

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

June 8, 2021

A Gloucester County School Board monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, June 8, 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 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. **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. Burak seconded the motion, with all members approving unanimously. Ms. Mack did not attend electronically or in person.
- III. **MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mrs. Rice and Ms. Bonnie Wilson, Student Representative, 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, had no recommended changes to the agenda. Mrs. Parker added discussion of possible consideration to change the meeting time of regular and work session School Board meetings as “Item A” under School Board Member Items, with current items to follow. Mrs. Parker made a motion to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by Mrs. Nelson and approved unanimously.
- V. **APPROVAL OF ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE CONSENT AGENDA** – Mr. Burak made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Andersen 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 March 11, 2021 School Board Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2021 Joint Meeting of School Board/Board of Supervisors
- C. Approval of Minutes of March 29, 2021 School Board Special Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes of April 13, 2021 School Board Meeting
- E. Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2021 School Board Work Session
- F. Informational Central Food Service Financial Report as of April 30, 2021
- G. Informational Membership Report as of May 28, 2021
- H. Informational Visiting Teachers Report for May 2021
- I. Informational Discipline Report for May 2021
- J. Approval of Policy/Form/Publication Revisions (2nd reading)
1. KBC Media Relations
 2. KGB Public Conduct on School Property
 3. KK School Visitors
- K. Approval of VSBA Policy Services Renewal for 2021-22
- L. Approval of 2021-22 Non-Resident Tuition Fees
- M. Approval of 2021-22 VPSA Technology Resolution

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VI. STAFF PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS – Mrs. Rice – Information

- A. Recognition of GCPS Teachers of the Year – Dr. Clemons and Dr. Sharon Stone, GCPS Educational Foundation Chairperson recognized the 2020-21 Teachers of the Year: Hannah Kellogg, Achilles Elementary; Becky Johnson, Bethel Elementary; Colleen Roady, Botetourt Elementary; Alyssa Thomas, Petsworth Elementary; Amy O’Neil, Page Middle; and Crystal Thompson, Gloucester High. Overall Elementary Teacher of the Year: Christine Keene from Abingdon Elementary; Overall Middle School Teacher of the Year: Megan Harris from Peasley Middle; and Overall High School Teacher of the Year: Emily Nunez from Gloucester High School. Selected as Division Level Teacher of the Year was Megan Harris.
- B. Recognition of GCPS Support Staff Employee of the Year – Brian Teucke, Gloucester Education Association President recognized Juliet Smith, Custodian at Petsworth Elementary School, as the GCPS support staff employee of the year.
- C. Presentation of Book to Student Advisory Committee Representative – Mrs. Rice presented Bonnie Wilson with a book Ms. Wilson selected to be donated to the GHS Media Center in honor of Ms. Wilson serving as the 2020-21 School Board Student Advisory Representative.
- D. Career Readiness Expo Presentation – Debra Falkenberg, Community Engagement Coordinator and Brian Teucke, Teacher, Page Middle School, provided an overview of the Career Expo process at Page Middle School. This was the first event at Page M.S. since the pandemic occurred, that allowed community members back in the building.
- E. GHS Work-Based Learning: Spring 2021 Update – Kristen Long, Work-Based Learning Coordinator for GHS provided information on the GHS Spring Career Expo held from March thru May. The virtual expos covered all seventeen career clusters identified by the VDOE. Mrs. Long also provided an update on the Gloucester Cooperative Education Program (GCEP).

VII. Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan – Mrs. Rice opened the floor for public comments on the comprehensive plan, allowing speakers three minutes per person, non-deferrable.

(Names/districts recorded as heard.)

Howard Mowry/Petsworth District - Spoke regarding the annual assessment plan and suggested multiple public hearings regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Catherine Carter/Roanes District– Spoke regarding Equity VA Curriculum and the Critical Race Theory (CRT).

Mr. Post made a motion to extend public comments to 5 minutes per person. The motion was not seconded. Motion failed.

Ashley Renstead/Achilles - Spoke regarding the Comprehensive Plan and suggested documents be linked to the plan. Suggested more information be provided prior to approval.

Craig Beets/Ark – Spoke regarding the African American History class, Critical Race Theory, 1619 project and his grandmother teaching in Gloucester.

Nancy Raider/Gloucester Court House – Spoke regarding the Virginia Ed Equity

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Program/masks/racial equity.

Michelle Drouin/Hayes – Advocated for higher level math classes to remain and not be replaced with classes about racial issues.

No call in comments were received on the comprehensive plan.

Mr. Post asked if meetings were held in the past when the comprehensive plan was reviewed. A comprehensive plan committee met in the past. Currently, the plan is available on the website to allow everyone an opportunity to review and a survey is available for feedback until June 17.

Mr. Post made a motion for the entire School Board to hold a town hall session on the comprehensive plan and other concerns. The motion was not seconded. Motion failed.

