



GLOUCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**October 23, 2020**

Dr. Clemons welcomed everyone and recognized new members to the committee.

Sales Tax Referendum Update – Gloria Williams and Michelle Stone provided updates regarding the “Say Yes to Gloucester” committee and the Sales Tax Referendum. The “Say Yes to Gloucester” committee was formed to educate the community and gain support for the referendum. Dr. Clemons noted this may not be the best time for the referendum to be on the ballot, given the situation with COVID 19, and the early voting that is occurring. Mrs. Stone added that many people don’t know what capital improvement projects actually are when told the Sales Tax Referendum would support school infrastructure needs already in the Capital Improvement Plan. A Town Hall meeting was held regarding the referendum and may be viewed on the “Say Yes to Gloucester” Facebook page. If passed, the Board of Supervisors would have the ability to approve up to a 1% sales tax increase for school infrastructure. Sales tax is paid by anyone who shops in Gloucester. If the referendum does not pass, approved school infrastructure needs would require a different method of funding, which historically, has been derived through an increase in real estate taxes, paid solely by Gloucester property owners. Dr. Clemons plans to go to the polls, as a citizen of Gloucester, to promote support of the referendum.

Bipolar Ionization Units – At a Joint Board of Supervisors & School Board meeting held on October 20, the Board of Supervisors approved the appropriation of funds enabling the School Board to solicit bids for external and internal bipolar ionization units that would be installed in schools. These units would greatly reduce the potential spread of the coronavirus as well as others, from being transmitted in our buildings and would be purchased with Cares Act funding. These funds must be utilized prior to December 31, 2020.

Parent Advisory Items – Jessi Kittrell, Petsworth E.S. and Peasley M.S. parent, inquired about the loss of a teacher at Petsworth, and each grade being down to two teachers. Dr. Clemons indicated staff is being balanced for in-person and virtual learning, with almost a third of our students being virtual.

Adjournment: 10:15 a.m.