

**MINUTES OF THE
GLOUCESTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA 23061**

August 10, 2021

A Gloucester County School Board monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 in the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center Auditorium. Robin Rice, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

- I. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken by the clerk, and the following persons recorded as present: Robin M. Rice (Chairperson), Elisa A. Nelson (Vice-Chairperson), Troy M. Andersen, George R. (Randy) Burak, Anita F. Parker, and Daren P. Post, Members. Brenda Mack was absent.
- II. **MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mrs. Rice led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, followed by a moment of silence.
- III. **ADDIITONS/CHANGES/ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Dr. Walter Clemons, Superintendent, had no recommended changes to the agenda. Mr. Post made a motion to include an edited resolution to the School Board resolution currently in the agenda. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously as “Item C” under School Board member items and approved unanimously. Mr. Burak made a motion to approve the amended agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Andersen, with all members in favor.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE CONSENT AGENDA** – Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Burak seconded the motion, which was approved 6/0 in a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Andersen	AYE	Mr. Post	AYE
Mr. Burak	AYE	Mrs. Nelson	AYE
Ms. Mack	ABSENT	Mrs. Rice	AYE
Mrs. Parker	AYE		

- A. Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2021 School Board Meeting/Town Hall
- B. Informational Central Food Service Financial Report as of June 30, 2021
- C. Disposal of Equipment Valued in Excess of \$500
- D. Approval of Updates to the 2021-22 Pay Plan Supplements

V. **STAFF PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

- A. Mrs. Rice recognized Dr. Clemons for being elected as Vice President of the Urban Superintendents Association of America (USAA), effective January 2022 for a two year term.

VI. **CITIZENS' COMMENT PERIOD** – Mrs. Rice asked speakers to state their name, the district in which they reside and limit their remarks to 3 minutes. Thirty five citizens, students, and teachers (two by voice mail call-in) provided comments. Most comments were regarding masks, with most speakers opposed to mandatory mask wearing. Air filtration was mentioned; Critical Race Theory; the turnover rate for GCPS staff; transgender facility use; School Board unity; history classes; and moral decay.

VII. **INSTRUCTIONAL ITEMS**

Monthly Departmental Report – Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction indicated the monthly departmental report is available in the packet. Summer programs concluded last week and served over 620 students. New teacher orientation will be held on August 16, for 70 new instructional staff members and veteran teachers return on August 19. Portions of the curriculum resources will be launched on the website Aug. 30, with additional resources added to the site throughout the year.

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VIII. SUPERINTENDENT ITEMS

- A. Mask Guidelines and the 2021-22 School Year – Dr. Clemons introduced Dr. Richard Williams, Director of the Three Rivers Virginia Department of Health District who provided an update on the current status of the pandemic in our area. Seven jurisdictions in the three rivers, including Gloucester, are currently high risk and the three others are substantial. Dr. Clemons shared masks guidelines for the 21-22 school year, 20-21 recaps, and next steps. Additional information was provided regarding mask recommendations from the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Academy of Pediatrics. K-12 students inside are not considered close contact if masked and within 3-6 feet of an infected student, if both are masked and other prevention strategies are in place. Dr. Clemons recommended masks be worn indoors for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status, with meal services being discussed with principals. Masking is already required on school buses. Outdoor masking is not required, but is recommended in close proximity for extended period of times. GCPS will continue to monitor VDH guidance, levels of community transmission, vaccination coverage, case and outbreak trends, and testing data to determine when to revise this recommendation.

Mr. Post made a motion to reject the superintendent's recommendation for a mask mandate and leave the choice to mask up to the individual. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion failed in a 2/4 poll vote as follows:

Mr. Andersen	NAY	Mr. Post	AYE
Mr. Burak	NAY	Mrs. Nelson	AYE
Ms. Mack	ABSENT	Mrs. Rice	NAY
Mrs. Parker	NAY		

Following additional discussion, Mr. Burak made a motion to accept Dr. Clemons' recommendation. Mrs. Parker seconded the motion, which did not pass in a 3/3 roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Andersen	NAY	Mr. Post	NAY
Mr. Burak	AYE	Mrs. Nelson	NAY
Ms. Mack	ABSENT	Mrs. Rice	AYE
Mrs. Parker	AYE		

Mr. Post made a motion to reject the superintendent's recommendation and monitor infection rates in the schools. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion, adding that masks should be recommended, but optional while monitoring cases and the environments in the schools and not violate Senate Bill 1303. Discussion was held and the amended motion below considered.

