

**Garrett County Board of Education
40 S Second Street
Oakland, MD 21550**

**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, January 30, 2018**

Board Members present included Mr. Matthew Paugh, President, Dr. Nathan Sorber, Vice President, and Board Members: Mrs. Monica Rinker, Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, and Mr. Tom Woods. Also present for the meeting: Mrs. Barbara Baker, Secretary -Treasurer / Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Karen DeVore, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Administration; and Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance.

The meeting was held at Central Office in the Board Room.

1. Opening

A. Opening of Meeting

Mr. Matthew Paugh, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

B. Public Comment

Mr. Evan West, Garrett County Education Association (GCEA) Representative, spoke to the Board regarding the RISE Plan. He appreciated the fact that the Board is opening feedback from staff and the public for the strategic planning process. Mr. West asked the Board to collaborate with the Maryland State Education Association and GCEA in advocating for more funding at the state level through the Kirwan Commission.

2. RISE Strategic Plan

A. Board Goals for Review

The Board reviewed the current Board of Education goals and did not make any changes or additions to the goals. Ms. Baker articulated how the school system is currently supporting these goals.

The current Board of Education Goals are listed below:

- All students will be challenged with a rigorous instructional environment preparing them to become life-long learners and responsible citizens
- Partnerships with all members of our community will be fostered and strengthened by engaging them in the education of our children
- All students and staff will learn in a safe, secure, and caring environment where everyone is valued and respected
- Every department and school will be a good steward of system resources and will manage them in a cost-effective manner
- All employees will be highly qualified and effective in their jobs contributing to a self-renewing organization

B. Identification of Strategic Issues

The Board Members reviewed the results of the SWOT Analysis. Mr. Paugh asked the Board to review the responses to the SWOT Analysis and decide which strategic issues/challenges need the most attention at this time. The strategic issues that were discussed by the Board Members included:

- Community: the value of the schools to the community and the support the community provides to the schools.
- Elementary schools: purpose, value, sustainability, capacity, maintenance, footprint
- School capacity: perceived overcrowding in southern elementary schools and below capacity in northern schools.
- Staff: recruiting and maintaining high quality staff
- Course offering: academic programs and vocational courses that students need at the high school level
- Disruptive behavior and discipline issues
- Drug/opioid crisis: prevention and response
- Nutrition and food offerings
- Homeschool students
- Class size: what are optimal class sizes?
- Revenue: understanding state and local factors and impact of Kirwan commission
- Managing costs: rising cost of goods of services
- Economic development: understanding the school system's role in economic development and articulating its value in economic development
- Maintenance: ensuring a safe and sound environment for education
- Healthcare: manage costs and inflation
- Administrative functions: ensuring efficiencies
- Technology: long-term strategies
- Regional partnerships: education, non-profits, businesses, etc.
- Transportation: minimizing bus ride times in county with large geographical area
- Grant opportunities
- Math curriculum: communicating changes

By consensus, the Board agreed to these strategic issues.

C. Process for Public Input - Action

Dr. Sorber proposed that the Board turn the strategic issues/challenges and strengths over to Ms. Baker to draft a report. By consensus, the Board agreed to this proposal. The report will be available to the Board and public at the February 13, 2018, Board Meeting. The public will be able to provide feedback regarding the strategic issues to the Board by the March 13, 2018, Board Meeting.

3. Budget Work Session

Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, discussed the FY2019 Operating Budget with the Board. She discussed the FY2019 draft revenue from State aid updates and local funding. Mrs. Sweitzer discussed the FY2019 initiatives and priorities including the process for which the departments gather the funding requests from schools and buildings and make the final prioritization. She spoke about legislative bills that should be considered in the budget process due to possible impact for our school system, including House Bill 1/ Senate Bill 304 "Maryland Healthy Working Families Act."

Mrs. Sweitzer discussed the FY 2019 recommended unrestricted operating budget by object and category. She then discussed how the school system will be able to balance the budget through attrition, no new funding requests and not including over \$1.2 million of Maintenance and Operations budget needs at this time. She discussed the possible FY 2019 local funding requests from the County Commissioners and the possible utilization of a non-recurring cost exclusion request and revisions to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Mrs. Sweitzer then discussed the next steps in the budget approval process.

4. Adjournment

A motion was made by Tom Woods to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Charlotte Sebold.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries; Yea: Tom Woods, Charlotte Sebold, Monica Rinker, Nathan Sorber

The Board adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.