

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE GARRETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Oakland, Maryland 21550

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

**Part I - Call to Order**

Mrs. Cynthia Downton, President, called the business meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:10 p.m. Also in attendance were Mr. Thomas Carr, Vice President; Dr. Donald Forrester, Mr. Rodney Reckart, Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, associate members; and Dr. Janet Wilson, Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Miriam Sincell, Board Attorney; Commissioner Bob Gatto, Ex-Officio Member; and John Major, III, Student Member of the Board, were also present. The meeting was held at central office.

**Part II – Opening Ceremonies**

Mrs. Downton led a moment of silence after which Mr. John Major led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Part III – Consent Agenda**

Upon a motion by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Reckart, the Board of Education unanimously approved the consent agenda.

**Part IV – Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Wilson reported the following announcements:

- |                    |           |  |
|--------------------|-----------|--|
| September 25, 2013 |           | Staff Development: Students dismissed 3 hours early  |
| September 16, 2013 | 1:30 p.m. | Pitch the Bus will be at the GIEC on Garrett Campus (#103 of the GIEC)<br>Pitching a presentation by our County’s award winning Gramma Jamma |
- Crellin Elementary School received a \$35,000 Environmental Stewardship Award from State Farm Youth Advisory. Project name: BARN – Building Agriculture Responsibility in our Neighborhood

**Part V – Hearing of Constituents**

There were no constituents signed up to speak.

**Part VI – Continuing Business**

Mr. Jim Morris, Supervisor of Research and Information/Public Information Officer, presented new

policy 970, *Public Information and Communication*, to the Board at the August 2013 meeting. Upon a motion by Mr. Carr, seconded by Dr. Forrester, the Board of Education unanimously approved the adoption of Board Policy 970, *Public Information and Communication*.

Mrs. Barbara Baker, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, presented new Board Policy 165, *Advisory Committees*, to the Board at the August 2013 meeting. Upon a motion by Dr. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Carr, the Board of Education unanimously approved the adoption of Board Policy 165, *Advisory Committees*.

### **Part VII – New Business**

Mr. Paul Edwards, Director of Secondary Education, presented revisions to Board Policy 344.52, *Programs Leading to High School Completion*, during today's work session. Upon a motion by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Reckart, the Board of Education unanimously approved Board Policy 344.52, *Programs Leading to High School Completion*.

Mrs. Baker informed the Board that there is no longer a need for Administrative Procedure 350, *School Students to Driver Education Programs*, due to the elimination of the Driver's Education program. Administrative Procedure 350, *School Student to Driver Education Programs* was sunsetted.

### **Part VIII – Board Business**

Mr. Carr reviewed highlights of the upcoming MABE conference which will be held on October 2-4 in Ocean City, Maryland. He informed the Board of various topics discussed at the recent LSA meeting.

Travel plans for the MABE conference were discussed.

Mrs. Downton asked about the closed meeting training which at least one Board member is to have prior to October 1.

Mr. Thornburg reported to the Board that the Garrett County Employees Health Care Plan coalition is ready to launch the wellness program. A letter was composed sharing the support of the Board members for the wellness program and signed by each Board member. Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that enrollment is strictly volunteer.

Discussion ensued on the Strategic Plan of Garrett County and why the Board of Education was not included. Mr. Carr will draft a letter to the County Commissioners regarding the plan.

Discussion ensued regarding Garrett College requesting funding for the College and Me Program. The goal of the college is \$100 per child.

The Board members expressed who will be attending the Teacher of the Year Gala.

Commissioner Gatto discussed a second meeting with the Board of Education. Mrs. Sebold stated she would like to hold off because of the drastic change in the budget situation. It was mentioned that the public is eager for the two Boards to meet again. Dr. Wilson stated that people need to understand

that 80% of budget is people. Reducing force closes schools and very little is saved in closing a school. The bulk of the budget is in its people. If schools are not staffed then schools have to close. School closure is a secondary issue. As people go, programs go and then the risk of offering only a general studies program as required by law in regards to a graduation program is all that is left. Honors, AP courses, athletics, music, etc. are unable to be offered.

The Board scheduled the FY13 audit meeting with Rodeheaver and Associates, P.C. on September 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

**Part IX – Information Items**

- a. Invitation for Autumn glory Kick Off Dinner
- b. Material from MABE for the Annual Conference
- c. College and Me Information

**Part X – Recess**

Upon a motion by Dr. Forrester, the Board recessed at 7:43 p.m. to go back to Executive Session.

**Part XI – Reopening of Business Meeting**

**Part XII – Adjourn**

Upon a motion by Mr. Carr, the Board adjourned at 8:20 pm .

---

Mrs. Cynthia Downton  
President

---

Dr. Janet S. Wilson  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: October 8, 2013