Mr. Andersen called for a brief recess at 6:46 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Burak. The meeting was called back in session at 6:53 p.m.

Mrs. Rice opened the floor for public comments allowing three minutes per person, non-deferrable.

Cathleen Jones/Abingdon – Spoke regarding the African American History class, Critical Race Theory and stated equity instead of equality aims to re-segregate society.

Catherine Carter/Roanes – Spoke about Equity VA, CRT and disproportion for moderate to high risk. Gloucester county is low risk. Gifted student population in Gloucester is 28% and overall black population of students is 17%.

Sarah King/Abingdon – Requested to defer her three minutes, which is not allowed.

Terry White/Abingdon – Referenced the June 11, 2020 resolution regarding a racism issue in Gloucester County. She doesn't see that in Gloucester. Ed Equity VA mirrors the words in the resolution. Also referenced the May 11, 2021 meeting regarding the gifted program and equitable representation of students. CRT is not needed in Gloucester.

Mrs. Rice clarified the School Board has not voted to implement Ed Equity VA.

Dave King/White Marsh – Questioned terminology in the GCPS course line regarding the African American course and compared it to CRT.

Larry Cohen/York – Expressed criticism toward the School Board and requested a town hall meeting this month.

Dorothy Bayford/Abingdon – Referenced CRT and the gifted presentation at the May 11, 2021 meeting.

John Myer/Abingdon – Spoke about CRT and equity in the education system. More information is needed from the School Board on what is being done by the division.

Nancy Raider/Courthouse – Spoke regarding Ed Equity, racist beliefs and the terminology taught to our children.

Howard Mowry/Petsworth – Spoke regarding 1619, history, CRT and the term equity. Need to return to the process of teaching subjects.

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Don Mitchell/York – Indicated a semantic breakdown occurring and that people are not born to hate, but are taught.

David Seabolt/Ware – Spoke regarding the oath he took to defend the Constitution of the USA and holding the School Board accountable. Wants his grandchildren to live in a free America.

Michelle Drouin/Abingdon – Referenced students being bused when she attended school and CRT creating a hostile environment.

Candy LaRue/Gloucester Point – Teacher should be paid to teach facts and labels should not be put on people. Don't force our children to be haters.

Ashley Chriscoe/York – Criticized the School Board for not seconding a motion made by Mr. Post to hold a town hall meeting and requested Mr. Post hold the meeting on his own, thanking him for the seat he occupies.

Ashley Renstead/Achilles – Indicated we are not all racist and suggested students should be broken out more based on needs and not racial profiling.

Anita Newbill/Achilles – People are here tonight because we never had to worry about something like this before and elected officials need to listen to what is being said.

Joanne Jones/Courthouse – People do not want to be segregated and are here to express concerns because they see something going on that is not good.

No call in comments.

Mrs. Rice said the School Board has stated repeatedly it is not supporting the Critical Race Theory (CRT). Many of the websites referenced this evening are not GCPS websites and are not policies the Gloucester County School Board supports. Mrs. Parker expressed concern over the confusion and issues brought forward and questioned Dr. Clemons about the comment regarding math classes. Dr. Clemons indicated no upper level math classes are being removed and information to that effect coming from the state would take years to even be considered. Dr. Clemons added he wants what is best for every student in this school system. The underrepresented gifted students referenced during the May meeting refers to all students underrepresented. Additionally, Dr. Clemons explained the framework for public comments and that a response is not typically given by the school board. Regarding meeting times, meeting participation by the public has been no different for 5:30 meetings than it was for 7:00 meetings held in the past and it is easier for students and staff to attend earlier meetings.

Mr. Post made a motion that the School Board develop an official policy or stance on Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Equity VA at the August meeting. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion, with all members present in favor.

Mr. Post made a motion that the School Board conduct a Town Hall meeting during the month of July. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion which passed 6/0 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 | | |

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VIII. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) ITEMS – Ms. Wilson, SAC Representative, indicated today was her last day of high school and thanked the School Board for allowing this platform. Ms. Wilson continued to advocate for the importance of addressing students' mental health. School Board members thanked Ms. Wilson and expressed their gratitude for the excellent job she has done representing the Student Advisory Committee.

IX. INSTRUCTIONAL ITEMS

A. Monthly Departmental Report – Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction indicated the monthly departmental report is available in the packet. Staff and students are finishing SOL testing and assessment results should be available later in the summer. State accountability is suspended due to COVID 19 and divisions are encouraged to use this year's results as benchmarks to determine what is needed moving forward. The 2021-22 remote learning application is available on the website for students in grades 6-12. As of today, 32 students have applied. Application will close on June 17 and eligibility criteria is provided on the website.

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS

A. 2020-21 GCPS Division-Wide Retirement Social – Dr. Clemons invited the School Board to the Division-Wide Retirement Social being held on Thursday, June 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the TCWEC Café & Court Yard. Forty-one staff members have submitted their retirement effective Aug. 2020 – Sept. 2021.

