

BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

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

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Part I - Call to Order

Mrs. Cynthia Downton, President, called the Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:48 p.m. Also in attendance were Mr. Thomas Carr, Vice President; Mr. Rodney Reckart, associate member; Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, associate member; Mr. Matthew Paugh, newly appointed 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, were also present. The meeting was held at Northern Middle School in the cafeteria.

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 to accept the consent agenda with one addition to the agenda.

Part IV – Superintendent Report

Dr. Wilson reported the following announcements:

- November 11 – 15, 2013 School Psychologist Week
- November 14, 2013 Allegany and Garrett Counties Common Core State Standards at Frostburg State University.
- November 15, 2013 Dr. Lillian Lowery’s visit with Garrett County Public Schools
- November 18 – 22, 2013 American Education Week
- November 27, 2013 3 Hour Early Dismissal
- November 28 – 29 Thanksgiving Holiday Break

Part V – Hearing of Constituents

Monica Rinker, parent, read a letter she had sent to the Board on November 6th concerning some questions she had about the school facilities study, the costs of the study, budget concerns, and advisory committees. She asked for clarification regarding the School Advisory Committees, Grant funding for computers/technology, and new text books.

Don Coble, concerned citizen, commented on some personal observations. He stated he is a mentor and has noticed the Common Core is working effectively in the elementary schools. He

also discussed the Facilities Study and its adverse effects on the schools. He indicated that Dr. Wilson's comments were excellent on October 28th at the CARC. His main concern was the possible closing of Friendsville Elementary School.

Part VI – Continuing Business

Mr. Tim Thornburg, Director of Human Resources, presented Board Policy 130, *Collective Bargaining Policy* for a second reading and action item. A motion was made by Mrs. Charlotte Sebold to approve the revisions to this policy, it was seconded by Mr. Rodney Reckart. The Board unanimously voted to approve these revisions.

Mr. Tim Thornburg also presented the Board Policy, *190 – Equal Opportunity* for a second reading and action item. Under a motion by Mrs. Sebold to approve the revisions to this policy, it was seconded by Mr. Carr. The Board members unanimously voted to approve these revisions.

Mrs. Barbara Baker, Assistant Superintendent, presented Board Policy 270, *School Improvement Team* for a second reading and action item. Under a motion by Mrs. Sebold to approve the revisions to this policy, it was seconded by Mr. Carr. The Board members unanimously voted to approve these revisions.

Part VII – New Business

Facility Engineering Associates Needs Assessment Master Plan and BFM Study

Mr. William Swift, Director of Facilities/ Maintenance/Operations, presented this action item. Mr. Reckart motioned to accept these studies as data points to consider for future planning. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carr. The Board unanimously voted to approve the Facilities Engineering Associates and the Bushey Feight Morin Architects school facilities assessment studies as information items and pieces of data points for guidance now and in the future concerning schools' facilities.

Part VII – Board Business

Student Board Member Report

Mr. John R. Major III discussed some water access issues at the last meeting and wanted to provide an update. Mr. Major stated that the water fountains were fixed in Northern High and are working properly. He also stated the use of water bottles in the classrooms appears to be a school issue that is still being addressed. Mr. Major is working on an anti-bullying campaign in the schools. It is in the planning process at this time. Mr. Carr mentioned to Mr. Major that Northern Middle School had some interesting bullying prevention items in the cafeteria for Mr. Major to leverage in his research.

Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE)

Mr. Thomas Carr, Board Member, presented an informational item. MABE had an October meeting. MABE will be starting legislative initiatives soon. Mr. Carr also stated that on December 19, Kitty Blumsack will conduct professional development for the Board.

Part VIII – Other

Commissioner Gatto spoke about Maryland Mountain PACE which is a collaboration of Allegany County and Garrett County to meet with legislative representatives in Annapolis to discuss topic points. The Maryland Mountain PACE reception is January 23-24, 2014. Commission Gatto recommended this event as it provides a venue to receive information about what is going on, provides upcoming legislation information and is a good opportunity to meet other individuals.

Part IX – Adjourn

The board adjourned the work session at 8:41 p.m.

Mrs. Cynthia Downton
President

Dr. Janet S. Wilson
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: