



GLOUCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Dr. Clemons welcomed everyone and looks forward to working with them in the remainder of the year.

Sales Tax Referendum Update – The sales tax referendum was successful on the November ballot and now discussion may begin with the Board of Supervisors regarding moving forward. Dr. Clemons thanked Michelle Stone for her efforts in the process.

School Board Budget Work Session – On Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., the School Board will hold a virtual budget work session. Please contact Mrs. Dehoux if you have any items you would like considered. Dr. Clemons referenced the Comprehensive Plan, which is updated every two years and helps to determine needs when considering budget requests. ***Comprehensive Plan Attached***

Return to Learn Update –Hybrid students will return to class next week and those who elected to be remote, remain remote. The situation will be reevaluated near the end of the third quarter to determine how best to proceed in the final quarter. Gloucester has been proactive in mitigation strategies and even though cases in the community are increasing, these measures have helped to prevent outbreaks in our schools. Outbreaks occurring in the community have been outside of our schools. On January 25, 2021, WAVY TV10 will be airing a story on how Gloucester schools are providing in-person learning in the midst of the pandemic.

CARES Act Funding – Bipolar Ionization units purchased with CARES Act Funding provided to GCPS through the county, have been installed and twelve new buses purchased and delivered. Dr. Clemons shared that a video was been created by staff and students to thank the Board of Supervisors for the funding they provided. The video may be viewed on the GCPS website. GCPS was notified during the week of January 11, 2021, that additional “Coronavirus Relief” funding will be made available to GCPS in the amount of 2.4 million dollars. These additional funds will need to be used by September 2023. One area the VDOE has asked divisions to make a priority is addressing the loss of learning that has occurred during the pandemic. Overall, approximately 7 million in federal funding has been awarded to GCPS during the pandemic. New technology for students and teachers has been purchased. The bus garage replacement, which has been needed for at least two decades, may now become a reality. Michelle Stone noted that it will be 120 days after the Board of Supervisors approves the new sales tax, before it will begin to be implemented. Dr. Clemons is aiming to begin all of the big projects in the CIP and hopes these improved facilities will attract people to the area.

Parent Advisory Items –

Jessi Kittrell (Petsworth/Peasley) indicated the hybrid schedule, with students back in the buildings two days each week, is making a difference.

Kristi Bell (Petsworth) inquired about teacher morale, which Dr. Clemons said is an ongoing item/challenge that needs constant attention. There is some anxiety regarding health concerns and some staff would like to be back in the buildings, while others prefer to remain virtual. Currently, ninety-seven percent of the GCPS staff are working in the buildings and accommodations are being made when necessary.

Amanda Riley-Gross (Achilles) inquired about information to help guide students on a desired path from elementary through high school. Dr. Clemons advised inquiring with the school principal.

Lisa Jones (Botetourt/Page) is glad to have her sons on the hybrid schedule and feels they need to be in school.

Rachel Blankenship (Abingdon/Page) indicated her children are doing well, but ready to get back in school during the week of January 18.

Dr. Clemons indicated his son is ready to be back in school as well and also recognized the hard work of Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Blankenship during the pandemic. Mrs. Jones is the GCPS Division Nurse Coordinator, and Mrs. Blankenship is the Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance.

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.