

## WORK SESSION MINUTES

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

**Tuesday, May 13, 2014**

#### **Opening of the Meeting**

#### **Part I – Call to Order and Opening**

Mr. Thomas Carr, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. Also in attendance were Mr. Rodney Reckart, Vice President; Mrs. Cynthia Downton, Associate Member; Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, Associate Member; Mr. Matthew Paugh, Associate Member; and Dr. Janet Wilson, Secretary -Treasurer / Superintendent of Schools. The meeting was held at Northern Middle School. The Board moved to Executive Session at 4:03 pm.

Mr. Carr reconvened the work session of the Board of Education at 5:48 p.m. Also present at the meeting were Mrs. Barbara Baker, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; Mr. Larry McKenzie, Director of Finance; Mr. Tim Thornburg, Director of Human Resources; and Mr. John Major, III, Student Board Member.

#### **Part II Opening Ceremonies**

Mr. Thomas Carr, President, led a moment of silence after which Mr. John Major, Student Board Member, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Part III Closed Session Summary**

Dr. Wilson presented the Closed Session Summary for the April 8, 2014 Executive Session Meeting.

#### **Part IV Recognition**

Mr. Matthew Paugh, Board Member, recognized FIRST Team 1629 who participated in the FIRST Robotics World Championship in St. Louis, MO. Prior to competing at the world championship, the team had won the FIRST Chesapeake Regional Championship with the number one seeded robot and received the "Chairman's Award", the most prestigious award that FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) offers in its regional competitions.

Mr. Rodney Reckart, Board Member, recognized Colton Wassell, Southern High School senior and JROTC member. Mr. Wassell's essay "*How JROTC Builds Character and Leadership*" was selected to be in the top 10 out of 170 essays submitted to the fourth

JROTC region. Mr. Wassell handed out copies of his essay to the board members and spoke about how the JROTC program has helped him building leadership and character skills throughout his educational, personal and military life (his senior year). Colton also received a certificate from the JROTC program for his essay and contributions to the JROTC.

## **Part V Policy**

Dr. Janet Wilson presented a new policy BBBGA, *Election Campaigns*. There currently isn't policy for campaigning by local, state and federal elections, and this would provide guidelines for the school system to follow.

Mrs. Barbara Baker presented three (3) policies for first review by the Board. Policy IHBA, *Infants and Toddlers Program* is a new policy created to summarize the local program and follow the federal and state bylaws.

Policy EDB, *Acceptable Use of Technological Resources for Employees* was revised to include updates from the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Policy JIK, *Acceptable Use of Technological Resources for Students* which was revised to include updates from the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Mrs. Baker recommended Policy 173.33, *Advisory Committee for Work-Force Preparation* be sunset as this committee was reorganized and detailed in policy BDFC, *Local Advisory Council (LAC)*.

## **Part VI Continuing Business**

### **A. Advocacy Committees**

Mr. Gregg Hostettler and Mrs. Arlene Lantz presented the Advocacy Committee's findings. Mr. Hostettler stated that the two items they looked at were enrollment trends and the Southern Middle School renovation. They decided early on during the Advocacy Committee meetings that they would combine the two items as they were closely aligned in their findings and recommendations. The committee received their information from Finance, Facilities, Human Resources, Transportation, and Instructional departments.

The following recommendations were made by the Advocacy Committee:

- Southern Middle School Renovation should proceed as planned.
- Purchase portable classrooms for Yough Glades and Broad Ford

Future Considerations:

- Establish boundary lines for all county schools including Swan Meadow

- Stabilize and increase enrollment at Swan Meadow thus helping to address the overcrowding in other schools

#### **B. Educational Specifications for Southern Middle School**

Mr. William Swift, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, Operations and Security, introduced Mr. Ron Kauffman, consultant. Mr. Kauffman presented the Educational Specifications (Ed Specs) for Southern Middle School. Mr. Kauffman provided background information and the justification process for the renovation including that the school has an aging infrastructure in excess of 30 years old and that the educational adequacy for the school was not meeting the recommended standards.

The project scope included optimizing the educational program space, increasing Special Education program space, increasing instructional and student support space and adding shared community program space. Mr. Kauffman then presented the facility building principals, the Ed Specs process, stakeholder groups, specific program sections, design layout and space summary comparison (proposed versus existing).

#### **C. FY2015 Budget Hearing**

Mr. Carr opened the floor for constituents to ask questions or give feedback regarding the Garrett County Board of Education Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. No public comments were received.

#### **D. School Calendar 2013-14 – Student Last Day**

Mr. Thornburg provided an update on this calendar item. At the April Board Meeting, the Board voted to request 5 waiver days from MSDE due to the number of school closings due to inclement weather. They received written approval from MSDE and Mr. Thornburg provided a copy of this letter. The students' last day is Tuesday, June 17, 2014.

### **Part VI New Business**

#### **2014-15 and 2015-16 School Calendars**

Mr. Tim Thornburg, Director of Human Resources and Employee Relations, presented the proposed school calendars for 2014-15 and 2015-16. The Calendar Committee had developed the proposed calendars and took into consideration the twenty (20) weather related school closings in 2013-14. They proposed updates to the calendar including an earlier start date, an early dismissal on Autumn Glory Friday instead of a school closing, modified parent teacher conference times and a modified winter schedule with school operating an hour later from December through March.

Ms. Karen Reckner, Executive Director of Garrett County Arts Council, spoke regarding her concern about having school on the Friday during Autumn Glory. She stated this would greatly impact the Arts Council funding and projects if they were not able to utilize the schools that entire day.

Mrs. Sebold, and other members of the Board, also expressed concerns regarding having school on the Friday of Autumn Glory, the winter schedule and the early start date.

Mr. Carr recommended that a special board meeting be scheduled this month to discuss the calendars in further detail and to permit the public to provide feedback to the Board regarding the proposed changes.

### **Part XII - Hearing of Constituents**

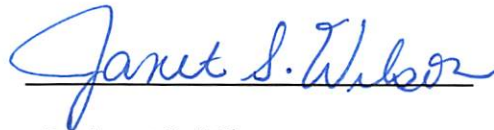
There was no public comment in this session.

### **Part XII – Adjournment**

Mr. Reckart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Mr. Carr requested that the Board reconvene the executive session to discuss health care coalition update, negotiations, budget updates and Student Member of the Board selection.



Mr. Thomas Carr  
President



Dr. Janet S. Wilson  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: