

## BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

### MEETING OF THE GARRETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION Oakland, MD 21550

**Tuesday, October 8, 2013**

#### **Part I - Call to Order**

Mrs. Cynthia Downton, President, called the Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m. Also in attendance were Mr. Thomas Carr, Vice President; Mr. Rodney Reckart, associate member, Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, associate member; and Dr. Janet Wilson, Secretary -Treasurer / 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 with one addition to the agenda.

#### **Part IV – Superintendent Report**

Dr. Wilson reported the following announcements:

- October 11, 2013                      Schools Closed – Autumn Glory
- October 14 – 18, 2013              National School Lunch Week
- October 21 – 25, 2013              National School Bus Safety Week
- October 23, 2013                    3 Hour Early Dismissal – Staff Development
- October 28 – November 1, 2013   Red Ribbon Week
- October 29, 2013                    End of First Grading Period

#### **Part V – Hearing of Constituents**

- Mrs. Monica Rinker, parent, had questions concerning Senator Edwards' letter to the governor. The letter references closures of 4 schools and configuration of existing schools. She wanted to know when information regarding these possible changes would be available to the public.
- Mrs. Michele Crisman, parent, also expressed concerns regarding possible school closings. She asked if the school system did receive funding when the board would provide their plans.

## **Part VI – Continuing Business**

Under a motion by Mr. Thomas Carr, the Board unanimously voted to accept Board Policy 855, Transportation Reimbursement revisions. It was seconded by Mr. Reckart.

Under a motion by Mr. Thomas Carr, the Board unanimously voted to sunset/eliminate Board Policy 475.1, Special Education Due Process Hearing. It was seconded by Mr. Reckart.

## **Part VII – Board Business**

### Student Board Member Report

Mr. John Major III had questions about what the Board of Education is doing. It was explained to him and the constituents that the school system's new website and Facebook page will provide up to date information throughout the school year.

Mr. Major inquired if the transportation buses actually have locks on the doors. This concern is around security of materials left on the bus during field trips and games. Mr. Wildesen indicated that there are no locks on any of the buses. In discussions from around the state, the majority of the buses are school owned fleets, not contractor owned. Mr. Wildesen suggested the students and teachers ask the drivers what the security plans are for leaving items on buses.

Mr. Major also mentioned that students have complained about the lack of water in the buildings. Students are not permitted to get water very often throughout the school day. The students would like to be able to carry water bottles. This issue will be discussed at the next A & S meeting.

Mr. Major also had concerns regarding the county's financial status with the decline in enrollment. Dr. Wilson suggested to Mr. Major that the student government write a letter to the governor and copy it to the same people that were included on Senator Edward's letter.

### Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE)

Mr. Thomas Carr, Board Member, presented this informational item.

Garrett County had 100% attendance at the MABE conference. Mrs. Charlotte Sebold attended a workshop on how iPads are used in Prince Georges County. She mentioned how iPads are used in Title I schools. There was a good discussion with representatives of Talbot and Kent counties.

### LSA

Mr. Thomas Carr, Board Member, requested that LSA be removed from the agenda as it only meets four times a year. They will not be meeting again until January.

The Boardroom Review editions are located under public information tab on the school system's website.

Dr. Lillian Lowery, State Superintendent of Schools will be speaking at an Information Session on Common Core State Standards in Western Maryland. Location and details will be available soon.

**Part VIII** – Informational Items

- a) October Activities Calendar
- b) October HOPE Newsletter

**Part IX** – Adjourn

The board adjourned the work session at 7:41 p.m.

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Mrs. Cynthia Downton  
President

Dr. Janet S. Wilson  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: November 12, 2013