

BOARDROOM REVIEW

Garrett County Board of Education

January 30, 2018

Prepared by: Public Information Office

Board of Education Members: Mr. Matthew Paugh, President; Dr. Nathan Sorber, Vice President; Mrs. Monica Rinker, Member; Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, Member; Mr. M. Thomas Woods, Member; Ms. Sheyenne A. Tichnell, Student Member; Ms. Barbara L. Baker, Superintendent; Mr. Brandon Hoover, Attorney

PUBLIC SESSION

Hearing of Constituents

- Evan West, GCEA Representative, asked the Board for collaboration with MSEA/GCEA in advocating for more funding at the state level through the Kirwan Commission.

Review of Board Goals

- The Board reviewed the overarching Board goals.
- The Board goals, developed several years ago, are:
 - All students will be challenged with a rigorous instructional environment preparing them to become life-long learners and responsible citizens.
 - Partnerships with all members of our community will be fostered and strengthened by engaging them in the education of our children.
 - All students and staff will learn in a safe, secure, and caring environment where everyone is valued and respected.
 - Every department and school will be a good steward of system resources and will manage them in a cost-effective manner.
 - All employees will be highly qualified and effective in their jobs contributing to a self-renewing organization.
- By consensus, the Board made no revisions to the goals.
- Ms. Baker provided a short review of how she and her team continue to work toward achieving these goals.
- The Board goals are being used by the RISE Strategic Planning committees. These goals still capture the focus of Garrett County Public Schools.

Identification of Strategic Issues

- The Board looked at the identification of strategic issues to be addressed in the strategic plan.
- In previous meetings, the Board reviewed and clarified values and expectations, as well as analyzed the SWOT analysis (online and in person sessions).

- The next step in the process is to identify strategic issues, as far as what concerns, issues, and opportunities that can be of focus for the next several years.
- Mr. Paugh requested that the Board review the responses to the SWOT Analysis and decide which strategic issues/challenges need the most attention at this time. The strategic issues that were discussed by the Board Members included:
 - Community: the value of the schools to the community and the support the community provides to the schools.
 - Elementary schools: purpose, value, sustainability, capacity, maintenance, footprint
 - School capacity: perceived overcrowding in southern elementary schools and below capacity in northern schools.
 - Staff: recruiting and maintaining high quality staff
 - Course offering: academic programs and vocational courses that students need at the high school level
 - Disruptive behavior and discipline issues
 - Drug/opioid crisis: prevention and response
 - Nutrition and food offerings
 - Homeschool students
 - Class size: what are optimal class sizes?
 - Revenue: understanding state and local factors and impact of Kirwan commission
 - Managing costs: rising cost of goods of services
 - Economic development: understanding the school system's role in economic development and articulating its value in economic development
 - Maintenance: ensuring a safe and sound environment for education
 - Healthcare: manage costs and inflation
 - Administrative functions: ensuring efficiencies
 - Technology: long-term strategies
 - Regional partnerships: education, non-profits, businesses, etc.
 - Transportation: minimizing bus ride times in county with large geographical area

- Grant opportunities
- Math curriculum: communicating changes
- By consensus, the Board agreed to these strategic issues.

Process for Public Input

- The Board decided on the process for public dissemination of strategic issues as well as the gathering of public feedback.
- Dr. Sorber proposed that the Board turn the strategic issues/challenges and strengths over to Ms. Baker to draft a report. By consensus, the Board agreed to this proposal. The report will be available to the Board and the public at the February 13, 2018, Board Meeting. The public will be able to provide feedback regarding the strategic issues in advance of the March 13, 2018, Board meeting.

Operating Budget Presentation

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, discussed the FY2019 Operating Budget with the Board.
- She outlined the FY2019 draft revenue from State aid updates and local funding. Mrs. Sweitzer discussed the FY2019 initiatives and priorities, including the process for which the departments gather the funding requests from schools and departments and make the final prioritization. She addressed legislative bills that should be considered in the budget process due to possible impact for our school system, including House Bill 1/ Senate Bill 304 “Maryland Healthy Working Families Act.”
- Mrs. Sweitzer reviewed the FY 2019 recommended unrestricted operating budget by object and category. She then discussed how the school system will be able to balance the budget through attrition, no new funding requests and not including over \$1.2 million of Maintenance and Operations budget needs at this time. She discussed the possible FY 2019 local funding requests from the County Commissioners and the possible utilization of a non-recurring cost exclusion request and revisions to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Mrs. Sweitzer then outlined the next steps in the budget approval process.