Mr. Post amended his motion to say: 1) to allow masking be up to the individual; 2) the School Board will recommend masks but does not require masks; and 3) the School Board will monitor COVID transmission on a daily basis adjusting the policy if needed. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion, which did not pass in a 3/3 roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Andersen	AYE	Mr. Post	AYE
Mr. Burak	NAY	Mrs. Nelson	AYE
Ms. Mack	ABSENT	Mrs. Rice	NAY
Mrs. Parker	NAY		

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Mr. Post made a motion to hold a meeting on August 19, 2021 to discuss mask wearing and Critical Race Theory (CRT). Mr. Burak seconded the motion. Mr. Andersen requested the meeting be held on August 17, 2021 and only to discuss mask wearing. The motion presented was considered and the motion failed. Mr. Andersen made a motion to meet on August 19, 2021 only to discuss mask wearing. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by all members present.

IX. BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS

- A. Monthly Departmental Report – Mrs. Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer indicated the monthly departmental report was available in the agenda packet. There were no questions.
- B. Financial Report for June 2021 – Mrs. Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer presented the preliminary financial report for June 2021.
- C. Acceptance of Donations – Mr. Burak made a motion to accept the monthly monetary donations as presented by Mrs. Lucas in the amount of \$1,020. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously in a poll vote as follows:

Mr. Andersen	AYE	Mr. Post	AYE
Mr. Burak	AYE	Mrs. Nelson	AYE
Ms. Mack	ABSENT	Mrs. Rice	AYE
Mrs. Parker	AYE		

- D. Categorical Transfer Recommendation (FY 2021) – Mrs. Lucas requested a categorical transfer in the amount of \$45,000 from Instruction to Administration/Attendance/Health for accumulated leave payouts. Mr. Burak made a motion to approve the request, which was seconded by Mr. Andersen and approved unanimously in a poll vote as follows:

Mr. Andersen	AYE	Mr. Post	AYE
Mr. Burak	AYE	Mrs. Nelson	AYE
Ms. Mack	ABSENT	Mrs. Rice	AYE
Mrs. Parker	AYE		

X. OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT ITEMS

- A. Monthly Departmental Report – Mr. Bryan Hartley, Director of Operations indicated the monthly departmental report was available in the agenda packet. There were no questions.
- B. Policy Revision (1st or 1st/2nd Reading) – Mr. Hartley presented “Policy Revision IGAG” which was accepted as a first reading and will be included in the September consent agenda for 2nd reading.

Policy Revision: IGAG Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

XI. HUMAN RESOURCES ITEMS

- A. Monthly Departmental Report – Dr. Clemons presented the Human Resource report on behalf of Mrs. Rachel Blankenship, Director of Human Resources & Compliance. Recruiting is still occurring and the master schedule collection report being finalized. New teacher orientation will be Monday, August 16, with veteran teachers returning on August 19, and support staff on August 20.

X. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS' ITEMS

- A. VSBA Media Honor Roll – Mrs. Rice asked members if they would like to recognize a media representative every two years instead of every year due to the limited media in our area. Members agreed and will make a media honor roll selection again in 2022.

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B. CIP Liaison Update – Mr. Andersen provided a CIP update, indicating the Page baseball field land pre-disturbance permit was completed and the target completion date for the field is December 21, 2021. Building material costs continue to be an issue and will necessitate discussion be held with the Board of Supervisors.

C. Gloucester County School Board Educational Resolution – Mr. Post presented an alternate version to the Educational Resolution provided in the agenda packet and made a motion that members accept this version. The motion did not receive a second and failed.

