

BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES

GARRETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION Oakland, MD 21550

Thursday, June 24, 2014

Part I - Call to Order

Mr. Thomas Carr, President, called the Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:59 p.m. Mr. Rodney Reckart, Vice President, made a motion to move into Executive Session at 6:00 pm. to discuss personnel requests, contract clarification, and legal matters under the authority of 10-503 and 10-508 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Mrs. Cynthia Downton, Associate Member seconded the motion.

Also in attendance were Dr. Janet Wilson, Secretary -Treasurer / Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Miriam Sincell, Attorney for the Board, Mrs. Barbara Baker, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Mr. Tim Thornburg, Director of Human Resources and Mr. Larry McKenzie, Director of Finance. Ms. Charlotte Sebold, Associate Member, participated in the meeting via teleconferencing. The meeting was held at Southern Middle School in the cafeteria.

The Business Meeting was reconvened at 6:33 p.m. Mr. Thomas Carr read a letter from Mr. Matthew Paugh, Associate Member, who was not able to be at the Board Meeting.

Part II – Consent Agenda

Upon a motion by Mrs. Downton, and seconded by Mr. Reckart, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Part III – FY2015 Final Budget

Mr. Larry McKenzie presented the final FY 2015 Budget for Board approval. Mr. McKenzie first presented the summary of the FY2015 Budget. Mr. McKenzie also included the Food and Nutrition budget. Mr. Scott Germain, Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services, stated the Food Services budget would be roughly the same as last year.

As part of the budget process this year, funding was requested by County Government in February. The Garrett County Public Schools draft budget has been online since mid-March.

On June 3, 2014, the Commissioners adopted their FY2015 budget and funded the Board of Education at \$25,894,897.00 for operations and \$1,077,988.00 for Teacher Pensions.

In the meantime, Title I funding estimates became firmer resulting in about \$200,000 less than anticipated from the draft budget. The \$900,000 gap was closed by the following:

- FY 2015 Expenditures transferred to FY2014 with Approved Budget Transfers: 6 Computer Carts (\$204,000) and 8th Grade ELA Textbooks (\$45,000).

- Capital Items cut from County budget were Dennett Road pole building, excavating, and paving (\$438,865).
- The balance was reconciled as a result of staffing cost reductions from hiring positions that could not be absorbed with lower cost personnel (\$212,135).

Mr. Rodney Reckart made a motion to approve the FY2015 budget, and Mrs. Downton seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the budget.

Part IV – Review and Update of the School Attendance Area Committee Report

Mrs. Jane Wildesen, Director of Elementary and Middle Schools and Chairperson for the School Consolidation Committee, provided the final School Attendance Area Report. She informed the public that there were three (3) sessions where the board received updates on the committee’s reporting. The public was accorded two weeks to provide feedback to the Board regarding the committee’s recommendations.

Mrs. Wildesen presented the revisions to the report and summarized the recommendations to the Board:

1. Assign the mobile modular classrooms recently approved by the Board of Education to Broad Ford Elementary.
2. Assign a boundary for the 2014-15 school year to Swan Meadow School using the existing transportation routes.
3. Allow students currently attending Swan Meadow School within the new Swan Meadow School boundary to continue to attend Swan Meadow. Provide students currently attending Yough Glades within the new Swan Meadow School boundary an option to continue to attend Yough Glades, or enroll in Swan Meadow School.
4. Review Swan Meadow School’s progress, in April 2015, toward reaching the targeted enrollment of 12 additional students, creating a (67%) capacity use.
5. Implement the recommended kindergarten program at Swan Meadow School for 2014-2015.
6. Re-assign Glades West to Tomar Drive area to Crellin Elementary district.

Mrs. Wildesen provided a picture of the modular classroom units and discussed the features of the units including HVAC, flooring, windows, etc. The committee is also recommending that the renovation of Southern Middle School occur as planned.

Mrs. Wildesen presented a special message from the committee to the public. The committee understands that the school system has gone through a tumultuous time prompting change to occur over the last six years. She is asking the public to understand that the recommendations presented this evening are an effort to be proactive rather than reactive.

Part V - Hearing of Constituents

Comments were heard by Mr. Will Hebden and Mr. Paul Yoder.

Part VI - The School Attendance Area Committee Recommendation

Mr. Carr recommended that the Board review and vote on each of the committee's recommendations:

1. Assign the mobile modular classrooms recently approved by the BOE and Commissioner to Board Ford. Mr. Reckart made a motion to approve the assignment, and Mrs. Downton seconded the motion. Mr. Reckart stated that overcrowding at Broad Ford has been ongoing for several years and Mrs. Downton thanked the Advocacy Committee for their original suggestion which the Board was voting on this evening. The Board unanimously approved the assignment.

2. Assign a boundary for the 2014-15 school year to Swan Meadow using the existing transportation routes. Mrs. Downton made a motion to approve the assignment, and Mr. Reckart seconded the motion. Mrs. Downton asked for the importance of setting a boundary. Ms. Sincell, stated that without a boundary, we are not in compliance with the out of area policies and procedures. The Board unanimously approved the assignment.

3. Allow students currently attending Swan Meadow with the new Swan Meadow Boundary to continue to attend Swan Meadow. Mrs. Downton made a motion to approve the allowance and Mr. Reckart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved this allowance.

4. Review Swan Meadow's progress in April 2015, toward reaching the targeted enrollment of 12 additional students creating a 67% capacity use. Mr. Reckart made a motion to approve the review, and Mrs. Downton seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved reviewing the progress in April 2015.

5. Implement the recommended kindergarten program at Swan Meadow for 2014-15. Mrs. Downton made a motion to approve the implementation. Mr. Reckart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

6. Re-assign Glades West to Tomar Drive area to the Crellin district. Mr. Reckart made a motion to approve the reassignment, and Mrs. Downton seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

The students in the Glades West to Tomar Drive area will be notified tomorrow (via a letter that is going to be mailed) regarding the school reassignment.

Mr. Carr finished reading Mr. Paugh's letter which stated how pleased he is that the Board is working with the Swan Meadow community.

Part VII - Superintendent Announcements

Dr. Wilson thanked the committee members for their participation on the committee.

Dr. Wilson is adjusting the start times for Crellin and Swan Meadow School to be in an alignment with the other schools. She thanked the principals of these two schools for their cooperation and their flexibility. The school system will be notifying the parents of those students of the adjusted times. A uniform start time will allow for more prudent weather related decisions to be made.

Part VIII - Next Meeting


The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at Central Office.

IX - Adjourn

Mr. Rodney Reckart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.



Mr. Thomas Carr
President



Dr. Janet S. Wilson
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: