Board Policy

The Garrett County [Public Schools] Board of Education recognizes the right of individuals and groups to present inquiries or questions concerning school personnel, the curriculum and instructional materials, school services, and school facilities. The Board also recognizes the importance of effective two-way communications between the Garrett County Public Schools and the community; this is particularly essential between the schools and the parents/guardians of students. Strong efforts shall be directed toward maintaining open communications among the schools, the public and public agencies.

The Superintendent of Schools will be responsible for initiating and administering a continuous program of communication with the community, according to Policy 177, School Board Communication. Superintendent will make use of appropriate school personnel and all available media in discharging this responsibility. All efforts shall be made to fully comply with the Maryland Public Information Act.

A person or organization shall also have the opportunity to speak to the subject of inquiry at a public meeting of the Garrett County Board of Education, providing that such communication complies with Policy 130, Board Meeting Procedures.

[The process to follow in making verbal or written inquiries should follow the chain of command for the school system staff. That is, if the inquiry is school based the inquiry should be raised with the staff person directly involved (e.g., teacher, counselor, etc.), with the following inquiry being made at the principal level. If it is felt that the inquiry has to be pursued further, the appropriate supervisor and/or director should be contacted at the central office. Should it be necessary to pursue the matter further, the appropriate assistant superintendent of schools should be contacted, with the final inquiry being made to the superintendent of schools.

If the matter remains unresolved after all staff inquiries have been made, the matter can be presented to the Public Schools for its consideration.]

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