

Principals Advisory Meeting Notes

November 17, 2025

Community Time:

Parent asked for her student regarding men claiming to be Ice on campus, bus stops, near schools in Haymarket. What is GHS going to do? Sounds like it would be a police matter. If there are trespassers on school grounds, we contact the police. If students are concerned that someone is posing a certain way, call the police. The cell phone restrictions are from 7:30 until 2:10 p.m. Parent asked if the students would be ok to use the phones at the bus stops.

Parent asked about the fence wrapping in the lot by the roundabout, has GHS logos. The neighbor reached out to us, and we sent him a vector file of our logo.

Parent asked about the activities bus/transport vehicle since winter sports are starting? We received documentation but still do not have keys or a vehicle on the premises. We are excited at the prospect of how the van could be very helpful. It does open it up too many to drive if the coach is not able to drive. Received only terms of use. Don't know if they carry 6 passengers or 10-12 passengers.

Parent asked about the Dean of Students position, is role more disciplinary. The announcement sent to the community shared background in student activities, athletics. Mrs. Kural started two weeks ago. The day-to-day job description is still being determined. We want all administration to build connections, relationships with students and then doing work on multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) and problem solve on how to help kids be successful. She has done work around MTSS previously. Most DOS have come directly from a classroom, are not yet the expert in discipline, and processes and systems we have in PWCS. The extra help will be helpful with addressing things with immediacy, better communication, parent outreach, but it all starts with building relationships with kids.

Parent asked about the philosophy of not teaching in units specifically in math and is that positively impacting our AP scores. Also, the new mandate of students that score 425 in SOL or higher and placing the students in advanced Algebra I as a 9th grader, are we working with 8th grade teachers to ensure the students are ready. Parents can opt out of Adv Algebra I class. There are decades of research of spiraling the curriculum, retention of information, helps with understanding. We do the same in Language Arts and Biology. It's easier to teach a unit, less planning but spiraling is not new and not only for math. If we look at Math scores in totality (AP, SOL, PSAT) our students have scored higher. By revisiting the topics, relearning and reassess, throughout the year is benefiting the students to get graded on the concepts throughout the year and change the grade if they master the concept. There is anecdotal data for students that come back and share. Student satisfaction rates depending on the metric or question, are the highest in the division.

Parent asked about Boys Volleyball, Fairfax started, and Loudon is starting next year. How would it be possible to start in PWCS? We have boys' clubs here in Gainesville, Battlefield, Haymarket areas.

What could we do to get 4-5 schools involved. One good mechanism is the fact that it is currently running in Fairfax, we could start a club (students complete paperwork, submit for approval and have a sponsor). PWCS now funding bowling league, flag football and request could go through the activities office at central, school board and superintendent. Start-up cost would be uniforms, officiating for games, paying customers could cover some of the cost. The difficulty would be finding gym time for practice and games. The question would be would Boys VB be a fall, winter or spring sport. Mr. Beech will speak with other principals to see if they are interested. There are schools that athletic participation could increase their numbers in participation.

Parent asked out changing setting for student iPad re mouse and keyboards. Mr. Beech had a meeting with stakeholders from central office, and they met with a classroom of students and teachers. They were in a posture to kick it around more. They did talk about a 13-inch iPad with larger keyboards but did not get the yes to opening Bluetooth for student access. Computer Science class is the class that students struggle the most with iPads. We have 100 portable monitors, but we don't know if the iPad have enough power for the monitors. Mr. Beech will check in with Mr. Dimla to find a solution for the Comp Science class.

Parent asked are the sessions available on YouTube or any other platform. We have not recorded them. It's imperative that when we have parents time, we provide them with info sessions, but we know sometimes time is limited for parents. We've even talked about offer less sessions. We had a session for our BioMed classes in spring last year, where students shared their projects. We also had a curriculum fair last year, that unfortunately was lightly attended. We have webinars that families can watch, and we have used flip grid information for course selection.

Parent asked if Governor School application still go thru the lottery process that specialty program uses. Same platform but different application process with deadline of 2/1.

Principal's Time:

Good News

1. Winter Sports started.
2. Touchbase conferences on 11/3 was good. Don't think the date is optimal, Columbus Day being a holiday and parents being off made it easier. Any feedback from parents of things we can do differently?
3. Fall Musical Alice by Heart with live pit band and 4 shows this weekend. Huge cast with lots of student involvement.
4. Over 800 students recognized for Academic Awards on 11/6.
5. We hosted instruction rounds last week-modeled off medical rounds where practitioners collect trend data on state of affairs. Visited about 55 classrooms in one day, snapshot in time, teams of practitioners, level of student engagement, students passively engaged, or students actively disengaged. We look at task aligned with standards, and is the verb that students are doing is aligned also. Look at teacher's role in the classroom (goal is to release control back to the kids). Data suggested that even during our NEST period, teachers were

reteaching, students could tell what the goal was for the day and what the success criteria is. 43 out of 55 classrooms the student were able to describe the goal of the day and success criteria. In about 50% of the classroom's students were engaged in literacy (reading, explicit vocabulary instruction, taking their own notes). Students were actively in in more than 2/3 of the classrooms. Useful and validation that teachers and students are working hard with opportunity for growth. Goal is for all our students to be actively engaged. Our next step from rounds is to have conversations with the Apple trainers to increase teacher led literacy in the classrooms. We are going to try to replicate rounds with just GHS staff.

CIP

1. Attendance chronic absenteeism rate is 11%. We have 40 students that we have assigned a mentor to check in with weekly.
2. Student reading level based on STAR assessment. We can look at fall to fall growth or fall to spring growth. Right now, 76% are exceeding against other students in the county. We hired a Reading Specialist but struggling to gain traction. We are going to evaluate the success and keep observing for growth. Some of our students are reading in a 3rd grade level (non-special education students) and we need to evaluate it. A lot of current reading practice models have AI baked into them.
3. Dr. McDade's update to the board tomorrow, 11/18 regarding the strategic plan and share the upcoming strategic plan. As well as AI access for students.

Grading

1. Grade calculation change sent out in Superintendents letter last week. Students' percentages into a letter grade, change the letter grade to a quality point number. F is 0, D is 1, C is 2, B is 3, A is 4. Teachers previously would put in a 50% if a student had a 50 or less. The new system is to avoid teachers giving the 50% in as the percentage for the grade for those that have less than 50%. NHI is not turning in an assignment, which is reflected in the percentage point calculation. Policy 661, Regulation 661-3.

PSAT Data

1. Scores are available through ParentVue. Will do a paper score on Tuesday next week and explain/interpret scores.
2. Khan Academy offers support in all the areas students did not do well in PSAT with modules and is free. There is an app, and students get their college board account using the PWCS email address.

Budget Status 25-26

1. \$1 million in flex
2. Would like to have \$50-70k to invest in infostructure

Budget Status 26-27

1. Tracking like our funding will be similar to this year.
2. Tiered in 3 level schools. Most in need will be funded for different positions like a graduation coach, a MTSS coach. Our attendance secretary and testing coordinator is not funded. Specialty Program Coordinator is only funded by 70% only.
3. Student enrollment will be static but probably have a slight decline or plateau.

Specialty Program

1. Information night on 11/20.
2. We are looking at how many students want to leave and fill those slots with transfers.

Next Meeting Date: February 2, 2026 at 6 pm