

GCS Information Ambassador Newsletter



December 15, 2022



First 100 Days: What We Learned

FIRST 100 DAYS

Whitney Oakley
Superintendent of Schools

- ✓ 2,000+ People participated in Better Together community conversations, town halls, meetings and roundtables
- ✓ 74,289 High-dosage tutoring sessions (707% increase from 21-22)
- ✓ 6,515 Students attended high-dosage tutoring sessions (115% increase from 21-22)
- ✓ 3,610 students attended learning hubs (398% increase from 21-22)
- ✓ 100+ Students attended GCS first student safety summit
- ✓ Nearly 1,000 students and staff signed up for new on-demand mental health supports
- ✓ 12 School safety strategies deployed
- ✓ Launched new advisory councils with parents, teachers and principals
- ✓ Visited GCS school campuses in each board district
- ✓ Local Government Commission authorized the \$1.7 billion school bond



Please click here to share with us your hopes and dreams for our graduates and our community!

Deena Hayes Retains Seat as Board of Education Chair *Betty Jenkins takes leadership role as vice chair*



Deena Hayes will once again serve as chairperson of the Guilford County Board of Education. The District 8 representative has served on the school board since 2002 and was first elected as the board chairperson in the summer of 2018.

Hayes is the managing director of the Racial Equity Institute. She was recently awarded the 2019 Benjamin Elijah Mays Lifetime Achievement Award from the National School Boards Association's Council of Urban Boards of Education. The Benjamin Elijah Mays Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an individual who, through service as a local school board member, has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to representing the educational needs of urban schoolchildren.



Betty Jenkins was elected as vice chairperson. Jenkins is a former teacher's assistant, social worker, social work supervisor and community service coordinator who retired from Guilford County Schools in 2016. She served as second vice president for the Greensboro branch of the NAACP, committee co-chair for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a member of the League of Women Voters. Her two children graduated from Dudley High, and she has two grandchildren enrolled in GCS.

GCS Takes Steps to Minimize Charged Meals Balance

GCS schools will resume the charged meal plan authorized by the Board of Education in June 2012, the school district announced Tuesday.

During the pandemic, federal waivers allowed all students to eat school meals for free, regardless of their financial status. Those waivers expired during the summer. The district has processed nearly 16,000 applications for free and reduced-price meals, and families may still apply for federal meal benefits at www.lunchapplication.com.

The charged meal plan, which will resume in January, allows schools to serve an alternate meal to students who do not qualify for the free and reduced-price meal program — once those students have charged the value of five breakfasts and five lunches, which currently totals \$19.25. The alternate meal consists of fruit and/or vegetable choices from that day's menu, milk and/or water and a roll.

More than 30,000 GCS students are enrolled in 66 schools that participate in the [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\)](#), a federal program that allows all students to eat for free if 40% qualify for benefits through other programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Since the waivers ended, GCS students in non-CEP schools have amassed about \$111,627 in meal debt. The district has collected about \$6,750 in donations for charged meal balances. If you'd like to make a donation, [click here](#).

Policy Committee Moves Revised Policies Forward

The Guilford County Schools Board of Education Policy Committee voted to send a revised student attendance policy and a federal grant administration policy out for a 30-day public comment period at Tuesday's board meeting.

The revised Student Attendance [Policy 4400](#) includes updated language to reflect attendance requirements for virtual learning. The policy also includes updates for late arrivals, early departures, absences and make-up work.

The revised Federal Grant Administration [Policy 8305](#) outlines how the Board intends to administer federal grant awards efficiently, effectively, and in compliance with all requirements imposed by law, the awarding agency, and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

The public can mail comments to the GCS Central Office located at 712 N. Eugene Street or email them to boardclerk@gcsnc.com. After comments for 30 days, the Board will then consider the policy at their January board meeting.

Guilford Parent Academy Tame the Stress: Building Routines for Your Child's Success

Every day in school is an opportunity for students to learn, grow and succeed. This workshop will focus on developing positive routines focusing on family wellness to promote better school attendance. Guilford Parent Academy facilitators will conduct an interactive session where caregivers will recognize their role in their child's success and create an "Our Families' Successful Attendance Plan" to reach their attendance goals. Child care and refreshments will be provided at the venue, along with a door prize(Family Dinner Gift Card). Register [HERE](#) for the in-person session at High Point.

