

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

**August 12, 2021**

A Gloucester County School Board Annual Retreat was held on Thursday, August 12, 2021 in the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center Cafeteria. Robin Rice, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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. **ADDITIONS/CHANGES/ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Dr. Walter Clemons, Superintendent, recommended adding an update to the Year Round Planning Grant after “Item XI”, followed by an update from the Fairfield Foundation.

Mr. Post recommended adding a discussion regarding masking to prepare for the meeting on August 19. The motion was not seconded.

Mr. Post recommended adding the transgender model policy to the agenda for discussion. The motion was not seconded.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the agenda as amended by Dr. Clemons. Mr. Burak seconded the motion with all members approving unanimously.

- IV. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) DISCUSSION** – Mr. Bryan Hartley, Director of Operations, provided an update on the Capital Improvement Plan, to include updates from Stephen Halsey of Moseley Architects regarding the renovations planned for GHS. Due to changes in the economy, the anticipated cost of the GHS renovation project is expected to be an additional 2 million (45 million – 47 million) than previously approved. Grant funds could possibly be used when redesigning restrooms to meet current guidelines, but may not be supplanted for renovations already approved in the budget. Mr. Halsey expects at least \$300,000 would be needed for the additional expense of redesigned restrooms and will contact the building inspector to determine code requirements before moving forward with updates. Mr. Andersen added that a response is still forthcoming from the Attorney General regarding the appropriate use of the approved additional sales tax.

Mr. Hartley provided information on other long range CIP items at GHS. Inclusive restrooms would need to be addressed in the GHS stadium as well as other issues

outside of the restrooms, which include locker rooms, the field house, the weight room, and roofing projects. Mr. Hartley is working to obtain figures for these and other work needed at the stadium. Restroom redesign will also be an issue at the middle and elementary schools.

The transportation facility bids are due on August 24. Purchase orders have gone out for HVAC projects, lighting has been ordered, and progress is occurring with playground equipment installation. Paving projects will most likely exceed the anticipated cost and will need to be added to the upcoming CIP. Paving is also not included in the GHS renovation budget. Previous HVAC and lighting renovations are approaching twenty years and will need to be added back into the CIP. In addition, the bus replacement cycle will be added back into the CIP in order to maintain the fleet. Discussion was held regarding the need to include all necessary items in the CIP, regardless of funding.

*Mrs. Parker called for a recess at 10:38 a.m., seconded by Mrs. Nelson and approved unanimously. Mrs. Rice called the meeting back in session at 10:51 a.m.*

- V. **DIVISION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE** -- Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, presented Goal 1: Instructional & Academic Achievement Goals for 2021-27. Regarding instruction for students who may need to quarantine, Dr. Wagner indicated Canvas (secondary) or See Saw (elementary) may be used to help students as an asynchronous method. *(Continued below)*

*The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Mrs. Rice called the meeting back in session at 1:08 p.m.*

- VI. **CALL FOR CLOSED MEETING** – At 1:08 p.m. Mrs. Nelson made a motion Pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711, (A), Subsection 1, for the discussion of personnel matters (monthly assignments, appointments, and resignations) and Subsection 7, for consultation with legal counsel regarding Grimm vs. Gloucester County School Board. Mr. Post seconded the motion which was approved by all present.
- VII. **RETURN TO OPEN MEETING/CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING** – At 2:39 p.m. Mrs. Nelson made a motion to reconvene 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. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion which was approved by all present. Note: Acting clerk to conduct poll vote on certification.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to cancel the School Board Work Session scheduled for August 19 regarding masking, due to the Public Health Emergency Order requiring universal masking in all indoor settings in Virginia Schools. Mr. Burak seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

- VIII. **2020-21 SY ASSESSMENT REVIEW AND 2021-22 UPDATE** – Dr. Bess Worley, Director of Assessment, presented an update on testing from 2019-21 and informed the Board of changes in the state's assessment requirements for the upcoming two years. Due to COVID, all schools will have a rating of "Accreditation Waived" for 2021-22. Fall

growth assessments will be introduced in 2021, and Mid-year growth assessments introduced in 2022-23.

