



GLoucester County Public Schools
DIVISION LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

April 28, 2021 - 8:30 A.M.
(Virtual Zoom Mtg.)

SUPERINTENDENT/DIVISION UPDATES – Dr. Walter Clemons

Dr. Clemons welcomed everyone and asked Gloria Williams to begin with updates from the county.

Gloria Williams, Community Engagement and Public Information has been working with Gwendolyn Wallace (Petsworth Principal) to interview candidates for the Petsworth E.S. Community Coordinator position. Mrs. Williams is also working with Bryan Hartley (Executive Director of Operations), Lisa Jones (Director of Nursing), and Nanette Costa Desjarlais (Administrative Associate) regarding facility use for programs through Community Engagement.

Updates from 4/22/21 School Board Meeting – During the April 22 work session, the School Board adopted a budget for FY'22. The local amount approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in the operational budget, was about \$986,000 less than requested. The capital budget was about 34 million less, due to the full renovation of GHS not being supported by the BOS. Dr. Clemons does not feel the county is using the sales tax in the best way. The School Board is waiting on the Attorney General to provide an opinion on the county's decision to use the sales tax for past debt. The School Board also voted for the 2021-22 school year to begin on August 30 for students. A tie vote (3-3) prevented the School Board from making a decision regarding elementary redistricting. A special meeting will be held on April 28 to attempt to reach a decision on elementary redistricting, with all members expected to be in attendance. Dr. Clemons is hopeful the outcome will allow student numbers to be balanced in the elementary schools.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATES

Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services indicated summer school will begin on June 28, 2021, with logistics for elementary and middle schools being worked out. Bagged meals will be provided to students during the program. Additional details will be discussed in the Instructional Team meeting. Dr. Wagner is amazed by the systems our schools have in place to get students in and out as efficiently and safely as possible and thanked everyone for the work being done to have students back to in person learning four days each week. What is occurring now will help to prepare for next year. Dr. Clemons said some students have done well with remote learning; however, any remote learning offered in the fall will be on a much smaller scale.

Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer is in the process of finalizing FY'22 budget books and will soon send those to schools. TeeAnn Floyd, GCPS Accounting Manager, is

working with bookkeepers on year end balances and salary information is being provided to Human Resources for contracts. Employees will receive an average 5% compensation increases for FY'22. Mrs. Lucas indicated she expects a change in health insurance vendors next year, but on the same platform as our current provider. This change will keep rates steady for employees. Mrs. Lucas is also in communication with the county regarding contracts that end on July 1.

Rachel Blankenship, Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance indicated non-renewal notices have been communicated; however, if there are any others, please notify Human Resources. New teachers will begin the 2021-22 school year on August 16 and returning teachers on August 19. Dates are being determined for eleven month employees.

Brian Hartley, Executive Director of Operations said elementary redistricting will be the topic of the School Board meeting this evening, April 28. **(Note:) The School Board did approve the elementary redistricting plan at its special meeting on April 28.** The paving work in front of Achilles is in the process of being completed. Page baseball field bids have come in, but are higher than the funding currently appropriated. Therefore, a funding request will be made to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Mr. Hartley is also working with the county to be able to move forward on other projects. The 2021-22 calendar was approved with August 30, 2021 as the first day of school for students and June 15, 2022 as the last day. Other dates during the year are being finalized. Four days have been added to the calendar to get to a 180 instructional day school year. In addition, teacher work days are included between each quarter. Dr. Clemons said the holidays people have become accustomed to being out of school have been maintained, with the exception of Columbus Day. Mr. Hartley has done a great job to include everything needed and still have the school year ending at a reasonable time.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Steve Patton, Director of Food Services discussed the healthy schools program and asked principals to provide pictures regarding the wellness part of the program. Katina Keener (Achilles Principal) expressed concerns regarding how the pictures would be used, which Mr. Patton will inquire about. Over 4,000 meals were served last Tuesday, April 20. Let Mr. Patton know if you have any concerns.

Tanya Deckard, Director of Transportation is currently participating in training drivers on the radio communication system. All radios will be installed and operable by May 6. Most buses are currently at capacity. Any virtual students waiting on transportation to return to in-person learning, will need to continue with virtual until more buses are on the road. If anyone has vulnerable students who may need transportation, please let her know. Dr. Clemons knows this is a huge undertaking and appreciates all that is being done. Dr. Clemons is also excited to have the bus communication system, noting it is something GCPS has wanted for several years.

Dave Miller, Facilities Manager thanked the administration for allowing Christina Long to become a full-time employee in his office and looks forward to the efficiency this will provide. Mr. Miller is currently seeking a new pest control vendor and is working on water testing for Legionella to meet state guidelines. Contact Mr. Miller if you have any

projects to be addressed this summer. Dr. Clemons thanked Mr. Miller for all he does to maintain the GCPS facilities.

Jimmy Viars, Grounds Manager indicated his crew is busy maintaining fields for spring sports as well as keeping the grass cut. Please remind staff to keep students away from lawn equipment. The grounds crew try to be aware of their surroundings, but still need staff and students to be cautious when outside.

Scott Mecca, Director of Technology stated COVID funding has allowed the Technology Department to do a number of things to vamp up infrastructure and protect our network. Laptops being used by teachers, off network, will now be getting malware software to help with potential issues. Security cameras are also being repaired. Temporary summer positions will be needed to assist with the three hundred new laptops recently purchased and the additional twelve hundred being purchased.

Lisa Jones, Director of Nursing is working with the health department regarding vaccinations for students sixteen and older. Mrs. Jones hopes to get a date to have those available at GHS. Students would be required to have permission slips prior to receiving the vaccine. Mrs. Jones is also working with the health department regarding TDAP vaccines. Please have staff contact her if they are experiencing any symptoms, even if they appear to be allergy symptoms. Continue to practice mitigation strategies and best practices to do all that is possible to keep everyone safe.

Scott Shorland, Construction Manager is pleased with bids received for the baseball field at Page, but is waiting for the county to approve additional funding. As many capital projects are about to begin, Mr. Shorland appreciates and looks forward to working with everyone. Dr. Clemons expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr. Shorland for his expertise and knowledge in this process.

Dr. Clemons reminded members that George Bains is now the Deputy County Administrator. He also asked members to keep Brent Fedors, County Administrator in their thoughts and prayers as he will be on medical leave for the next three months.

OTHER ITEMS SHARED

There were no additional items.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Next Division Leadership Team meeting – May 12, 2021 (8:30 a.m.)