

Division Leadership Team Meeting

January 27, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Clemons, Superintendent, welcomed everyone.

FY'22 Budget Process

Dr. Clemons and the Executive Leadership Team, presented FY'22 budget considerations at a School Board Budget Work Session held on January 21, 2021. Employee compensation is always a large portion of the budget. Dr. Clemons indicated step increases are being considered for the upcoming year, as well as those not received this year, but will be contingent on the local budget allocation. Dr. Clemons said typically, the request made by the School Board to the Board of Supervisors, is not what is received and last year, GCPS received over \$400,000 less than the previous year. FY'22 health insurance increases are still unknown, but may not be as large as in recent years. This is due in part to the elimination of one of the health plans previously offered. In addition, GCPS has gone out to bid this year regarding health insurance.

COVID - 19 Vaccination Update

Dr. Clemons indicated GCPS is doing everything possible to obtain vaccinations for staff and will continue to work with the Three Rivers Health District as well as other avenues in this process. Most likely, employees will receive vaccinations in phases, as available. In addition, a second dose will be required 21-28 days following the first vaccination.

Community Engagement – Gloria Williams, Gloucester County Community Engagement & Public Information Manager, stated that George Baines, Gloucester County I.T. Director, was unable to attend, but is pushing for additional broadband connectivity in the county. Community Engagement has launched a COVID resource call center at the Gloucester library, which is a good way to get your name on the list for a vaccination. Mrs. Williams also suggested contacting your healthcare provider to ensure your name is on the VDH list. A mailer will also be sent out to that effect. Mrs. Williams gave kudos to GCPS for the WAVY TV 10 story regarding students returning to in-person learning. Applications for Wellness grants given through Community Engagement are now due. In addition, Mrs. Williams said the Educational Foundation will be holding a virtual 5K from March 20 – April 10.

ELT Updates

Instruction – Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, informed members that GCPS has received additional CARES Act Funding and one of the areas these

funds will be needed is to address student learning loss that has occurred during the pandemic. Summer learning is being considered as part of this process, however details will need to be discussed.

Budget & Finance– Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer, informed members of a meeting with Marsh & McLennan on February 12, to review insurance bids. Mrs. Lucas indicated information received thus far, has been more favorable than in recent years. On February 18, Dr. Clemons will be presenting his proposed FY'22 budget to the School Board during a work session beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the TCWEC Auditorium.

Human Resources – Rachel Blankenship, Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance, indicated employee intent surveys are due on 01/27/2021. Of those who have responded thus far, most plan to return. The Human Resources department also has many interested interview candidates. Please inform Mrs. Blankenship if you have substitute needs.

Operations – Bryan Hartley, Executive Director of Operations, indicated Bi-polar Ionization units have been installed and new buses are in operation. In addition, the bus communication systems have been approved and we look to have them installed in the second semester.

Mr. Hartley also informed members he will be attending a meeting with Jason Perkins, Juvenile Domestic Intake Officer. Concerns were shared regarding the lack of student attendance and students dropped from enrollment. Mr. Hartley noted that virtual and in-person truancy questions will be addressed at the meeting. It was also stressed that teachers need to be taking attendance.

Department Updates

Nursing – Lisa Jones, Division Nurse Coordinator, reiterated that attempts are being made with all possible avenues to obtain vaccines. Call outs are not currently being made for COVID notifications, however letter notifications will continue, as well as updates to the COVID-19 Dashboard on the GCPS website

Transportation – Tanya Deckard, Director of Transportation, noted radio communication systems will soon be installed. Transportation for some programs, such as IPOP and athletics, are expanding and meal deliveries have increased, possibly due to more families experiencing

job loss. In addition, more students are requesting transportation. Those requests typically require 24-48 hours.

Safety – Del Dautrich, Safety Manager, indicated an additional sprayer has been purchased for GHS. Dr. Clemons added that best practices need to continue, even when vaccinations are available.

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

Food Services – Steve Patton, Director of Food Services, indicated fifteen new families have requested meal deliveries. Cares Act Funding provided much needed support for the food services department in January.

Construction Update – Scott Shorland, Construction Manager, said plans for the transportation facility are being reviewed and conversations are occurring with Moseley Architects regarding details for the GHS plans. In addition, the final work to the Achilles bus loop and surrounding area, will be completed this summer. Dr. Clemons added that the County Administrator is proposing accelerating and bundling CIP projects into FY'22.

Dr. Clemons informed members of a proposed calendar adjustment to the second semester, with February 17 and June 2 proposed as “A” days, in order to balance the difference instructional days for hybrid students. June 9 would be added as a “B” day, June 17 would be eliminated, and June 15 would be the last day of school.

Additional comments included Mrs. Deckard saying feedback regarding the new buses has been positive. Jennifer Tingley, Acting Special Education Director, encouraged members to watch the video being shown on equity day, noting it is very uplifting. Jodie Simpson, GHS Assistant Principal, acknowledged Ms. Jernigan, GCPS bus driver, who was recently observed going above and beyond to assist a student at GHS.

The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2021.

Adjourned – 11:43 a.m.