



GLoucester County Public Schools
DIVISION LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

May 12, 2021 - 8:30 A.M.

(Virtual Zoom Mtg.)

SUPERINTENDENT/DIVISION UPDATES

Dr. Clemons welcomed everyone and asked George Baines to begin with updates from the county.

George Baines, Assistant County Administrator recently met with chair and vice-chair persons of both the School Board and Board of Supervisors (BOS), along with Dr. Clemons, Carol Steele, Acting County Administrator, Bryan Hartley and Scott Shorland to work toward providing funding for some CIP projects. County staff are currently looking at zoning issues in the county, such as where solar facilities will be permitted and how they can be used. Software upgrades are in the works for the county finance department, which also impacts the GCPs finance department.

Dr. Clemons indicated the division has adopted a budget for FY'22 and although everything requested was not received, the division will be able to move forward with some initiatives. Employees will receive compensation increases this year and CIP projects will be able to begin. Dr. Clemons believes some other projects may be addressed in future budgets and is appreciative for all the county has done.

Updates from 5/11/21 School Board Meeting – A slight adjustment to the 20-21 calendar was made to allow for the observance of Juneteenth on Friday, June 18. The last day of school for students will be June 15 and teacher work days will be held on June 16 and 17. Juneteenth actually occurs on Saturday, June 19, but is being observed on June 18 by state employees.

Personnel changes will be effective July 1 and will affect some of our Division Leadership Team members. Dr. Clemons gave those members an opportunity to share the news with fellow members. Katina Keener will be moving to the Student Services Coordinator position. Patti McMann will be the Academic Support Coordinator for Special Education and Katie Litton, the Academic Support Coordinator for Instructional Services. Craig Smith will be moving to the position of Operations Department Coordinator. All expressed their gratitude for the opportunities to serve in these capacities. ESSER funding has allowed some of these positions to be filled. In addition, Susan Andrews will be moving to Achilles as a teacher and is excited for the opportunity, which will be good for her family. Scott Mecca will be leaving the division as Director of Technology to become the Director of Technology in the Edmond school division in Oklahoma City, OK. Dr. Clemons congratulated everyone, noting position openings will soon be posted and encouraged those interested to apply.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATES

Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction indicated plans are moving forward with the summer school program. Dr. Wagner will also be working with Katie

Litton regarding a remote learning plan for the fall. Virtual Virginia is expanding, but may not be an option for GCPS because it isn't equally accessible to every student. The remote learning opportunity through GCPS in the fall, will probably have limited enrollment and an application process is expected. In addition, there will be a cost to the division, which is high, but may be better than losing families to Virtual Virginia.

Gloria Williams, Community Engagement and Public Information (*Late due to previous engagement*) The Petsworth Community Engagement Coordinator should be announced soon. In addition, the coordinator at Abingdon will be moving to Texas and that position will soon be posted. Mrs. Williams is excited about GHS becoming a full service school and recently met with Matt Lord and others to discuss details for services. The current issue of the *Beehive* is now available. Dr. Clemons expressed his appreciation for all Mrs. Williams and Mr. Baines do to support GCPS.

Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer indicated GCPS health insurance will be changing to Anthem on October 1, with the same plan design currently in place. In addition, our benefits coordinator and online platform for benefits will be changing. Once finalized, the name of the new benefits coordinator will be announced. The FY'22 budget book has been posted on the website and hard copies will be sent to principals. Dr. Clemons thanked Mrs. Lucas for all she does.

Brian Hartley, Executive Director of Operations quite a few position changes have occurred in his department recently. Some roles won't be exactly as they were in the past, but changes will be communicated. Tanya Deckard, Transportation Director, has finalized the plan for redistricting and posted it for families to see. August 30 will be the first day of the 2021-22 school year. Dates are being added for exams, new teacher and veteran teacher return. Upon final approval by the Executive Leadership Team, the 2021-22 calendar will be posted to the website. CIP projects are underway and Mr. Hartley is looking forward to working with the county on those. At the May 11 meeting, the School Board voted to have Troy Andersen serve as the School Board member liaison to work with Mr. Hartley and Mr. Shorland and provide monthly reports to the School Board. Randy Burak will serve as the alternate liaison. Spring sports are underway. Mr. Hartley is also preparing a letter to inform families who have left the division this past year to be home schooled, of the plans for the 2021-22 school year. If any of those students are interested in virtual, they would also need to apply to be considered.

Dr. Clemons indicated Phiser is in the process of making vaccines available for students age 12-15, which GCPS will offer to students, but can't mandate. Also planned are two dates in June to provide an opportunity to receive the required Tdap vaccine for students entering the seventh grade and meningococcal vaccines to students entering the seventh grade and twelfth grade.

Rachel Blankenship, Executive Director of Human Resource & Compliance indicated contracts should go out within the next two weeks and be returned the first week of June. Positions will be posted today for some of the recent openings that have occurred. Mrs. Blankenship responded to an inquiry regarding contract language, and if it would be similar to last year because of the pandemic or more like previous years, by saying some general blanket wording would remain.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Tanya Deckard, Director of Transportation is planning routes for summer school and new students who need transportation now, however buses are full under the current model in place for social distancing. If a student is high risk or in a situation that necessitates transportation, every attempt will be made to provide alternative transportation or change the model, but Mrs. Deckard doesn't believe it would be wise to change at this point in the year. If students need recovery services on Wednesdays, contact transportation. Mrs. Deckard will try to accommodate those students. Radios have been installed on buses and are used daily. The Transportation Department is experiencing a driver shortage, please recruit. Jeanette Hogge is now an Administrative Associate I in the Transportation office.

Steve Patton, Director of Food Services indicated the Governor Score Cards are being sent today and thanked those who sent pictures to be included. Meals are going well and Mr. Patton thanked everyone for the Tuesday afternoon option, which enables Food Services to serve 4,000 meals for Wednesday. Mr. Patton will discuss meals for the last day of school with Mr. Hartley. Two cafeteria managers will be working from the two elementary schools being used for summer school. If middle or high school students need lunches, they will be delivered. Mr. Patton thanked everyone for their support and Dr. Clemons thanked Mr. Patton for all he is doing and recognized May 12 as Food Service Employees Recognition Day. In addition, Dr. Clemons thanked Mr. Patton for providing pizza to staff on May 6 in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.

Dave Miller, Facilities Manager is meeting with contractors regarding repairs as well as other projects that will begin over the next few weeks.

Jimmy Viars, Grounds Manager asked members to let him know of times his crew should avoid working around buildings. Mr. Viars will be working with Dr. Reed to prepare the stadium for graduation and Scott Shorland on paving plans.

Scott Mecca, Director of Technology indicated last minute updates are occurring. The need for increased security is being seen now in the hack that has happened to the pipeline company. The Technology Department is working to increase content filter and the new firewall is in place. New software and servers are also going in every building, with improved infrastructure in place that should protect us moving forward.

Dr. Clemons thanked Gaye Murphy and the Instructional Team for their presentation at the May 11 School Board meeting on the Local Gifted Plan and how it will better serve all students. Dr. Clemons appreciates Mrs. Murphy's straightforward honest answers to difficult questions.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:45 a.m.