

BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

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

Tuesday, December 10, 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, 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 Southern High 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

December 16, 2013	Advisory / School Consolidation Committee Orientation Meeting Garrett County Fairground Building, 6:00 pm
December 20, 2013	Students Dismissed 3 hours early
December 23 -January 1	Schools are Closed for Christmas Holiday
January 13, 2014	Advisory Committees meet with Facility Engineering Associates, Bushey Feight Morin Architects and Central Office Staff Location TBD

See December Calendar of Activities for various events including holiday programs and concerts at the schools throughout the month.

Dr. Wilson shared the winner of the Christmas card artwork. This year, central office staff voted on various Christmas card artwork designs from students and chose artwork created by Ms. Shelby Stegall, a 10th grader at Southern High School. She will be recognized at the January board meeting.

BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

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The Board also received the Mountain Maryland PACE Invitations and December Home & School Connection

Part V – Hearing of Constituents

Ms. Monica Rinker, parent, had questions about the Facility Engineering Associates facility study concerning the budget, school closings, and enrollment. Mrs. Miriam Sincell, the Garrett County Board of Education legal counsel advised the Board not to answer or comment as a means of keeping consistent with the “Hearing of Constituents” statement/ procedure.

Mr. Eric Robison, a parent, spoke regarding discussed items concerning the budget process and resolutions to the budget problems. He had recently met with school administrators and county commissioners and indicated that a review of the budget process should be addressed. Communication and trust must be the common ground between the Board of Education and County Government.

Part VI – Continuing Business

Mr. Larry McKenzie, Director of Finance, presented Board Policy 725.31, *Travel and Incidental Expenses* for second reading and action item. Mr. Thomas Carr made a motion to approve this policy. Mr. Rodney Reckart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to accept this policy.

Mr. Tim Thornburg, Director of Human Resources, presented Board Policy 760, *Social Media* in a second reading and action item. Mr. Carr made the motion to approve this policy; Mrs. Charlotte Sebold seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to accept this policy.

Part VI – New Business

Capital Improvement Plan

Dr. Janet Wilson, in place of Mr. William Swift, Director of Facilities/Maintenance/Operations, presented this action item. Mr. Reckart made a motion to approve this plan, Mr. Carr seconded that motion. The Board unanimously voted to accept the Capital Improvement Plan.

Student Board Member Report

Mr. John R. Major III, student board member, addressed the curiosity of students concerning Common Core. He has been working with Allegany County and the Garrett County Council of Student Government to create a presentation for middle and high schools on the Common Core Standards curriculum. He also mentioned he is still working on the anti-bullying campaign.

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Oakland, MD 21550**

Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE)

Thomas Carr, Board Member, presented an informational item. Mr. Carr attended the legislative meeting in November. Dr. David G. Lever, Executive Director of Interagency Committee on School Construction, was the guest speaker.

Mr. Carr inquired about the Open Meetings Act dealing with open meetings and the class required by the Attorney General. Mr. Carr will attend the Federal Relations Network on Capital Hill in February expressing aggravation with mandates, waivers, and funding.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2014. The site of the meeting will be announced.

Part IX – Adjourn

The board adjourned the work session at 8:26 p.m. Mr. Reckart made a motion to return to the Executive Session; Mrs. Sebold seconded that motion.

Mrs. Cynthia Downton
President

Dr. Janet S. Wilson
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: