



**Gary Community School Corporation**  
*Doing What is Best for Students - Today - Tomorrow - Everyday*

## EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT

### DISTRESSED UNIT APPEALS BOARD (DUAB)

July 9, 2020

Prepared by



# Distressed Unit Appeals Board

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Emergency Manager Report

Prepared by Gary Schools Recovery, LLC

July 9, 2020

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## I.0 EMERGENCY MANAGER UPDATE

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### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ The Superintendent from Lake Ridge School District as well as the Charter Schools and I met with the Gary Health Department officials last week to review our re-entry plan one more time. Dr. Walker has agreed to do Facebook live informational meetings with me to help educate our parents and community on the plan and safety precautions.
- ◆ We are in the process of painting parts of West Side High School to help with the aesthetics of the building and to update parts of the logos and building that were outdated. The next building that will be partially painted is the GACC this summer.
- ◆ The team has been busy decorating the city with our yard signs to advertise for enrollment. The signs look great! See below.
- ◆ Our curriculum committee is working on a five-year plan to establish what our future curriculum needs may be to allow us to be able to plan accordingly for each adoption. Our hope is to have our schools pilot some Science and Social Studies curriculum this year to give the teachers a chance to see which curriculum best suits our needs.
- ◆ Lastly, we have partnered with Edgewater (our local mental health provider) as well as Regional Mental Health to help provide social service support to our students and families during this pandemic. They are working on support groups and counseling sessions for those who may need it.



## CURRICULUM REPORT

- ◆ Curriculum planning for reading and math will begin later this month. Three groups of teachers (representatives from each school) will meet to plan and create curriculum maps. Teachers will be grouped K to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Once the planning is done, teachers will share the maps with their school-based grade level teams. We will have trainings and discussions on the map as the year progresses. Additionally, the curriculum team will meet three more times throughout the year.
- ◆ We have partnered with Learning.com to assist our students in their keyboarding skills. Learning.com is a keyboarding platform that can teach our students beginning in Kindergarten to become proficient at keyboarding, computer science and digital citizenship.
- ◆ In response to the pandemic, we have partnered with Regional Mental Health and Edgewater to provide support to our students and staff who might need social emotional support.
- ◆ We are creating educational videos and documents to train our students and staff on Coronavirus. Training videos will be on the topics of identifying symptoms, cleaning procedures, social distancing expectations, sanitizing personal spaces, and proper handling of masks.
- ◆ Principals were polled and as a result we will be adopting iReady for our formative assessment provider for the 2020-2021 school year. The iReady suite of products were used this past year at the elementary level we are expanding on this by using the same provider for our formative assessment.

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## 2.0 CONSIDERATION OF REFERENDUM

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GCSC is considering an operating referendum in November of 2020.

### REASON FOR AN OPERATING REFERENDUM

As of January 2020, the annual GCSC deficit is \$6M. As documented in the Viable Deficit Reduction Plan an operating referendum is the most direct path to a balanced budget and positioning GCSC to end Distressed Unit Status.

### REASON FOR AN OPERATING REFERENDUM IN NOVEMBER 2020 COMPARED TO FUTURE DATES

The November 2020 election will have the highest voter turnout and therefore the best position for success.

### REASONS FOR GARY TO SUPPORT AN OPERATING REFERENDUM IN NOVEMBER 2020

- ◆ Increase teacher compensation
- ◆ Provide additional or increased opportunities for preschool, activities, and athletics
- ◆ Upgrade and enhance safety and security measures
- ◆ How the funds would be spent would be clearly stated up front and transparent tracking would be in place
- ◆ Position the district to end state takeover

### PAST REFERENDUMS

GCSC has held two operating referendum elections in recent years. The most recent was in November of 2016 and lost by 321 votes. The next most recent referendum was held in May of 2015.

### PRELIMINARY CALCULATIONS

Based on the most available data a tax rate of \$.44 on \$100 of net assessed value would lead to the annual collection of approximately \$6.9M.

For the average homestead, the annual tax increase is less than \$5 per month. For the average business, the annual tax increase is about \$13 per month.

An operating referendum can be in place for eight years or less.

## REPORTING

Reporting on how the revenue raised would be spent and on actual spending of revenue raised would be a cornerstone of a referendum campaign.

## MILESTONES

- ◆ Consultations with experts
- ◆ Engagement with community leaders
- ◆ DUAB presentation July 9, 2020
- ◆ Ongoing engagement with community leaders
- ◆ Ongoing consultations
- ◆ Decision in July
- ◆ Ballot question submittal to DLGF in July
- ◆ Ballot question approval from DLGF August 1, 2020