

Division Leadership Team Meeting

December 9, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.

Updates from Dec. 8, 2020 School Board Meeting –

Dr. Walter Clemons, Superintendent, recommended all students return from winter break in a fully remote setting, as a preemptive measure, for the two-week period of Jan. 4 – 15, which was approved by the School Board in a 4/3 vote. Dr. Richard Williams, Director of Three Rivers Health District, spoke at the School Board meeting and stated he expects multiple surges in COVID-19 positive cases following winter break. Communication will go out to families this week to allow time to prepare. GCPS has also developed a COVID-19 Dashboard on the homepage of the GCPS website, which will provide weekly updates on the number of cases occurring with staff and students, as well as close contacts. Currently, there have been no actual outbreaks in any of our schools. Winter sports practices will begin during the week of December 14 through December 23, but will stop during the two-weeks students are fully remote. Dr. Clemons added that we will continue to monitor cases and realize that an Executive Order from the Governor, could come again.

Community Engagement – Gloria Williams, Gloucester County Community Engagement & Public Information Manager, informed members that the newest edition of the *Beehive* newsletter would be coming out in a few days. Bay Aging still has some programs available to offer assistance with utility bills and rent or mortgage assistance. Wellness grant applications were emailed to teachers this week.

County Technology Update – George Baines, Gloucester County Chief Information Technology Officer, indicated the county is working to take advantage of CARES Act funding by the end of the year in the areas of Broadband and telephone access. Verizon is also working towards improving access points in the county.

ELT Updates

Instruction – Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, thanked everyone for working with Hoyt Davenport to create a thank you video for the Board of Supervisors to show our appreciation for the funding recently provided.

Budget & Finance – Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer, reminded everyone that December 10th is the end of the current payroll period and all time sheets must be sent in on time.

Human Resources – Rachel Blankenship, Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance, noted that several new substitutes have been hired, with many being college students. Please contact her if you have any who are not being used, so she may reassign them to another building. Also, be sure to add any new jobs to Sub-finder that are not already entered. Rita Garcia, Assistant Principal at Peasley M.S., thanked everyone who assisted at Peasley M.S. last week to cover administrative and teaching positions. Dr. Clemons is hopeful that some of the substitutes may become interested in becoming teachers in Gloucester County.

Operations – Bryan Hartley, Executive Director of Operations, expressed his appreciation for the support provided to purchase the new school buses and bi-polar ionization units, which have been installed at Achilles and Abingdon Elementary Schools and are currently scheduled to be installed at the remaining schools. Mr. Hartley asked members to continue to remind families to complete the electronic Federal cards.

Department Updates

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 the Santa breakfasts typically held, will be missed this year. Meal deliveries are going well, however some changes were made to the items in the Monday bags. This is due to the need to refrigerate them over the weekend, which is necessary in order to prepare the 7,000-8,000 needed for Monday deliveries.

Safety – Del Dautrich, Safety Manager, thanked everyone for completing lockdown and fire drills and reminded them to use the panic button during the drills. It only rings at the School Board office and his office at this time.

Transportation – Tanya Deckard, Director of Transportation, thanked the Executive Leadership Team for their efforts in obtaining the twelve new buses, which began rolling out on December 9. Mrs. Deckard noted the buses are equipped with excellent new safety features and the Transportation Department plans to utilize some of these buses where distancing is needed. Any student changes are being addressed as soon as possible and drivers are monitoring for proper PPE protocols. A school security grant has also been awarded in the amount of \$250,000, which will be utilized for school bus radio systems. Meals are being delivered on Mondays and Wednesdays (not Monday and Friday as indicated

in the transportation report). Dr. Clemons added that plans for the new transportation facility are also taking shape.

Nursing – Lisa Jones, Division Nurse Coordinator, indicated the COVID-19 dashboard shows that GCPS is being successful in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Mrs. Jones has screened 361 students or staff and most positive cases have occurred since Thanksgiving. Mrs. Jones believes the two weeks of all remote learning will be helpful and that everyone should continue practicing mitigation strategies. Principals indicated the surface thermometers are not accurate when it is cold outside. Discussion was held regarding alternate options for temperature readings when it is cold.

Construction Update – Scott Shorland, Construction Manager, was not available, however, Mr. Hartley indicated a meeting is planned for tomorrow with the consultant for GHS and Hudson Architects is working on plans for the new transportation facility. The Page baseball field project is currently on hold, but still planned. Dr. Clemons would like to be proactive during this time regarding moving forward with plans for the new field.

Facilities Update – David Miller, Facilities Manager, was also unavailable, due to the work being done with contractors installing bi-polar ionization units.

Dr. Clemons believes Gloucester will receive additional news coverage regarding the benefits of the bi-polar ionization units, adding that Gloucester is being proactive and is a success story. In addition, he has been contacted by Lex Gray, WAVY TV 10 reporter, regarding the planned approach that Gloucester is taking following winter break.

The next meeting will be held on January 13, 2021.

Adjourned – 10:01 a.m.