

Division Leadership Team Meeting

January 13, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Clemons, Superintendent, welcomed everyone and wished them a happy new year. Despite the negative impact of COVID-19, financial assistance provided has enabled the division to move forward with much needed equipment and projects in the CIP.

Updates from January 12, 2021 School Board Meeting

Dr. Clemons said students will be returning to in-person learning, on a hybrid schedule, beginning January 19, as planned. An all call message to that effect will be going out, as well as information posted on the division website. Students who have elected to receive remote learning, will continue to have that option. Students who may wish to change their current learning option, should contact their schools to determine availability. Although Covid-19 cases have increased, other factors are also considered when determining if schools should be open. Mitigation strategies are working within GCPS and Dr. Richard Williams, Three Rivers Health District Director, will notify Dr. Clemons if community circumstances warrant a possible return to all remote learning.

Additional “Coronavirus Relief” funding has become available, with GCPS receiving \$2.4 million, which is required to be utilized by September 2023. The initial CARES funding GCPS received (\$624,000) needs to be utilized by September 2022. VDOE has recommended divisions apply some of this funding to address the loss of learning that has occurred during the pandemic. Dr. Clemons added that GCPS is eligible to receive almost \$7 million through federal funding.

The COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available to GCPS staff. Dr. Clemons noted that while not required, the vaccine is recommended.

ELT Updates

Instruction – Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, informed members of a Diversity Training day, scheduled for Wednesday, February 3. Dr. Allison Sampson-Jackson will be giving a virtual presentation entitled “Ordinary Acts of Courage,” from 12:30 – 2:30. Dr. Wagner would like all staff to have the opportunity to view this presentation. Zoom account capacity logistics were discussed and may be increased to allow over 500 to view, or if allowed, a recording of the presentation could be viewed at a later time by those unable to attend. Details to follow.

Budget & Finance– Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer, informed members of the upcoming Budget Work Session, which will be held virtually on January 21, beginning at 5:30 pm. An important component of the FY22 budget will center on the outcome of the General Assembly’s decision regarding “no loss funding” due to the pandemic. The Budget and Finance department will soon be issuing W2’s for 2020.

Human Resources – Rachel Blankenship, Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance, reminded principals to touch base with current substitutes and indicated more are being recruited. Please contact Craig Smith if you have substitute needs or have any who are not being utilized at your respective buildings. A few known long-term substitute needs will be required in the near future. The Human Resources department has also started to hire staff for 2021-22.

Operations – Bryan Hartley, Executive Director of Operations, indicated winter sports will occur, contingent on other divisions also participating. GCPS is trying to schedule a minimum number of games by the end of the week in order to move forward with the season. Middle Schools are also working to secure basketball games at that level.

Mr. Hartley also informed members of an easement agreement with Dominion Virginia Power that will allow overhead wires on the property of Peasley M.S. to be moved underground. This could also potentially be done at other GCPS locations in the future.

Department Updates

Nursing – Lisa Jones, Division Nurse Coordinator, recently submitted a survey to staff regarding the COVID-19 vaccinations. Over five hundred employees indicated they would like to receive the vaccine when it becomes available. Mrs. Jones is expecting GCPS staff to have the opportunity soon and hopes to administer the vaccine at GHS. Dr. Clemons added that letter notifications will continue, as well as updates to the Covid-19 Dashboard on the GCPS website, but call out messages will not be done unless there is a transmission or outbreak within our schools. Mitigation strategies will remain as they are for the foreseeable future, despite the vaccine.

In regards to Valentine’s exchanges, Mrs. Jones said those should be limited to what is made at school, not brought from home.

Community Engagement – Gloria Williams, Gloucester County Community Engagement & Public Information Manager, is working with Mr. Hartley’s office regarding community use. The Community Engagement office has received many inquiries regarding the Covid-19 vaccine and when it will be available. Community Engagement coordinators, as well as all county employees, will be eligible to receive the vaccine when school staff receive vaccines.

Transportation – Tanya Deckard, Director of Transportation, has provided principals with a list of bus changes and indicated drivers will contact parents to remind them of pick up and drop off times. Dr. Clemons asked that drivers make contact by Friday and to post the bus routes on the GCPS division homepage. Mrs. Deckard informed members that the transportation software program does not work with the hybrid schedule, but a link could be provided on the website to direct parents. See report below.

Transportation Report

New Buses

- All 12 new buses have been delivered
- They began transporting all students on 1/19/2021

New Bus Plan

- All Schools/Parents will receive updated bus information on or before 1/13/2021
- Currently transportation is evaluating bus runs for higher ridership
- Buses will be deployed to lighten the loads on buses with heavier ridership

Meal Delivery

- Meals are currently being delivered on Mondays, and Wednesdays
- Back Pack meal supplement packets are delivered weekly to families with the highest needs
- 2 Daycare centers that require hot meal delivery continue to receive daily service

Student Transportation

- Transportation is doing spot checks at all schools to ensure social distancing of students
- We are working with all schools to enforce mask wearing
- All students are given assigned seats and drivers are required to keep a current seating chart
- All drivers are continuing strict cleaning practices
- All buses are sprayed down each day to mitigate the chances of viral spread

Food Services – Steve Patton, Director of Food Services, is hoping for a good second half of the school year and thanked everyone for their support.

Technology – Scott Mecca, Director of Technology, indicated all new devices have been received except additional monitors for teachers, which should arrive by the end of the month. Teachers will complete check out forms for the equipment received. ITRT’s are building **hovercraft** and CANVAS training. Class link will be available in the spring and

students will have access to Microsoft Office 365. Spring testing will be different this year, because Chromebooks are not in kiosk mode and will not be able to be used.

Grounds – Jimmy Viars, Grounds Manager, indicated no issues in the grounds department. Please inform him of any needs at your locations.

Safety – Del Dautrich, Safety Manager, indicated new and improved sprayers have been distributed to schools and encouraged the utilization of those for disinfecting. Dr. Clemons asked to be notified if this is not occurring in any buildings.

Construction Update – Scott Shorland, Construction Manager, said the conceptual plans for the transportation facility have been finished and next steps for GHS are to determine the final design and floor plan. Bids will soon be obtained for the Page M.S. baseball field with work on the new field to follow.

Dr. Clemons thanked everyone, noting that a lot of good things are happening. A thank you video has been created to thank the Board of Supervisors and is viewable on the GCPS website. Dr. Clemons is thankful for the continuous collaboration between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors.

The next meeting will be held on January 27, 2021.

Adjourned – 9:57 a.m.