The Garrett County Board of Education met on March 24, 2020 via a teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor's executive order prohibiting public gatherings. Mr. Tom Woods, Board President, Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent; Mr. Brandon Hoover, Board Attorney; and Mrs. Karen Brewer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, were present in the Board Room at Central Office. Mrs. Monica Rinker, Board Vice President; Mr. Rodney Glotfelty, Board Member; Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, Board Member; Dr. Matthew Paugh, Board Member; Mrs. Karen Devore, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources and Employee Relations; Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance; and Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, Operations, and Transportation, attended the meeting remotely.

1. Opening

   Mr. Tom Woods, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

   A. Move to Executive Session

   Rodney Glotfelty made a motion to go into Executive Session and Charlotte Sebold seconded the motion. Final Resolution: Motion Carries; Yea: Monica Rinker, Rodney Glotfelty, Charlotte Sebold, Matthew Paugh

   B. Move to Executive Session – Action

   The Board of Education met in an Executive Session on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, via Zoom, video conference platform, under authority §3-305 of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss personnel topics, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1); and negotiations topics, pursuant to §3-305(b)(9)

   Rodney Glotfelty made a motion to go into Executive Session and Charlotte Sebold seconded the motion. Final Resolution: Motion Carries; Yea: Monica Rinker, Rodney Glotfelty, Charlotte Sebold, Matthew Paugh

   1. Personnel pursuant to §3-305(b)(1)

      Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, and Employee Relations, and Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, discussed personnel topics with the board including essential employees and an update regarding a personnel matter for a specific employee.

   2. Negotiations topics, pursuant to §3-305(b)(9)

      Mrs. Sweitzer and Dr. Wildesen provided an update to the Board regarding negotiations. The Board considered this information but did not take action regarding this topic.

   3. Administrative Function

      Ms. Barbara Baker discussed an administrative topic with the Board. The Board considered this information but did not take action regarding this topic.

   4. Adjournment

      Matthew Paugh made a motion to close the meeting and Charlotte Sebold seconded the motion. Final Resolution: Motion Carries; Yea: Monica Rinker, Rodney Glotfelty, Charlotte Sebold, Matthew Paugh

   The Board adjourned the executive Session at 2:58 p.m.

2. Welcome

   A. Re-Opening of Public Session

      Mr. Woods called the meeting open at 3:12 p.m. Mr. Woods thanked the public for joining the meeting virtually due to the COVID-10 pandemic. He stated the Board was meeting via teleconference and conducted a roll call to ensure that all Board Members were in attendance.

3. Continuing Business

   A. System-Wide Coronavirus Response

      1. Specific Non Benefit Staff

         Ms. Barbara Baker made a recommendation that Garrett County Public Schools pay any non-benefited staff member, that had a consistent work schedule for GCPS, on the 4/15/2020 pay date. The pay would be based upon an average of the two most recent pay periods. This would include long-term substitutes, hourly academic intervention staff, and hourly support service staff.

         Matthew Paugh made a motion to approve this recommendation and Rodney Glotfelty seconded the motion. Final Resolution: Motion Carries; Yea: Monica Rinker, Rodney Glotfelty, Charlotte Sebold, Matthew Paugh

         The Board stated this topic would be reevaluated at a later Board Meeting if schools continue to be closed.

      2. Bus Contracts

         Ms. Baker requested the Board consider the bus contractors during the school closings. Ms. Baker recommended that GCPS pay the April transportation school bus contract payments but deduct the fuel portion of that contract.

         After Board discussion, Rodney made an amendment to the motion. Rodney Glotfelty made an amendment that states should schools not resume in April, GCPS will pay the April transportation school bus contract payments less the fuel portion. Matthew Paugh seconded the motion. Motion Carries; Yea: Monica Rinker, Rodney Glotfelty, Charlotte Sebold, Matthew Paugh

         Rodney Glotfelty made a motion to support this recommendation: Should schools not resume in April, GCPS pay the April transportation school bus contract payments but deduct the fuel portion of that contract. Matthew Paugh seconded the motion. Motion Carries; Yea: Monica Rinker, Rodney Glotfelty, Charlotte Sebold, Matthew Paugh

   B. Superintendent Update

      Ms. Baker provided an update regarding the school system response to the COVID-19 school closings. She stated that we have not received any further updates so far on whether the school closings will be extended. She reminded the public that the website has a special COVID-19 page which is continually being updated with important information for parents and staff. She stated that the food
services staff continue to provide free meals to students throughout the county at 16 sites which are listed on the website. Ms. Baker stated that we have not received feedback from the State Superintendent regarding these lost days and if make up days will be necessary. She also does not know yet on when spring sports, school activities, and events will resume. Teachers and administrators are working on providing continuity of learning for all students whether it be online or through distribution of packets for those students that do not have internet capabilities. More information regarding this will be released soon.

4. Adjournment

   Monica Rinker made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Charlotte Sebold seconded the motion. Final Resolution: Motion Carries; Yea: Monica Rinker, Rodney Glotfelty, Charlotte Sebold, Matthew Paugh. The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.