

THE ACADEMIC-YEAR GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL BOARD
Business Meeting
September 3, 2020
Via Zoom

The Joint Board of the Academic-Year 2019-2020 Governor's School met on September 3, 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

Executive Committee Members:

Ms. Karima Wesselhoft, Prince William County Schools
Mrs. Jennifer Braswell-Geller, George Mason University
Mr. Anthony Vargas, Manassas City Public Schools

OPENING EXERCISES: Dr. Calhoun called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
The Roll Call of Board Members confirmed a quorum.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed a moment of Silence.

SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATION:

Dr. Calhoun opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson to serve for the academic year 2020-21.

Mrs. Williams made a motion to nominate Mrs. Rachel Kirkland as Chairperson for the 2020-21 academic year; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Kiefer. The motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Rachel Kirkland, Chairperson, opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairperson to serve for the academic school year 2020-2021.

Mrs. Kirkland made a motion to nominate Mrs. Loree Williams as Vice-Chairperson for the 2020-21 academic year; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Kiefer. The motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Rachel Kirkland, Chairperson, opened the floor for nominations for Clerk of the Board to serve for the academic school year 2020-21.

Mrs. Williams made a motion to nominate Ms. Pamela Thorpe as Clerk of the Board for the 2020-21 academic year; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Kiefe. The motion carried 5-0.

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.

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

BOARD MATTERS:

Updates:

Dr. Calhoun updated the Board on enrollment. Manassas City lost one of its students as did Prince William. Prince William was able to replace their student with a wait-lister. Manassas City was not in position to do so and there was not enough time to sell the seat to another division. There are currently 115 students enrolled in Governor's School.

Dr. Calhoun went on to discuss issues related to the beginning of the academic school year. With the decision made for Governor's School to be virtual for the semester, he wanted to be sensitive to the challenges that on-line learning brings. He explained having some issues with Respondus, the lock down browser used for testing which prevents the student from being able to browse other websites while in the testing environment, this preventing the student from cheating. He indicated that he would be doing regular staff check-ins and that there was a back up system for learning if zoom crashed. Google teams would be the back up in that event. Dr. Calhoun said that Back to School Night was successful and well attended. He reminded the Board that Dr. Bruce McDade is the superintendent in charge of supervision of GSIP this year, which is why Mrs. Kirkland was voted Chairperson of the Board.

Expansion:

Last year, the Governor's School had been given approval to expand. An Engineering tract will be added with the addition of 24 new students in school year 2021-22 and 24 more in 2022-23. A discussion ensued about whether it would be prudent to continue with that plan considering Covid-19. Dr. Calhoun indicated that Ron Carmichael stated that GMU still favored expanding the program. Ms. Williams indicated that she was on board and that it was a great opportunity for our students. She asked if there were any concerns. Dr. Calhoun indicated that there were not, except for recruitment which would now be a bit easier and possibly more accessible with Zoom. Mrs. Williams was pleased that this would expand and equalize opportunities for more students to have access to our application process. There will still be coordination with all divisions. Expansion will require the MOUs be updated.

Mr. Albrecht raised the issue of financial burden on the divisions given the effect of Covid-19. Dr. Calhoun addressed the concern but felt that we needed to act on the momentum. Dr. Lateef agreed that finance is a concern, but we should move forward, especially with the availability of possible grants related to Covid-19. Mrs. Kirkland agreed to continue to move forward unless money becomes an issue, in which case a decision could be made if it becomes necessary. Dr. Muir added that GMU has a new President and that the current Provost had signed on for an additional two years and is a champion of the Governor's School. The President is an Engineer and wants to increase minority enrollment. She too thought the expansion should move forward. Dr. Calhoun interjected that the State has asked for statistics regarding our pool of candidates.

Board Time:

A discussion followed regarding the Spring semester. Dr. Muir indicated that GMU will not make significant changes as the space will remain the same considering the pandemic. Dr. Calhoun stated that a plan is being looked at for some student interaction. He reminded the Board that we would have our 10th graduating class at the end of this school year.

Upcoming Event Calendar Highlights – (Informational)

- December 10, 2020—7 pm Joint Board Meeting (virtual)
- 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 (7th & 8th 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 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Pamela Thorpe, Clerk of the Joint Board

Approved:

Mrs. Rachel Kirkland, Chairperson of the Joint Board