



Gloucester County School Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 14, 2021/6:00 p.m. Open Meeting

T.C. Walker Education Center Auditorium/ 6099 T.C. Walker Road, Gloucester, VA 23061

(Followed by Closed Meeting)

(1) Opening of Meeting

Call to Order and Roll Call – Mrs. Robin Rice, Chair and Mrs. Carol Dehoux, Clerk – Action

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, George R. (Randy) Burak, and Darren P. Post, Members.

(2) Motion to Allow Electronic Participation of Members

Not needed/All members attending in-person

(3) Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Rice led the Board and citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, followed by a moment of silence.

(4) Additions/Changes/Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Walter Clemons, Superintendent, had no recommended changes to the agenda. Mr. Post made a motion to receive an update from staff regarding vaccine mandates for volunteers. Motion not seconded; motion failed. Mr. Burak made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion, with all members in favor.

(5) 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 in a roll call vote as follows:

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

- A. Approval of Items Contained in the Consent Agenda – Mrs. Rice – Action (By Poll Vote)
- B. Approval of Minutes of August 10, 2021 School Board Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes of August 12, 2021 School Board Retreat
- D. Approval of Minutes of August 23, 2021 School Board Work Session
- E. Informational Central Food Service Financial Report as of July 31, 2021
- F. Approval of Policy Revisions (2nd reading)
 - 1) IGAG Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
 - 2) KGB Public Conduct on School Property
- G. Disposal of Equipment Valued in Excess of \$500
- H. Physical Restraint/Seclusion Incident Report Form Update

(6) Presentations/Recognitions

Presentations/Recognitions - None

(7) Citizens' Comment Period

Citizens' Comment Period – Mrs. Rice (Speakers are asked to state their name, the district in which they reside and limit their remarks to 3-5 minutes (non-deferrable), to be determined by the Chairperson.)

Harry David Candela (York) – Spoke regarding students not having the option to opt in for virtual learning, superintendent's salary and vehicle, and no ventilation systems, but instead a new bus garage.

Kenny Smith (Abingdon) – Spoke from the Bible and referenced the DOE model policy for the treatment for transgender students. Feels it should be a personal issue dealt with at home or Church. The policy was not drafted by elected officials and citizens need to know what the policy means.

Howard Mowry (Petersworth) – Expressed concerns regarding Page M.S., the FY22 Budget Book, ADM/fall membership, policy updates, staff turnover, etc.

Brandon Mosier, (Ware) – Spoke regarding gender identity and COVID.

(8) Instructional Department Items

(A) Monthly Departmental Report – Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction indicated the monthly departmental report is available in the packet. GCPS has had a successful first ten days and it is our hope to be able to keep students in school.

(9) Superintendent's Items

(A) Ten Day Enrollment Count – Dr. Clemons presented the first ten day count of 4,923 students enrolled in Gloucester County Public Schools. Enrollment figures will also be reported on September 30 and March 31, which are the dates used to determine budgetary decisions. The FY'22 budget was built on 4850 students, which is slightly less than our current enrollment, even when not counting the approximate thirty-three students who are not funded. There may be some changes made in staffing due to enrollment figures, but Dr. Clemons hopes to be able to make adjustments internally for those situations. In addition, approximately twenty students at the secondary level are enrolled in Virtual Virginia.

(10) Budget and Finance Items

(A) Monthly Departmental Report – Dr. Clemons presented the monthly Budget and Finance report on behalf of Heather Lucas, Chief Financial Officer, indicating the report is available in the packet and includes information regarding family medical leave, payroll and the upcoming budget.

(B) Financial Analysis Report – The Budget and Finance office is working with auditors to finalize the year-end financial report to close out the FY'21 year.

(C) Acceptance of Donations – Ms. Mack made a motion to accept the monthly monetary donations as presented by Dr. Clemons in the amount of \$ 2,686.92. Mr. Burak 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	AYE	Mrs. Rice	AYE
Mrs. Parker	AYE		

(11) Operational Department Items

(A) Monthly Departmental Report – Mr. Bryan Hartley, Director of Operations indicated the monthly departmental report is available in the agenda packet. There were no questions.

(B) 2023-27 Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – Mr. Hartley presented the proposed 2023-27 Long-Range CIP. Included are HVAC replacements, inclusive restrooms with individual stalls and open sinks outside of the area adjacent to the hallway. The school bus replacement cycle of seven buses per year (6) 77 passenger buses and (1) special needs bus. Mr. Hartley said with every three 77 passenger buses, it is possible to eliminate one route. Mrs. Nelson inquired about bus arm cameras. Mr. Hartley will follow-up with Tanya Deckard, Director of Transportation, but did indicate the Gloucester County Sheriff’s Office is supportive of the cameras, which would not have any upfront costs to GCPS and tickets would be paid directly to the county, with details to be reviewed by the county attorney. New buses would also be equipped with HVAC. In addition, an AC retrofit is in the budget for ten buses at a cost of \$11,000 plus. Other items on the proposed CIP include extensive brick and soffit work at TCWEC, restorations to the older wing at Botetourt and a safety vestibule at Achilles. GHS and Achilles are currently the only two schools without a safety vestibule and one is included in the renovation plans for GHS. Also included in the CIP are renovations to the GHS Sports complex and restrooms. Mr. Post inquired about the open areas in the locker rooms in regards to privacy concerns. Mr. Hartley indicated those details are still being worked out, but locker room bathrooms are included in the renovation plans. In addition, Mr. Hartley indicated the design work at GHS will fit well with the retrofit for restrooms.

