

**THE ACADEMIC-YEAR GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Business Meeting**  
**November 12, 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

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The Joint Board of the Academic-Year 2019-2020 Governor's School met on November 12, 2020 over Zoom for a Business Meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joint Board:

Mrs. Loree Williams	Prince William County Schools
Dr. Babur Lateef	Prince William County Schools
Mrs. Kristin Kiefer	Manassas City Public Schools
Mr. Scott Albrecht	Manassas City Public Schools
Mrs. Rachel Kirkland	Manassas Park City Schools

In attendance:

Dr. Jason Calhoun, Director of Governor's School @ Innovation Park  
Dr. Bruce McDade, Superintendent, Manassas Park City Public Schools  
Dr. Janette Muir, GMU Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives and Services  
Ms. Pamela Thorpe, Clerk of the Joint Board

Executive Committee Members:

Ms. Karima Wesselhoft, Prince William County Schools  
Ms. Cindy Watson, Manassas Park City Schools  
Mr. Anthony Vargas, Manassas City Public Schools

**OPENING EXERCISES:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.  
The Roll Call of Board Members confirmed a quorum.  
The Pledge of Allegiance followed a moment of Silence.

**ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Chairperson Kirkland asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda, none being heard, she asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mrs. Kiefer seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

#### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

Chairperson Kirkland asked if there were any citizens to speak and Ms. Thorpe stated that there were none.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Chairperson Kirkland asked if there was any discussion of the Consent Agenda, hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mr. Albrecht made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Mrs. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

#### **BOARD MATTERS:**

**Updates:** Dr. Calhoun briefed the Board on current recruitment goals. He stated that over 200 families had been reached through virtual open houses. He stated that the mental health and welfare of the teachers was important and that Mrs. Bach and he had been doing regular check-ins with the staff. Dr. Calhoun indicated that there are some concerns that need to be addressed in regard to the application process and the testing that is usually done in person. There are no concerns with current students and the couple who are problematic are being watched. Research is progressing and items are being ordered for the students. Dr. Lateef asked about in person testing because ACT and SAT are being offered in person. Dr. Calhoun said it could be done but consideration of the worst-case scenario as well as equity had be taken into account.

**Budget:** For FY22, all increases are a result of expansion, which would include new hires and new equipment. He reminded the Board that the guidance counselor, Mrs. Bach's salary will not be paid by the fund balance so was now added into the budget. The Governor's School mission has not changed. The focus is still research intensive. Expansion allows the program to add an Engineering strand. Dr. Calhoun also presented a historical perspective of the budget. He explained the staffing additions and changes. With the expansion, Dr. Gutiérrez will become the full time Engineering teacher and the part time Math teacher, Mrs. Joyave will become full time. There is a concern about Mrs. Cui being part time with no desire to go full time and possibly overstaffing her to add a full time employee. Most of the rise in budget can be attributed to salary. Dr. Calhoun did not have the current fund balance amount to indicate the decrease in amount of funding for the three divisions. He showed a comparison of the last four years for a historical perspective. Membership will increase by 24 (PWCS-20. MC-3. MP-1) students both in FY22 and FY23 for balance in the classes.

**Scheduling:** Dr. Calhoun stated that there will be no changes in terms of room space for Governor's School on the GMU Sci Tech campus. He then laid out the concerns that need to be considered in determining whether the students return to school. They included transportation, hybrid schedules, and non-learning days. A decision will need to be made by December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mrs. Williams raised a question about what would change with students being home versus being in the classroom. Dr. Calhoun stated that our students have adapted quite well to the virtual learning environment. Dr. Muir indicated that GMU will begin school later in the Spring and possibly beginning virtually if Covid-19 numbers continue to rise.

Dr. Calhoun explained scheduling issues if an attempt was made to bring the students back for one quarter. Dr. Lateef inquired about getting Governor's School students in for lab work. Dr. Calhoun reiterated space and scheduling issues with GMU and base schools as well as with transportation. Dr. Lateef stated he wasn't sure about the value of education if school remains virtual. Ms. Williams agreed there needs to be a plan but had concerns about transportation and indicated Governor's School is unique compared to the rest of the Division. She reminded him that only 40% of PWCS students are returning to in person learning. Mr. Albrecht summed up what he heard and asked what the most important variables are that need to be considered. Mrs. Kirkland stated that she had talked to students and they had legitimate concerns about returning. She indicated that for now the focus needs to be on the current school year and deal with next year at a later time. Dr. Muir indicated that that GMU students pushed for more on-line labs and that the possibility exists to do Friday labs or weekend labs. Dr. Calhoun stated he'd come up with several solutions regarding a return plan for the student in January but he indicated that he had to advocate for his staff who he can't commit to working outside of their contract hours.

Dr. Calhoun stated he is still trying to have Alumni Day but it would be virtual. Applications are set to go live at the beginning of December for all three divisions. Dr. Calhoun stated that he would hold one more virtual open house to capture any remaining students and families who may be interested in applying to the program.

### **Board Time:**

#### Upcoming Event Calendar Highlights – (Informational)

- January 21, 2021-- 7 pm Joint Board Meeting (virtual)
- April 29, 2021—7 pm Joint Board Meeting (virtual)
- Alumni Day—December 18, 2020
- ASTEM—January 16, 2021 (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders)
- Research Symposium—May 14, 2021
- Senior Ceremony—May 22, 2021; Manassas Park High School Auditorium

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ms. Pamela Thorpe, Clerk of the Joint Board

Approved:

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Mrs. Rachel Kirkland, Chairperson of the Joint Board