

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

**WORK SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, July 12, 2016**

Board Members present included Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, President, Mrs. Monica Rinker, Vice President; Board Members: Mr. Thomas Carr, Mrs. Cynthia Downton, and Mr. Matthew Paugh. Also present for the meeting: Ms. Barbara Baker, Secretary -Treasurer / Interim Superintendent of Schools, Mr. William Swift, Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations and Security; Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Elementary Education and Early Childhood, Ms. Amy Barnhouse, Interim Director of Human Resources and Employee Relations, Ms. Alison Sweitzer, Interim Director of Finance, Mr. Brandon Hoover, Board Attorney, and Ms. Sheyenne Tichnell, Student Member of the Board.

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

1. Opening

A. Move to Executive Session

A motion was made by Monica Rinker to recess the meeting to go into the Executive Session and seconded by Thomas Carr. Final Resolution: Motion Carries; Yea: Matthew Paugh, Thomas Carr, Cynthia Downton, Monica Rinker

The Board recessed the Work Session at 4:01 p.m.

B. Executive Session Closed to the Public

The Board of Education met in an Executive Session on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, at Central Office in the Board Room at 4:02 p.m. under authority §3-305 of the General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the following items: Board meeting minutes; Student Member of the Board Interview; Personnel topics: certificated staffing recommendations, professional leave requests, field trip request; and Negotiations update.

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 5:28 p.m. to begin the Work Session. Thomas Carr made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and Matthew Paugh seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved adjourning the executive session.

Board Members present included Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, President, Mrs. Monica Rinker, Vice President; Board Members: Mr. Thomas Carr, Mrs. Cynthia Downton, Mr. Matthew Paugh. Also present for the meeting were Mrs. Barbara Baker, Secretary - Treasurer / Interim Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Brandon Hoover, Board Attorney. Present for part of the meeting were Ms. Michelle Harman, Supervisor of College and Career Readiness, Ms. Amy Barnhouse, Interim Director of Human Resources; Ms. Alison Sweitzer, Interim Director of Finance; and Ms. Sheyenne Tichnell, Student Member of the Board. Mrs. Karen Brewer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, was present for part of the meeting for the purpose of taking minutes.

The Board of Education met in an Executive Session on Thursday, July 14, 2016, at Central Office in the Board Room at 4:04 p.m. under authority §3-305 of the General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss negotiations and a personnel update.

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 5:28 p.m. Thomas Carr made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and Monica Rinker seconded the motion. The Board **unanimously approved adjourning the executive session.**

Board Members present were Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, President; Mrs. Monica Rinker, Vice President; Board Members: Mr. Thomas Carr and Mr. Matthew Paugh. Mrs. Cynthia Downton, Board Member, joined the meeting via a conference phone. Also present for part of the meeting were Ms. Barbara Baker, Secretary -Treasurer / Interim Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brandon Hoover, Board Attorney and Chief Negotiator, Ms. Amy Barnhouse, Interim Director of Human Resources, and Ms. Alison Sweitzer, Interim Director of Finance. Mrs. Karen Brewer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent was present at the meeting for the purpose of taking minutes.

2. Welcome

A. Call to Order - Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, President

Mrs. Charlotte Sebold called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

B. Moment of Silence

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Sheyenne Tichnell, Student Member of the Board, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Closed Session Summaries

Ms. Barbara Baker, Interim Superintendent, read the Closed Session Summaries for the June 21 and 28, 2016 Board Meetings: The Board of Education met in an Executive Session on Tuesday, June 21, 2016, at Central Office in the Board Room at 4:05 p.m. under authority §3-305 of the General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the following items: Board meeting minutes; Personnel topics: professional leave request, interim assignments, negotiations, certificated personnel recommendation; legal topics: federal guidelines and legal case updates.

The Board recessed the Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. to begin the Work Session. The Board went back into the Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss a Personnel topic. Matthew Paugh made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and Thomas Carr seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved adjourning the executive session at 9:22 p.m.

Board Members present included Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, President; Mrs. Monica Rinker, Vice President, Board Members: Mr. Thomas Carr, Mrs. Cynthia Downton, and Mr. Matthew Paugh. Also present for part of the meeting were Dr. Janet Wilson, Secretary -Treasurer / Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Barbara Baker, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Ms. Amy Barnhouse, Interim Director of Human Resources; Ms. Alison Sweitzer, Interim Director of Finance and Mr. Brandon Hoover, Board Attorney. Mrs. Karen Brewer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, was present for part of the meeting for the purpose of taking minutes.

The Board of Education met in an Executive Session on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, at Central Office in the Conference Room on 3rd Floor at 6:05 p.m. under authority §3-305 of the General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the following items: Personnel topic: Interim Superintendent Appointment and a legal topic: Interim Superintendent Contract.

The Board adjourned the Executive Session to begin the Business Session. Matthew Paugh made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and Thomas Carr seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved adjourning the executive session at 6:28 p.m. Board Members present included Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, President; Mrs. Monica Rinker, Vice President, Board Members: Mr. Thomas Carr, Mrs. Cynthia Downton, and Mr. Matthew Paugh, and Mr. Brandon Hoover, Board Attorney.

