



GLoucester County Public Schools
DIVISION LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

May 26, 2021 - 8:30 A.M.

(Virtual Zoom Mtg.)

SUPERINTENDENT/DIVISION UPDATES – Dr. Clemons welcomed everyone and informed them that we asked the Board of Supervisors for additional funding to in order to move forward in the Page ballfield process, which was unanimously approved by the BOS. Dr. Clemons also expressed his appreciation to George Bains, Deputy County Administrator and Carol Steele, Acting County Administrator for their assistance.

Executive Order 79 is expected to be issued on May 28 by the Governor's office and allows outdoor events to occur without masks, if fully vaccinated or at least six feet apart. Masks will continue to be required in school buildings, at least through the end of the school year. Six feet of distance is still required while eating. Dr. Clemons does not feel it is a problem to mix classes on the playground, if masks are worn when within six feet. Adults who have been vaccinated, do not need masks on the playground. Questions regarding mask wearing while taking temperatures outside were addressed by Lisa Jones, Director of Nursing, who said on school grounds, masks should be worn, unless six feet of distancing is maintained, even outside. Members were asked to continue with the current protocols and following the Executive Order on May 28, additional clarification will be given. It is unknown at this time, if masks will be required in the fall.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATES

Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, indicated plans for remote learning in the 21-22 school year will be discussed at the School Board meeting on Thursday, May 27. Remote learning will only be offered to secondary students who meet the criteria. The summer school model will also be presented to the School Board on May 27 and will consist of GHS credit recovery and a few initial credit opportunities. Elementary and Middle school plans will be discussed further during the Instructional Team meeting. The program will be limited due to the availability of staff. Transportation will be provided as well as breakfast and bag lunches.

Dr. Wagner indicated Kristen Heaney, Secondary Math Specialist, has completed a planning grant to explore year round school. If received, this grant funding will enable GCPS to explore divisions who are currently following this model, as well as conduct additional research, and compensate staff who might serve on a committee after hours. Ms. Heaney provided an overview and indicated year round school would not add days to the calendar, but could address learning gaps that typically occur over the summer. Intersessions could help students who need the extra assistance and additional compensation for teachers. The grant could be up to \$50K to explore and up to \$300K if we were to actually begin. If implemented, it would most likely take years and interest from the community.

Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer, indicated the finance department was preparing to close out the year and had been in communication with bookkeepers. Mark 3 will be our new benefits consultant as of July 1, and Mrs. Lucas believes employees will be pleased with the options provided.

Rachel Blankenship, Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance, informed members that contracts went out on May 24 and to encourage staff to return those as soon as possible. They must be received no later than June 2. Please let her know of any concerns.

Dr. Clemons said most people should be pleased with increases in contracts this year. Almost everyone received 5% or more, other than a few at the beginning of the teacher scale. Salary scales are available on the website. Dr. Clemons addressed a question that was asked during the Teacher Advisory meeting regarding the contract due date and people seeking other employment. Dr. Clemons explained that contracts are due June 2, however staff members have until June 30 to resign, if necessary.

Bryan Hartley, Executive Director of Operations, discussed another question that was asked during the Teacher Advisory meeting regarding elementary release days not being included in the 2021-22 calendar. Mr. Hartley and Dr. Clemons explained that those days became full unencumbered days for everyone and that difference would always exist between secondary and elementary planning times. Mr. Hartley also informed members that elementary redistricting was approved and waivers just to remain in the current district will not be an option as that defeats the purpose of redistricting. Only 5th grade students and siblings in redistricted areas will be allowed to remain in their current schools. The Page baseball field is moving forward and the Achilles front entrance parking area will be completed this summer. Many new projects were also approved for FY'22 and will soon be underway.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Dave Miller, Facilities Manager, is currently doing maintenance in non-instructional spaces and working with contractors regarding projects for the summer. Mr. Miller will notify building administrators when work will be occurring.

Steve Patton, Director of Food Services, gave kudos to Dale Payne in facilities for the work he does on equipment in the kitchens. Mr. Patton expressed concern regarding staffing for next year and asked principals to put notices on marquis for Food Services and Transportation positions.

Tanya Deckard, Director of Transportation, indicated plans are underway for summer school transportation and a list should be available by June 9. Shuttles are also being provided for students taking SOL's on Wednesdays. Please notify the Transportation Department as soon as you know a student will need Wednesday transportation. In addition, the new bus radios are working out well.

Jimmy Viars, Grounds Manager, indicated his crew is starting earlier in the morning in an effort to be away from buildings during the SOL testing schedule.

Lisa Jones, Director of Nursing, apprised members of vaccine clinics coming up on June 1 and June 4. Principals were asked to share summer school lists with nurses. Mrs. Jones also indicated that nurses would not be available for summer school. Please let Mrs. Jones know of any employees who need to be trained for medicine administration prior to summer school.

Dr. Clemons expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Jones for all she does and always with a great attitude.

OTHER ITEMS SHARED

Gloria Williams indicated Brian Teucke, GEA President presented Juliette Smith, custodian at Petsworth, with an award for being the GEA division-wide ESP (education support staff person) of the year. She had previously been selected as the Petsworth support staff person of the year. On a personal note, Katie Litton shared that her daughter was playing in the regional tennis tournament for Poquoson. Anna Harwood's daughter graduated from college and is interviewing for teaching positions, and Jennifer Tingley's daughter recently placed 3rd in a state gymnastics meet. Dr. Wagner will celebrate his anniversary on May 28.

The TCWEC Climate Committee has initiated a "You've been Sacked" morale boost for staff and will hold an Ice Cream "Social-ly Distanced" this afternoon, May 26.

Bess Worley, Director of Assessment & Evaluation, indicated SOL testing is going well.

Mary Runnells, Special Education Learning Coach, said four high school students in special education have been accepted into a task leadership program this summer.

Sharon Hendrix, GHS Assistant Principal, will have nine seniors at Gloucester High School participating in a signing ceremony this afternoon, May 26.

ADJOURN – 10:03 a.m.