Mr. Burak made a motion to accept the original resolution as provided in the packet, with the updated language as provided in Mr. Cohens' comments (*see below*). Mr. Andersen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously in a poll vote as follows:

Mr. Andersen	AYE	Mr. Post	AYE
Mr. Burak	AYE	Mrs. Nelson	AYE
Ms. Mack	ABSENT	Mrs. Rice	AYE
Mrs. Parker	AYE		

Gloucester County School Board Educational Resolution

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Gloucester County School District's Comprehensive Plan's Mission Statement: We, the School Board of the Gloucester County School District, are committed to creating and sustaining environments that emphasize education, embrace diversity, and empower its stakeholders (students, families, staff and community) to accomplish individual, as well as collective goals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Gloucester County School District's Comprehensive Plan's Vision Statement: We, the School Board of the Gloucester County School District, are committed to providing environments that focus on meeting and exceeding the expectations of its stakeholders in each facet of the educational process, which include, but are not limited to: instruction and academic achievement, school, family and community relationships, operations, safety, and emotional/mental health & wellness; and

WHEREAS, as part of the aforementioned Comprehensive Plan, the School District has a set of core values which emphasize high expectations & achievement, instruction tailored to meet the needs of all students, and a commitment to help each child realize his or her fullest potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by vote of the members of the Gloucester County School Board, at its regularly scheduled meeting held on August 10, 2021, Gloucester County Public Schools (in alignment with the mission, vision & core values of the school district) will NOT teach or embed material designed to indoctrinate students to specific beliefs, teach or encourage in any manner, hate or division based on race, creed, color or religion, and confirm that topics such as, but not limited to, Critical Race Theory and The 1619 Project are not and will not be part of the GCPS curriculum.

RESOLVED this 10th day of August 2021, by the Gloucester County Board of Education at its regular meeting on the same date.

D. Committees/Boards/Commissions Updates from Board Members – Board members did not have any updates at this time.

XII. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Mrs. Rice read the following public announcements:

- A. Thursday, August 12, 2021, School Board Retreat, Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center (Cafeteria) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- B. School Board Work Session, Thursday, August 19, 2021 (*Canceled*)
- C. Tuesday – Thursday, August 24 – 26, 2021, School Open Houses
- D. Monday, August 30, 2021, First day of the 2021-22 School Year
- E. Friday, September 3 & Monday, September 6, 2021 – Division Closed for Labor Day Holiday
- F. Tuesday, September 14, 2021, Monthly School Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. – Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center (Auditorium)

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XIII. CALL FOR CLOSED MEETING

At 10:40 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Nelson seconded by Mr. Burak and unanimously approved to recess for a Closed Meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711, (A), Subsection 1, for the discussion of personnel matters (monthly appointments, resignations, conduct, etc.) and Subsection 2, for the discussion of student personnel matters (One (1) Early Kindergarten Registration Request).

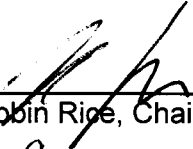
MOTION TO EXTEND MEETING – At 10:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Nelson to extend the meeting by twenty minutes (past 11:00 p.m.). Mr. Burak seconded the motion which was approved by all present.

XIV. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING/CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING – At 11:00 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Post to reconvene the meeting into open session and certify that the Gloucester County School Board, while in closed session, discussed only public matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements provided in Subsection A of Section 2.2-3711; and that only public business matters that were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andersen and approved unanimously.

XV. PERSONNEL ITEMS – A motion was made by Mr. Burak, seconded by Mr. Andersen and adopted to approve the monthly listing of personnel appointments, resignations, etc.

XVI. STUDENT PERSONNEL ITEMS – A motion was made by Mr. Burak, seconded by Mrs. Parker and adopted not to approve the request for early kindergarten admission.

XVII. CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT – At 11:02 p.m., there being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Post, seconded by Mr. Burak and approved to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting of August 10, 2021, until the School Board Retreat on, August 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center cafeteria.



 Robin Rice, Chairperson



 Carol Dehoux, Clerk



 Chuck Wagner, Acting Clerk

Attachments (3):

1. Bound Agenda for August 10, 2021 Monthly Meeting
2. Approved Monthly Personnel Agenda
3. Mask Guidelines 2021-22 School year