Mr. Andersen made a motion to approve the long range 2023-27 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) with the sports complex added in FY’24 and the middle school restroom renovations to FY’27 and elementary restrooms beyond the 2023-27 CIP. Mr. Burak seconded the motion, which was approved in a 6/1 poll vote as follows:

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

(C) Policy Revision (1st or 1st/2nd Reading) – Mr. Andersen made a motion to accept the policy revisions presented as 1st/2nd readings. Ms. Mack seconded the motion, which was approved in a 6/1 poll vote as follows:

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

Policy Revisions:

- AC – Non-Discrimination
- AD – Educational Philosophy
- AE – School Division Goals and Objectives
- CH – Policy Implementation
- GAB – Acceptable Computer Use (*New Policy Name*)
- GB – Equal Employment Opportunities and Non-Discrimination
- GBA – Harassment and Retaliation
- IA – Instructional Goals and Objectives
- IGAI – Character Education

IGBC – Parent and Family Engagement (*New Policy Name*)
IIBEA – Acceptable Computer Use (*New Policy Name*)
IJ – Guidance and Counseling Program
JB – Equal Educational Opportunities and Non-Discrimination
JFC – Student Conduct
JFHA – Harassment and Retaliation
JOA – Student Transcripts

(12) Human Resource Items

(A) Monthly Departmental Report – Rachel Blankenship, Director of Human Resources & Compliance has welcomed a little over 100 new staff members starting this year, but indicated school bus drivers are still needed. Mr. Burak asked about the high staff turnover rate, which Mrs. Blankenship indicated was largely due to COVID, especially for those who were able to retire. In addition, we are in a transient area. Mrs. Blankenship has no reason to believe the turnover is because of any negativity at GCPS. Mr. Andersen added that many areas are experiencing a high turnover rate, not just school divisions. Mrs. Blankenship said being able to recruit 110 positions in our community speaks highly for GCPS.

(13) School Board Members' Items

(A) CIP Liaison Update – Mr. Andersen stated the Achilles bus loop has been delayed due to COVID impacting the contractors, but is hopeful the job will soon be finished. Mr. Andersen also expressed his appreciation to Union Baptist Church for the assistance they've provided. The Page baseball field is beginning and nine bids have been received for the transportation facility, all of which are over budget. The bids are good for forty-five days and ELT is working to figure out how to proceed.

(B) Committees/Boards/Commissions Updates from Board Members – Mr. Andersen announced that Mrs. Nelson has been elected as the Vice Chair of the New Horizons Board of Trustees. Mrs. Parker indicated the Educational Foundation made over \$12,000 from the virtual 5K held last year. Plans are underway for an in person event this year on March 26, 2022, as well as a virtual event.

(C) VSBA Annual Convention – Mrs. Rice announced the VSBA Annual Convention will be held November 17-19, 2021, in Williamsburg, VA (Please contact Mrs. Dehoux if you would like to attend.)

Mr. Post requested to ask a question of Dr. Clemons. The request (motion) was not seconded; motion failed.

(14) Public Announcements

Mrs. Rice read the following public announcement:

(A) Tuesday, October 12, 2021, Monthly School Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. – Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center Auditorium

(15) Call for Closed Meeting

Call for Closed Meeting – At 7:33 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 2**, for the discussion of student personnel matters (Two Religious Exemption Requests).

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

(16) Return to Open Meeting/Certification of Closed Meeting

Return to Open Meeting/Certification of Closed Meeting – At 7:55 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Nelson 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. Post and approved unanimously by members.

(17) Approval of Closed Session Personnel Items


Approval of Monthly Personnel Appointments, Resignations, Etc. – A motion was made by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Mack and adopted to approve the monthly listing of personnel appointments, resignations, etc.

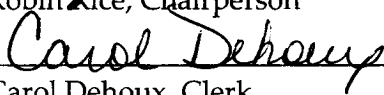
(18) Approval of Closed Session Student Personnel Items

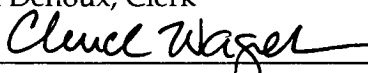
Approval of Monthly Personnel Appointments, Resignations, Etc. – A motion was made by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Mack and adopted to approve the two religious exemption requests.

(19) Call for Adjournment

At 7:56 p.m., there being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Post, seconded by Ms. Mack and approved to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting of September 14, 2021, until the next monthly School Board Meeting on, October 12, 2021 at 6:00 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 September 14, 2021 Monthly Meeting
2. Approved Monthly Personnel Agenda