

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

May 27, 2021

A Gloucester County School Board Work Session was held on Thursday, May 27, 2021 in the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center Auditorium. Robin Rice, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

- I. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken by the clerk, and the following persons were recorded as present: Robin M. Rice, Chairperson, Elisa A. Nelson, Vice-Chairperson, Troy M. Andersen, Anita F. Parker, and Daren P. Post, Members. Brenda Mack entered the meeting at 5:31 p.m. and George R. (Randy) Burak, was absent.
- II. **MOTION TO ALLOW ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS** – Mrs. Nelson made a motion to allow electronic participation of school board member Brenda Mack. Mr. Post seconded the motion, with all members approving unanimously.
- III. **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.
- IV. **ADDITIONS/CHANGES/ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Dr. Walter Clemons, Superintendent, recommended adding “Item VI” as “VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award/Application” with remaining items to follow and in the closed meeting, the addition of “Sections 7 & 8” for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation (GCPS vs. Gavin Grimm) and Cares Act Purchases with legal counsel. Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the agenda with the recommended changes. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion, with all members approving unanimously.
- V. **CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**– Speakers were asked to state their name, the district in which they reside and limit their remarks to items on the agenda. Each speaker was given three minutes (non-deferrable). – *Mrs. Rice*

There were no in person or call in comments.
- VI. **VSBA EXCELLENCE IN WORKPLACE READINESS AWARD APPLICATION** – Kristen Long, GHS Workforce Coordinator informed members of the application to apply for the workforce readiness award, which requires formal School Board approval. Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the application and Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.
- VII. **REMOTE/VIRTUAL LEARNING UPDATE 2021-22** – Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction indicated the division plans to return to five days per week in the fall, and to only offer virtual learning to grades 6-12. Families who wish to appeal for health reasons would follow the process for home instruction through Student Services. Virtual Virginia will be the provider of virtual learning courses offered, however virtual students will remain in the GCPS membership and be eligible to participate in after school and VHSL activities.. Eligibility criteria for students to meet and an application will be available in early June to be returned by mid-June.
- VIII. **SUMMER SCHOOL PLANNING UPDATE** – Dr. Wagner said despite compensation being increased by 24% for summer school teachers, interest has been minimal. GCPS will offer what is possible with a K-5 summer school at Botetourt and Abingdon beginning June 28 for six weeks. Two three week sessions will be offered at the middle school level beginning July 28 at Page M.S. and July 19 at Peasley M.S. and GHS will offer credit recovery and some initial credit opportunities, mostly through Virtual Virginia, with families paying the fee. Summer classes will have a project based learning approach with learning loss being the primary focus.

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IX. YEAR-ROUND PLANNING GRANT – Dr. Wagner informed members of an opportunity to apply for a year round planning grant. If approved, the planning grant could be up to \$50K and requires a 20% local match. If implemented, which could take years, up to \$300K could be awarded for two years, following the third year, a split grant between the state and division would be available.

X. SCHOOL VACCINATION UPDATE – Lisa Jones, Director of Nursing provided an update regarding House Bill 1090 which addresses vaccination requirements. Vaccines will be available at Page, Peasley, and GHS in June, with COVID 19 shots also offered on June 8 at GHS.

XI. GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 79 UPDATE – Dr. Clemons indicated COVID conditions are consistently improving. Effective tomorrow, May 28, restrictions related to physical distancing and capacities will be lifted, but masks will still be required inside school buildings. If individuals have been fully vaccinated or are in a position to be within 6 feet or more outside on school property, masks are not required. Students are expected to return five days per week in the fall, however mask requirements for next school year are currently unknown.

Graduation will be held outside, but Dr. Clemons would like to require guests to wear masks. Due to the number in attendance, it may be difficult to maintain six feet of distance. GHS has already released information regarding the expectation for graduation. Mr. Post made a motion to adhere to the Governor's Executive Order 79, but rescinded the motion following clarification of the order.

XII. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mrs. Rice provided the following public announcements.
 A. Monday, May 31, 2021, Division Closed - Memorial Day Holiday
 B. Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – Next monthly School Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m. – Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center (Auditorium)

Mrs. Nelson shared information regarding the career selection day she attended at New Horizons and publicly acknowledged six GHS seniors who were recognized.

Mr. Post also gave an update on the students selected for the Derk Rhodes, H. Booker, and Etta Lewis Anderton Scholarships.

XIII. CALL FOR CLOSED MEETING

At 7:09 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Nelson, seconded by Ms. Mack 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, etc.) and Subsection 7 and Subsection 8 for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation (GCPS vs. Gavin Grimm) and Cares Act Purchases.

Note: Dr. Chuck Wagner, acting clerk, recorded the remainder of the meeting. The acting clerk noted all members were present for the closed meeting.

XIV. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING/CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING – At 8:06 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.


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- XV. **PERSONNEL ITEMS** – A motion was made by Mr. Post, seconded by Mrs. Nelson and adopted to approve the monthly listing of personnel appointments, resignations, etc.

- XVI. **CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT** – At 8:08 p.m., there being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Post and approved to adjourn the School Board Work Session of May 27, 2021, until the regular monthly meeting on, June 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center auditorium.



Robin Rice, Chairperson



Carol Dehoux, Clerk



Chuck Wagner, Acting Clerk

Attachments (1):

- 1. Approved Personnel Agenda