

SPECIAL BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES
MEETING OF THE GARRETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Oakland, MD 21550

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Part I – Call to Order

Mr. Thomas Carr, President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The Board voted to move into Executive Session at 5:31 pm. to discuss negotiation updates, field trip requests, legal concerns regarding the health care coalition, and personnel compensation for specific employees under the authority of 10-503 and 10-508 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Mr. Carr, President, reconvened the Business Session of the Board of Education at 6:04 p.m. Also in attendance were Mr. Rodney Reckart, Vice President; Mrs. Cynthia Downton, Associate Member; Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, Associate Member; Mr. Matthew Paugh, Associate Member; and Dr. Janet Wilson, Secretary -Treasurer / Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Miriam Sincell, Board Attorney; and Commissioner Bob Gatto, Ex-Officio Member were also present. The meeting was held at Central Office.

Part II – Consent Agenda

Mrs. Cynthia Downton moved to amend the consent agenda to include field trip approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodney Reckart. The Board voted unanimously to accept the consent agenda as amended.

Part III – Fiscal Year 2015 Draft Budget

Mr. Larry McKenzie, Director of Finance presented the Superintendent's Draft Budget overview to Board Members for Fiscal Year 2015. Mr. McKenzie reminded the Board Members of the Draft Budget timeline for adoption. The two steps below still need to occur:

- 4/18/2014 - Receive Final State Aid Numbers from the State
- 5/13/2014 - Adopt and Submit Final Approved 2015 Operating Draft budget to the County

State Aid Appropriations are declining over 6%. This is due to decline in enrollment and a hold harmless initiative that was passed, but not funded in FY2014 legislature.

Local Government Appropriations – the school system has requested \$27 M in funding from the County Government.

Draft Budget Additions:

- Other Appropriations – Aging Schools and Qualified Zone Academy Bond funds have also been appropriated.
- Investments in textbooks
- Several maintenance and operations projects at the schools and at Dennett Road.
- Scanning technology for Pupil Services, HR, and Finance
- Additional Information Technology infrastructure
- Alternative Education program mandates
- Computer Carts to provide school based technology that can also be used for the upcoming PARCC assessments.
- Additional school based equipment

Draft Budget Reductions

- Reduce 8 positions through attrition
- Reduced costs with nonpublic placements declining
- Reduction of transfer costs to Allegany County due to the graduation of Finzel area students

Mr. McKenzie provided the unrestricted expenditures by category and object and comparisons between FY 2014 Approved and FY 2015 Proposed.

Draft Budget Highlights Includes:

- New Alternative Program mandated by MSDE
- Document scanning for Pupil Service, Human Resources and Finance.
- Textbook appropriations made for 8th grade ELA and Mathematics back mapped to Algebra I in Middle School.
- Additional High School textbook appropriations
- Maintenance and Operations projects have been prioritized

Draft Budget Open Items Include:

- Negotiations beginning for the final employee group
- Early retirement notifications

Mr. Reckart made a motion to approve the draft budget. Mrs. Downton seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sebold inquired about the purchase of the car for the Director of Transportation. Mr. Paugh was concerned that the Board did not permit the public to comment on the draft budget at this meeting. The Board approved the draft budget 3 to 1. Mr. Matthew Paugh dissented.

Part XII – Adjournment

The meeting was recessed at 7:55 and moved back to Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. The Executive Session was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Reckart at 9:38 pm and the Business Meeting adjourned on a motion by Mrs. Downton at 9:40 pm.



Mr. Thomas Carr, President



Dr. Janet S. Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: