VanSickle asked for a synopsis of the session on AI. Ms. Wildesen indicated that school systems need to embrace this

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technology, as it will become more prevalent in the future.

## Board Member Updates

- Mr. Woods shared an update regarding the loss of long-time educator Ms. Wendy Shoemaker. He spoke highly of her service to SGHS, students, and GCPS.
- Mr. VanSickle attended a Special Education event in Grantsville, which took place at the ice rink.
- Mr. Hinebaugh received great feedback on both of the recent theatre programs. He indicated that each was very well attended.
- Mr. Woods announced that future Board meetings will alternate between the Dennett Road Education Complex Community Room (cafeteria) and the Northern Garrett Middle School Cafeteria each month.

## Superintendent Updates

Dr. McCartney shared the following update:

- She announced that the MD Report Card Star ratings will be released on Wednesday, 12/13/23. She reviewed the criteria for ratings. She stated the overall rating for the school system and compared it to the state average. She indicated that we must focus on the chronic absenteeism issues to help improve our scores.

## Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024, in the Northern Garrett Middle School cafeteria. The meeting agenda will be announced a week ahead of time.

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