



GLOUCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**DIVISION LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING**  
March 12, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

Dr. Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, welcomed everyone and indicated Dr. Clemons would be attending the end of the meeting to discuss items. Dr. Wagner noted that decisions would need to be made regarding trips/travel or events that are planned in light of the coronavirus.

**EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATES**

Dr. Wagner mentioned that summer school will have some changes this year and more would be discussed in the principals' meeting.

Eileen Kersmarki, Bethel E.S. Principal, recognized Bethel as receiving 1<sup>st</sup> place in the GCPS Educational Foundation's 3k/8k for the school with the highest percentage of participation and Petsworth as the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner.

Rachel Blankenship, Executive Director of Human Resources and Compliance, was introduced, has two children at Abingdon Elementary and also attended Gloucester schools. Mrs. Blankenship has visited half of the schools in the division and plans to get to all of them soon. In addition, Mrs. Blankenship has been recruiting, although the coronavirus has impacted some visits and plans to hold the GCPS Job Fair on April 18, with thirty applicants currently signed up.

Bryan Hartley, Executive Director of Operations, is currently focused on the coronavirus. In addition, new legislation will be occurring regarding the school code of conduct. Administrators have been asked to review the changes and a date will be scheduled to discuss. Mr. Hartley added that spring usually brings an increase in disciplinary issues.

Del Dautrich, Safety Manager, provided feedback from the Fire Marshal, indicating that doors are not to be covered with paper. Any decorations should be beside the door, not on the door, which is the only way to exit most rooms.

Administrators were reminded to begin policing the grounds of our schools, especially with the community use that occurs in the spring.

A broadcast will not go out for Tornado Drills this year, but radios will receive a notice about 9:30 a.m. on March 17.

Due to the coronavirus, desktops, door knobs, and other hard surfaces should be cleaned daily. Hand sanitizers, soap dispensers, hand dryers and paper towels also need to be available and checked throughout the day. If less important things don't get done at the moment that may have to be the case. Staff should not place chairs on desktops at the end of the day, to help with this effort.

Lisa Jones, Nurse Coordinator, noted that the situation we are in with the coronavirus, is a very fluid situation. Staff should plan, but not be alarmist. The situation is being assessed and teachers are ensuring students are washing their hands. Nurses are always looking for trends with flu symptoms, pink eye, or in this case, the coronavirus if that becomes an issue in Gloucester.

Jimmy Viars, Grounds Manager, noted that work is getting done, despite operating with fifty percent of the grounds crew (2). A large volunteer group is planning to work on beautifying the teacher parking lot area at GHS.

Tanya Deckard, Director of Transportation, noted a slight increase in absences with staff recently. Mrs. Deckard added that athletic trips do interfere with regular driving schedules and soon a few new drivers will be certified to help with those trips. Please contact Mrs. Deckard if you have increased bus delays. The Transportation Department is disinfecting the tops of seats and driver area of buses in light of the coronavirus and plan to obtain supplies from Mr. Dautrich to deep clean the buses. (See information below.)

#### Transportation Software Solutions

- Staff has completed the transfer of routing data into the new VEO system
- Test group for the application is set to begin the week of 3/16/2020
  - If this test is successful we will be sending notification to three bus routes, as a beta test group for the parent application.

#### Professional Development

- Our winter transportation academy was a success, and we have completed all state mandated training for the 2019/2020 school year

#### Staffing

- All bus routes are currently staffed
- We continue to develop a substitute pool of drivers
  - Classes for 3 potential new drivers begin Thursday

George Baines, Chief Information Technology Officer for Gloucester County, announced the upcoming county budget meetings. Gloucester County has a new Human Resources Director who is working with the high school to obtain interns. The Gloucester County Extension Office is now located at TCWEC. Mr. Baines added that Gloucester County is working with the Department of Health and the VDOE regarding the coronavirus. Testing is now available through LabCorp and will show an increase in confirmed cases. Hygiene in public areas of county buildings has been increased. Mr. Baines also addressed the issue of broadband, which is not available in many areas of the county. He is trying to get more broadband options.

Scott Mecca, GCPS Director of Technology, is monitoring a blog of all IT directors through VDOE. He has been talking to his staff about how we will prepare staff if we have a situation where we have to rely on online classes. Mr. Mecca added that the internet virus protection has improved.

Valerie Lewis, Community Engagement Coordinator, thanked everyone for supporting our efforts to get the word out about the 2020 Census. Each person is \$20,000 in federal funding for ten years. The Census is also very important for future planning. Beginning March 12,

residents should begin receiving a card regarding the importance of taking the census. March 22 is Census Sunday to help residents register online.

Dr. Wagner introduced Kristen Heaney, Secondary Math Coach, who has taken Stefan Mygas' position. Ms. Heaney will continue to teach half days at GHS for the remainder of this semester.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS

Dr. Clemons, Division Superintendent, discussed the coronavirus (COVID-19), adding that there is now a confirmed case on the Peninsula and is a matter of when, not if, we have cases here. Staff members were reminded to keep soap dispenser filled and hand sanitizer available. Dr. Clemons is looking at suspending all out of state travel indefinitely and may need to look at field trips and other school events. March 13, the VHSL will begin allowing only families of players at the state tournaments and some divisions are canceling sports activities outside of the area. Plans will need to be discussed in the event Gloucester has a case. Division or school closures may become necessary and large activities in our buildings (250 or more) may need to be canceled. In addition, we may need to look at after school activities.

Information was shared regarding the FY'21 Budget. A budget work session will be held on March 12 (tonight) in the TCWEC Auditorium. Dr. Clemons added that the County Administrator's recommended budget for the school division is \$1.4 million, significantly less than the \$7 million increase in Dr. Clemons' proposed budget. There are many critical needs that will not be addressed if the County Administrator's recommended budget or less is approved. GCPS also has an anticipated health insurance increase of \$1.75 million. Dr. Clemons doesn't want to see increase premiums for employees, but may need to look at increased deductibles. In addition, VRS rates are increasing. There will be a joint meeting with the School Board and Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, March 17. In addition to the FY'21 Budget, the GHS and Transportation plans will be discussed. Prior to arriving at the DLT meeting, Dr. Clemons met with the County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, Board of Supervisors member Kevin Smith and a representative from the Office of the Governor to discuss House Bill 224, which is on its way to the Governor's desk. If signed, and passed in a referendum vote, this could be a big win for Gloucester.

On March 25, the Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing on their FY'21 Budget. Dr. Clemons added this could be critical in determining compensation increases. It does appear there is a 2% increase for this year and next year in the General Assembly's budget amendments for SOQ funded positions. Dr. Clemons added that it costs roughly \$465,000 for every 1% increase in compensation for GCPS.

Dr. Clemons will keep everyone updated regarding what needs to be done to be prepared for the coronavirus.

ADJOURNMENT – 12:21 p.m.