

## Division Leadership Team Meeting

**November 18, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.**

Dr. Clemons welcomed everyone, thanking them for another successful transition, with all grades now being back for in person learning on the hybrid schedule. Principals provided positive feedback regarding the return to in person learning, with some indicating utilization of their cafeterias, and others eating in classrooms. Students are happy to be back in school and mask issues are minimal. Dr. Craig Reed (GHS Principal) recognized Tanya Deckard (Transportation Director) for all she has done to make the arrival and dismissal process seamless. Dr. Reed indicated students are confident grades will improve with in person learning and GHS has started administering some SOL tests. Dr. Stefan Mygas (GHS Asst. Principal) indicated teachers deserve a great deal of credit, and Mrs. Jodie Simpson (GHS Asst. Principal) said they are doing as much as possible to support new staff and show appreciation to all staff. Dr. Clemons also commended all support departments as well as the Executive Leadership Team and Instructional Team for everything being done.

Some localities are returning to all fully remote learning, with the recent increase in COVID-19 cases. GCPS will continue to look at health and safety first, but Dr. Clemons believes effective implementation of mitigation strategies, will be a determining factor in staying open. Health conditions plus mitigation strategies will be considered. Currently, there are no plans to return to fully remote learning.

Sales Tax Referendum – The Sales Tax Referendum passed with over 62% of the citizens voting in favor. Funds from any additional sales tax must specifically be used for school renovation/infrastructure projects.

Update from BOS/School Board Meeting – Dr. Clemons informed members the Board of Supervisors (BOS) allocated approximately \$923,000 for the Bipolar Ionization units at their November 4 meeting, and during a special called meeting on November 17, appropriated an additional \$1,397,000 for the purchase of twelve school buses and two hundred fifty Chromebooks and carts. Dr. Clemons commended the support given by the BOS and encouraged members to thank them.

Several recognitions occurred at the November 10 School Board Meeting. Delegate Keith Hodges and Congressman Rob Wittman, were honored with plaques for their support of GCPS. Senator Tommy Norment plans to attend the December meeting to be recognized. Dr. Clemons noted that Senator Norment was instrumental in having the Sales Tax Bill presented

in the Senate. In addition, Michelle Stone and Beth Gibson were recognized for their efforts on the “Say Yes to Gloucester” committee in publicizing and supporting the Sales Tax Referendum. Captain John Schick was recognized for his twenty-nine years of service to Gloucester County and the support he has provided to GCPS. Captain Schick will be leaving Gloucester to take a position in Colorado. The proposed African American and Native American courses were approved by the School Board beginning in the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Clemons thanked Eileen Kersmarki, Bethel E.S. Principal and the entire Bethel staff for their show of appreciation and promise book presented to him. Mrs. Kersmarki credited her staff for this act of kindness.

### **ELT Updates**

**Instruction** – Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

**Acknowledge the Potential for a COVID Closure** – Dr. Wagner and Dr. Clemons stressed the need to practice mitigation strategies and not become complacent. Teachers need to be prepared in the event of a sudden COVID closure, which has occurred in some divisions.

**Restraint and Seclusion Training** – Level 1 training modules need to be completed by all staff. GCPS has four staff members who are CPI trainers and able to train those who require Level 2 training, which includes administrators and staff who work directly with students who might require Level 2 restraint or seclusion. Dr. Wagner is planning to have Level 2 training available on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays in December in order to meet the end of December deadline. Recertification must be done online and supervisors will be required to maintain a record at the school level. A study guide has been created if needed and Special Education staff are available to help. Both Level 1 and 2 tests may be taken as many times as needed. Level 2 training is assessed in SCED, which members noted needs to be updated for the 2020-21 school year.

**Clarification on Lockdown Drills** – Conversation was held regarding a potential waiver for lockdown drills during the current pandemic. Bryan Hartley and Del Dautrich will follow-up with clarification, noting some contradictions regarding state guidance, but do not believe a waiver exists. Anna Harwood, Abingdon E.S. Principal, indicated a lockdown drill has occurred at Abingdon E.S. and students were shown where their safe place would be in an actual lockdown, but in order to maintain social distancing, only went under their desks during the drill.

**Budget & Finance**– Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer, stated budget packets are due on Friday, Nov. 20. Please email her when folders have been completed. Payroll will end on

December 10 due to winter break, however payday remains the last day of the month. In response to questions regarding staff leave on November 25, if leave is taken that day, it would be for a half day.

Operations – Bryan Hartley, Executive Director of Operations, said the purchases we are able to make now for bipolar ionization units and buses will be beneficial beyond the current situation. In addition, principals and assistant principals were sent federal cards to recoup impact aid where possible and links will soon be available for school websites. Please send reminders about the federal cards in your all call messages. There is a December 11 deadline to apply.

Human Resources – Rachel Blankenship, Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance, indicated recruiting for substitutes continues. Principals should inform her of any substitutes working on a daily basis.

### **Department Updates**

Transportation – Tanya Deckard, Director of Transportation, thanked everyone for their support and communication. Any changes are being handled as soon as possible. This is the first week of only having two days of meal delivery. Drivers are making every effort to keep students from congregating as they exit the bus, especially at the middle school level.

Food Services – Steve Patton, Director of Food Services, thanked everyone for their support. Over 30,000 meals were served in the first two weeks of November, and 7,000 of those, in one day. Mr. Patton reminded everyone cafeteria employees are working hard and to please be appreciative.

Safety – Del Dautrich indicated custodial foreman are being trained to use new sprayers, which will sanitize areas if an outbreak occurs. Dr. Clemons asked if the sprayers could be used on a weekly basis. Mr. Dautrich indicated there may be moisture issues, but could possibly use them once weekly on Wednesdays.

Technology – Scott Mecca, Director of Technology, indicated display technology and keyboards ordered for teachers have arrived, and 450 laptops are due to arrive on November 18. The devices will need to be provisioned and may require training. Document cameras are expected in December. Dr. Clemons requested a schedule be provided to administrators and teachers of when devices may be issued. Funding has also become available for additional devices, provided they are available by the end of December deadline.

Construction – Scott Shorland, Construction Manager, indicated a lot of projects are occurring as a result of the grants received. A completed design for the new transportation facility should be ready in early spring and construction may begin in the summer. Plans for GHS are expected to take approximately nine months to have changes reviewed, before going out to bid.

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

Community Engagement – Gloria Williams, Director of Community Engagement, shared that her children have smoothly transitioned to in person learning. The Community Engagement office is working with Bay Aging to provide rent or mortgage assistance through the end of October, into November. If a family was current up to March 2020, they are eligible for up to four months of assistance. Mrs. Williams has also been made aware that a drive-thru Thanksgiving meal will be provided at Abingdon Episcopal Church. Botetourt Elementary School has a new Community Education Coordinator, Ashley Walker.

The next meeting will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> and is the only meeting scheduled in December due to winter break.

Adjourned – 10:39 a.m.