3. Program Update

A. Learning Beyond the Classroom Bus - Mobile Outreach Education Community Center (MOECC)

Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Elementary Education and Early Childhood, provided an update on the Learning Beyond the Classroom bus since she last presented in March.

Learning Beyond the Classroom is a mobile classroom that travels to 10 locations throughout Garrett County to increase school readiness with families that have children in the 0-5 year old population; provide fine arts experiences for the 0-5 year old programs; and provide supplemental programs for food (Food Pantry, Nutritional Education) and toiletry items to families of children in need throughout Garrett County. She presented a short video of the first week that the MOECC operated which included children, staff and families participating in various activities. The bus was also on display in front of Central Office for the Board and public to view.

4. New Business

A. 2016-17 Student Member of the Board Appointment

The Board appointed Ms. Sheyenne Tichnell, 11th grade SGHS student, as the 2016-17 Student Member of the Board. She is secretary of the SGHS Student Council, a member of the School Improvement Team, youth pastor of Living Word Youth Ministry, and secretary of the Maple Mountain 4-H Club. Ms. Tichenell is looking forward to being the liaison between her peers and the Board of Education in order to help accomplish what is best for the students and the entire County.

B. Transgender Guidelines Update- Attorney General Opinion

Ms. Barbara Baker, Interim Superintendent, read and discussed the opinion of the Maryland Attorney General regarding the directive by the Department of Justice and Department of Education concerning the responsibility of local school systems regarding transgender students in the schools.

It is the Attorney General's view that local school boards should comply with the recent directive because failure to comply places them at the risk of liability or loss of federal funds under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), and because the suggestions in the directive are not substantially different from the suggestions in the guidelines of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The directive from the Department of Justice and Department of Education states: "Title IX's implementing regulations permit a school to provide sex-segregated restrooms, locker rooms, shower facilities, housing, and athletic teams, as well as single-sex classes under certain circumstances. When a school provides sex-segregated activities and facilities, transgender students must be allowed to participate in such activities and access such facilities consistent with their gender identity." The directive also states: "A school may provide separate facilities on the basis of sex, but must allow transgender students' access to such facilities consistent with their gender identity. A school may not require transgender students to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required to do so. A school may, however, make individual-user options available to all students who voluntarily seek additional privacy."

Ms. Baker also indicated that AASA, the School Superintendents Association, released a statement that indicated school systems need to follow the federal mandate and to take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of transgender students, as well as non-transgender students, and reinforce the respectful treatment of all students.

Garrett County Public Schools currently does not have policies that address transgender specifically, but will begin to look at the guidance documents to implement policies and procedures to meet the mandate. Mr. Brandon Hoover, Board Attorney, discussed the history of the transgender ruling and the legality of the issue within the U.S Court of Appeals - 4th Circuit Court, which is Maryland's federal jurisdiction. The opinion of the 4th Circuit Court is that gender discrimination is the same as sex discrimination as covered by Title IX. Therefore, the school system should follow the federal and state guidelines that have been presented.

C. Electric Distribution Bid - Update

Mr. William Swift, Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations and Security, provided an update on the Electric Distribution Bid Award (Nov. 2016 – Nov. 2019) with Frederick Area Cooperative Purchasing Committee. This coop is made up of school systems and businesses in western Maryland who work together to get the lowest rate per usage. Through a bid process, the electricity supply provider was awarded to Direct Energy Business. The company's rate was the lowest bid for electricity usage. This new contract will save Garrett County Public Schools \$33,000 over the next 3 years.

D. Child Protection Units - Second Step Program Lessons on Safety

Dr. Phil Lauver, Supervisor of Pupil Services, requested the display and consideration of the adoption of the Second Step Curriculum: Child Protection Units for instruction in Child Personal Safety. The curriculum is published by the Committee for Children, developers and publishers of the Second Step curriculum, and is geared for students in PreK through grade 5. The Child Protection Units meet the National Health Education Standards of the Center for Disease Control for providing personal safety instruction to students. The materials will be on display at the central office until the August 9th Board of Education meeting, at which time they will be submitted for approval. Public comment on the materials is welcome.

E. Final Report of the Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools

Ms. Baker presented to the Board the Final Report of the Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools. In 2015, the Commission was charged with reviewing, surveying, and analyzing a variety of issues related to assessments. Through this final report, the Commission is submitting its findings to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the State and local boards of education, in accordance with House Bill 452 of the 2015 General Assembly Session. The Board will review and consider the Commission's findings and recommendations. They will make comments and recommendations related to whether they accept or reject the Commission's findings and recommendations to the State Board by the August Board Meeting.

5. Public Comments

There was no public comment at the meeting.

6. Adjournment

Matthew Paugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cynthia Downton seconded the motion. Final Resolution: Motion Carries; Yea: Matthew Paugh, Thomas Carr, Cynthia Downton, Monica Rinker

The Work Session adjourned at 6:46 p.m.