XI. BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS

A. Monthly Departmental Report – Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer indicated the monthly departmental report is available in the agenda packet and the finance office has been working with the new benefit consultant to transition.

B. Financial Report for April 2021 – The FY'21 budget is 97.9% complete and the finance office is working to close out the year. \$200,000 has been secured through the BOS to be rolled over in FY'22 for the Page ballfield.

C. Acceptance of Donations – Mrs. Nelson made a motion to approve the monetary donations for the month in the amount of \$790.05. Mr. Post seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously 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 | | |

D. Approval of Purchases over \$50,000 – Mr. Post made a motion to approve the purchases over \$50,000 (VA Risk Sharing Association Insurance/Transportation Software/PowerSchool/Renaissance/Frontline) 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 | | |

E. Section 125 Plan Update – Mr. Burak made a motion to approve the Section 125 Plan update that extends the deadline for use of Cares Act Funding of December 2020 through September 30, 2021, to comply with guidelines. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

XII. OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT ITEMS

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- A. Monthly Departmental Report – Mr. Bryan Hartley, Director of Operations indicated the monthly report was available in the agenda packet. There were no questions.
- B. Air Quality Management Plan – Mr. Hartley presented a draft of the indoor air quality management plan. Mr. Post made a motion to adopt the plan and Mr. Burak seconded the motion, however after discussion, it was determined the plan needed to be finalized and will be brought back on the July agenda for adoption. No action was taken on the motion.
- C. Policy Revisions/Deletions (1st or 1st/2nd Reading) – Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the policy revisions and deletions presented by Mr. Hartley as 1st and 2nd readings, which was seconded by Mr. Burak and approved unanimously.

Policy Revisions:

- 1) BCA – School Board Organizational Meeting
- 2) BDD – Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations

Policy Deletion:

- 1) LEA – Student Teachers

XIII. HUMAN RESOURCES ITEMS

- A. Monthly Departmental Report – Mrs. Rachel Blankenship, Director of Human Resources & Compliance indicated the monthly report was available in the packet. There were no questions.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS' ITEMS – Mrs. Rice

- A. School Board Meeting Times (added) – Mrs. Parker made a motion to change the start time of School Board meetings to 6:00 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Closed session will continue to follow the open meeting and meeting attendees who are not on the agenda, will be tracked as requested by Mr. Andersen.
- B. VSBA Media Honor Roll – Mrs. Rice asked members to be prepared to select a local media contact for the VSBA Media Honor Roll at the July meeting. Mrs. Dehoux will provide members with those who have been honored in recent years.
- C. CIP Liaison Update – Mr. Andersen informed members the transportation facility drawings are almost final. However, the cost index for steel has increased 125% with lead time to receive the product projected to be at least eight months. Mr. Shorland and others are working to explore all available options for this project, including phasing or a masonry design with less steel. Mr. Burak (CIP Liaison Alternate) asked to be copied on information received.
- D. Committees/Boards/Commissions Updates from Board Members – There were no updates provided.

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

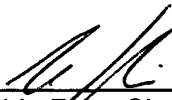
- A. Tuesday, June 15, 2021, Last Day of School
- B. Wednesday & Thursday, June 16/17, 2021, Teacher Workdays
- C. Friday, June 18, 2021, Juneteenth State Holiday (Observed) – Division Closed
- D. Monday, July 5, 2021 Independence Day
- E. Tuesday, July 20, 2021, (3rd Tuesday) Monthly School Board Meeting at 5:30 6:00 p.m. at the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center (Auditorium)

XVI. CALL FOR CLOSED MEETING

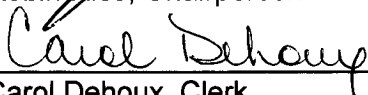
At 8:25 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Burak and unanimously approved to recess for a Closed Meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711, (A), Subsection 1, for the discussion of personnel matters (monthly appointments, resignations, conduct, etc.) and Subsection 7, for consultation with legal counsel regarding Grimm vs. Gloucester County School Board.

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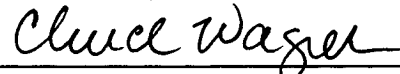
- XVII. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING/CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING** – At 8:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Andersen to reconvene the meeting into open session and certify that the Gloucester County School Board, while in closed session, discussed only public matters lawfully exempted from open meeting 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. Burak and approved unanimously.
- XVIII. PERSONNEL ITEMS** – A motion was made by Mr. Burak, seconded by Mrs. Nelson and adopted to approve the amended monthly listing of personnel appointments, resignations, etc.
- XIX. CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT** – At 8:56 p.m., there being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Post and approved to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting of June 8, 2021, until the regular monthly meeting on , July 20, 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 (2):

1. Bound Agenda for June 8, 2021 Monthly Meeting
2. Approved Monthly Personnel Agenda