



# BOARD BRIEFING

An Update from the GCPS Public Relations Office



## Public Session 5/15/24

### Recognitions

- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tom Woods recognized Ms. Kaitlyn Bolyard, Special Education teacher at Yough Glades Elementary, for being named the FY2023-24 Garrett County Teacher of the Year.



- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Josh Hinebaugh recognized Teacher Appreciation Week. Several GCPS Teachers of the Year were present for this special recognition.



- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tom Woods recognized the staff members who had been awarded the GCPS Foundation Mini-Grants. The Garrett County Public Schools Foundation offered mini-grants to teachers in Garrett County; up to \$250 were awarded to recipients needing financial assistance with special projects, materials, or classroom resources.



### New Business

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, Operations, and Transportation, presented the recommended vendor, Beitzel Excavating and Paving, to complete the Southern Garrett High School field house site work. The site work includes constructing a building site pad for the field house along with water, sewer, and electric utility infrastructure. Dr. Brenda McCartney recommended approval of the selected vendor. The Board voted unanimously in approval of this vendor.
- Mr. Wesolowski also requested approval to reallocate funds in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Southern Garrett High School field house project. Superintendent McCartney recommended the approval of the reallocation of funds. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this move.
- Mr. John Hummel, Director of Student Services, presented the draft GCPS Student Handbook for SY2024-25 to the Board. This was a first read. The Board is expected to act on this topic during the June meeting.
- Mrs. Dawna Ashby, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, presented the elementary health instructional materials to the Board for review. The instructional materials are available for review by the public through May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board is expected to take action on adopting these materials at the June 11, 2024, Board Meeting. Mrs. Ashby answered a question from the Board. No

action was taken at this meeting as it was a first read. The Board is expected to vote on the curriculum during the June meeting.

- Mrs. Candy Maust, Supervisor of ELA and Social Studies, presented the recommended textbooks for 7th grade World History classes. The textbooks are available for public review through May 30<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken on this topic as it was a first read. The Board is expected to vote on this topic during the June meeting.

### **Public Comment**

- There was no public comment at this meeting.

### **Continuing Business**

- Mrs. Candy Maust presented the proposed instructional materials, United States History Voices and Perspectives, for 8th grade U.S. History classes for Board approval. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the instructional materials. The Board voted unanimously to approve these materials.
- Dr. Nicole Miller presented the proposed high school environmental science instructional materials, Your World, Your Turn, for Board approval. Dr. McCartney recommended the approval of the instructional materials. The Board voted unanimously to approve these materials.
- Mrs. Dawna Ashby requested the Board approve the Quaver Music instructional materials for elementary music classes. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of these instructional materials. The Board voted unanimously to approve these materials.
- Dr. Nicole Miller presented the Prolonged State of Emergency Plan to the Board for approval. As mandated by Education Article §§7-14A-01 through 7-14A-09 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board must approve the plan before it can be submitted to the Maryland State Department of Education for approval. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the plan. The Board voted unanimously to approve the plan.
- Ms. Gloria Smith, Director of Finance, and Dr. Brenda McCartney, Interim Superintendent, presented the draft FY2024-25 operating budget to the Board for review and discussion. They answered various questions from the Board. The Board is expected to take action on the budget at the June 11, 2024 Board Meeting.

### **Student Member of the Board**

Ms. Hailey Wildesen, Student Member of the Board, shared the following updates:

#### **GCASC Business:**

- GCASC held its final General Assembly for the year on April 11th, focusing mainly on officer elections and SMOB endorsement. Most of this year's board members are graduating, so elections were an exciting time to select a new team of leaders for GCASC. They also had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Germain, Supervisor of Food & Nutrition Services, and give feedback on school lunch options.
- Several members of GCASC attended the Spring Leadership Conference, MASC's final event of the year. Ms. Wildesen and GCASC president Ms. Laura Huelskamp presented a workshop on leading a productive team. The members also had the opportunity to display a board highlighting their HART for Animals dog toy service project.

#### **Student Member Business:**

- Both Northern and Southern High held prom, which was a fun event for students.
- Southern Middle hosted its 8th-grade dance.
- Schools across the county hosted Teacher Appreciation Week activities, such as the Northern High Student Council creating a candy stand and Southern Middle hosting a luncheon for teachers.
- Garrett County's annual Envirothon competition was held on April 30th, with Southern High's team prevailing as the winner.
- Northern and Southern high students attended the annual Law Day at the Garrett County Courthouse to learn about legal careers and the justice system in Garrett County.
- Students from Northern and Southern Middle represented Garrett County at the statewide National History Day.
- Spring sports are in full swing.
- GACO and FRC teams continued their competition season, attending the FIRST Robotics World Championship in April.
- Ms. Wildesen is working with other student members across the state to develop an

SMOB Handbook, which should be ready for the 2024-2025 SMOB.

## **Board Business**

- Mr. Josh Hinebaugh thanked the Board, Superintendent, and Staff for working with him during his time as a Board member. He recommended that anyone who would like to make a difference in the school system should consider applying for his position on the Board.
- Mr. Rodney Glotfelty attended the NGHS Theatre performance with his wife. He also indicated that Mr. Milton Nagel, Executive Director of MABE, will make a presentation in Garrett County. He will provide a general overview of MABE's actions.
- Mr. Jason VanSickle had the opportunity to meet with other Teachers of the Year while they were here during their retreat. Mrs. Sadie Liller also attended a celebration with the statewide Teachers of the Year.
- Mr. Tom Woods encouraged the public to review the events for May and attend as many as possible.
- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources and Employee Relations, presented the tentative agreements for the Garrett Association of Supervisors and Administrators (GASA) bargaining unit and the Garrett County Association of Federation of Unit Members (GCAFT)/Head Custodians and Cafeteria Managers bargaining units to the Board for ratification. Dr. McCartney recommended approval of the contracts. The Board voted unanimously to approve the contracts.
- She also thanked members of the public and different organizations, especially the Garrett Cooperative Ministry, for generous donations to the Lunch Angel Program. She added that we are privileged to live in such a giving community.
- She noted the two High School Graduations on June 1st at the Garrett County Agricultural Hall Building. SGHS's commencement ceremony is at 10:00 a.m., and NGHS's commencement ceremony is at 2:00 p.m.
- Broad Ford Elementary and Southern Middle School students' last school day will be June 6th. This day is a 3-hour early dismissal for all GCPs students.
- The remainder of the schools will hold their last day of school for students on June 7<sup>th</sup>, which is also a 3-hour early dismissal day.
- June 10th and June 11th are work days for teachers.
- Beginning June 17th through August 23rd, all Garrett County Public School Buildings will be closed on Fridays. Staff will have the option to work four ten-hour days.
- The June 11th Board meeting will be held at Southern Middle School.
- She thanked Josh Hinebaugh for his service on the Board. She indicated that working with him in this capacity has been a pleasure.

## **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, in the Cafeteria of Southern Garrett Middle School in Oakland, MD. Details will be announced ahead of time.

## **Superintendent Updates**

- Dr. McCartney announced that Team 1629 GACO has been selected as the 2024 recipient of the Appalachian Laboratory Inspiration Award, and the team is being honored tonight at a special ceremony at the PAC. In addition, the team is honoring Don and Liz Morin as they are making the largest monetary donation to GaCO that has ever been received.

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Garrett County Board of Education Meeting – March 12, 2024

Prepared by: Public Relations Office

Board of Education Members: Mr. M. Thomas Woods, President; Mr. Rodney B. Glotfelty, Vice President; Mr. Joshua D. Hinebaugh, Mrs. Sadie M. Liller, and Mr. Jason E. VanSickle, Associate Members; Ms. Hailey Wildesen, Student Board Member; Dr. Brenda E. McCartney, Interim Superintendent; Mr. Brandon Hoover, Attorney