IX. **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN: ESSER III DRAFT EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR GCPS** –

Dr. Wagner presented information regarding the ESSER III American Rescue Plan Act. GCPS has been awarded \$5,497,961.48. Public input regarding the draft expenditure plan for the funds is being obtained via the division website through September 1. Prevention and mitigations strategies are proposed at \$1.1 million; addressing unfinished learning, students' academic, social, emotional, and mental wellness needs at \$3.9 million; and other uses, to include buses, vehicles, furniture, and partitions at \$497 thousand.

X. **YEAR ROUND PLANNING GRANT UPDATE** – Dr. Wagner presented an update regarding the Year Round Planning Grant. GCSP has been awarded \$50K to explore the feasibility of an alternative calendar model. An initial exploratory team meeting will be held on Sept. 9 in the TCW Cafeteria at 6 pm.

XI. **FAIRFIELD UPDATE** – Dr. Wagner provided an update regarding the MOU with the Fairfield Foundation. The nomination form for the National Register of Historic Places has been submitted for the Boy Scout Cabin and is expected to be reviewed by the state review board next month.

Cont. **DIVISION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE (Continued from Item V)** – Review of Goals 2 – 5 (Schools, Families & Community Relationships, Operations, Safety, and Emotional/Mental Health & Wellness). Dr. Clemons plans to establish and begin meeting with a Student Advisory Committee at GHS beginning in FY'22 as well as a Support Staff Advisory Committee. Other items included in the Comprehensive Plan include revisiting possible attendance bonuses in FY'22 and salary increases at an average of 5%. Training for an inventory management system is planned and systems are in place. Services that could be shared with the county remain in the plan to revisit in FY'23. SRO positions are currently short-staffed due to shortages overall in the Gloucester County Sheriff's Department. Dr. Clemons offered to have Sheriff Warren present at a future School Board meeting. An updated MOU with the Sheriff's Department is also planned in FY'22. The new parent bus app will be available in the fall of 2021 and the two way bus communication system is in place. In FY'22, resource awareness strategies for emotional/mental health and wellness will be revisited with the Community Engagement staff and employee wellness opportunities will be reviewed. GHS is also now a full service school.

Mrs. Nelson made a motion to approve the 2021-27 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Andersen seconded the motion, with all members present approving.

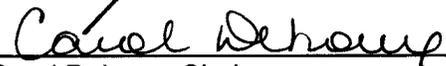
Dr. Clemons indicated he would apprise members about how the new mask order impacts School Board meetings.

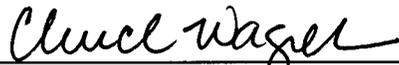
Members agreed to schedule a work session on Monday, Aug. 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of rescinding the 2014 resolution regarding restroom usage.

- XII. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Mrs. Rice read the following:
- A. Tuesday – Thursday, August 24 – 26, 2021, School Open Houses
  - B. Monday, August 30, 2021, First day of the 2021-22 School Year
  - C. Friday, September 3 and Monday, September 6, 2021 – Division Closed for Labor Day Holiday
  - D. Tuesday, September 14, 2021, Monthly School Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. – Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center (Auditorium)

XIII. **CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT** – At 4:12 p.m., there being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Post, seconded by Mr. Burak and approved to adjourn the annual School Board Retreat of August 12, 2021, until the School Board Work Session on August 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center auditorium.

  
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Robin Rice, Chairperson

  
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Carol Dehoux, Clerk

  
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Chuck Wagner, Acting Clerk

**Attachments (6):**

1. Approved Monthly Personnel Agenda
2. Comprehensive Plan 2021-27
3. ESSER III Draft Expenditure Plan
4. Assessment Update
5. Fairfield Foundation Update
6. CIP Update