

BOARDROOM REVIEW

Garrett County Board of Education

April 10, 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

- There were no comments at this time.

Announcements

- April 10: End of 3rd Grading Period
- April 17: Report Cards for 3rd Grading Period will be released
- April 21: Student Arts Fair at Garrett College 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- April 23: Staff Development - Students Dismissed 3 hours early
- April 24: Superintendent Public Dialogue Sessions with Parents and Community Members - Grantsville Elementary School 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Northern Middle School 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- April 26: Superintendent Public Dialogue Sessions with Parents and Community Members - Broad Ford Elementary School 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Southern Garrett High School 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- May 3: Legislative Session Wrap Up 2018 - MABE Board Service Academy, MABE Office, Annapolis, MD 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Ms. Baker cited the recent approval from the Maryland State Board for a waiver of the Governor's Executive Order of a Post Labor Day start for Garrett County Public Schools for School Year 2018-19.

Recognitions

Southern High School 2018 Maryland Class 1A State Girls Basketball Champions

- Dr. Nathan Sorber, Board Vice President, recognized the girls basketball team from Southern Garrett High School for winning the 2018 Maryland Class 1A state basketball championship at Towson University. The Southern girls defeated the Largo Lions 52-48 to win the state championship.

School Library Month

- Mr. Thomas Woods, Board member presented a School Library Month proclamation to Ms. Penny Proudfoot, Director of Early Childhood/Elementary Education, and school media specialists: Kimberlie Rush, Samantha Roller, Jennifer Virts, and Thomas Vose (Ruth Enlow Library Director).

Continuing Business

2019 Graduation Date Change

- Mr. Paul Edwards, Director of Secondary Education, presented this action item.
- Mr. Edwards requested to modify the graduation date of 2019 that was approved as part of the calendar for the 2018-2019 school year. The date originally proposed, and adopted, is May 25. That date, falling on Memorial Day weekend, will no longer be viable, as the spring sports championships for MPSSAA are scheduled for that same date. He requested the approval of June 1, 2019, for the graduation date. This date is available and currently on hold for GCPS at the CARC.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept the change of the 2018-19 graduation date to June 1, 2019.

FY2019 Budget

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this informational item on the FY2019 Budget.
- At last month's meeting, Mrs. Sweitzer shared the proposed FY2019 Operating Budget.
- Mrs. Sweitzer detailed the time line and reviewed the FY2019 budget.
- She entertained questions from the Board and discussed various areas regarding the FY2019 budget.
- The Board unanimously voted to request \$236,500 in additional funding from local government, Garrett County Board of Commissioners, for the FY2019 Operating Budget.
- Mr. Paugh, Board President, will meet with the Chairman of the County Commissioners to discuss the request.
- The Board will take action on the FY2019 budget in May.

Quarterly Finance Report

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this informational item.
- Mrs. Sweitzer shared the third quarterly report showing the school system's expenditure/balances by category.
- For the Unrestricted Expenditure Variances to this point, the system has spent 66.2% of the FY2018 budget compared to the 68.3% at this time last year.

This results in \$187,010 less expended in the FY2018 budget, compared to FY2017, because of academic intervention stipends and non-public placements.

RISE Strategic Issues Report

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, discussed the RISE Plan Strategic Issue Report.
- RISE represents Reforming, Innovating, and Strengthening for Excellence.
- Ms. Baker shared the *RISE Follow-up Report: Identification of Strategic Issues*. Each strategic issue is outlined with a description of the actions taken, when appropriate, to address the issue. Furthermore, each issue is tied to a value, a goal, or both.
- Public comment on the strategic issues will be accepted through May 1.
- The next step in the strategic plan will be to develop strategies to address the issues identified.
- The Board unanimously voted to post this information for public comment until May 1.

Hearing of Constituents

- Mr. Evan West, GCEA Uniserve Director, addressed the Board regarding the budget. GCEA continues with a petition calling for the Board to request the county government to fully fund the budget, above the maintenance of effort, for FY2019. He also indicated to the Board the monetary and time sacrifices made by GCEA members to do their jobs.

Policies and Procedures

Policy and Procedure #IJOBA – School Improvement Teams

- Mrs. Karen DeVore, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration, presented this informational item and first reading.
- The purpose of the school improvement team (SIT) is to lead the development of a school improvement plan that addresses student achievement needs, to monitor the implementation of the plan, and to evaluate/revise it when appropriate.
- Membership on the SIT is to include school instructional staff, community members, and parent representation that should include PTO members, but should not include parents employed by GCPS. The tenure of membership on the SIT is left to the discretion of the individual schools. A student body representative will be provided the opportunity to present his/her report at each meeting. The student council will provide student representation.
- Mrs. DeVore also discussed the responsibilities of the team, the scheduling of meetings, and the evaluation of the School Improvement Plan.

- The Board will revisit this policy at next month's meeting.

Policy #BGC –Policy Revisions

- Mrs. Karen DeVore, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration, presented this informational item and first reading.
- Mrs. DeVore indicated the revisions to Board policies and procedures are needed periodically. She also discussed the appropriate guidelines for additions and deletions in the text material for presentation to the Board.
- The Board will revisit this policy at next month's meeting.

New Business

Last Day of School for Seniors

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, presented this action item.
- Ms. Baker indicated that after consultation with both high school principals, she requests that May 30, 2018, be the last school day for seniors. This provides ample opportunity to practice graduation ceremonies, complete final exams, and to make up any work necessary for seniors to earn their diplomas on June 2nd.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept May 30, 2018, as the last day of school for seniors.

School Meal Rate Increase

- Mr. Scott Germain, Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services, recommended to the Board the approval of a meal price increase for the 2018-19 school year.
- The Food and Nutrition Services Department is required to request an increase in the meal prices for the 2018-2019 school year. Food Service is required to raise the cost of lunches by 10 cents in 2018-19. The elementary lunch would increase from \$2.40 to \$ 2.50, and the secondary lunch would increase from \$2.55 to \$2.65. This change is due to the reauthorization of the food and nutrition program, which requires school systems to raise prices of paid lunches to be equal to that of a free lunch reimbursement. The reauthorization allows the system to raise the price of paid lunches over a period of years with a maximum increase in any one year to be 10 cents. Free and reduced students will not be affected by this increase.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept the 10 cent school meal rate increase.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Update

- Mrs. Penny Proudfoot, Director of Elementary Education, presented the Kindergarten Readiness

Assessment (KRA) results from 2017-18.

- In 2017-18, 275 children entered Garrett County's kindergarten classrooms. Teachers used the KRA tool to assess 100% of kindergarteners.
- At the "Demonstrating Readiness" level (A child demonstrates the foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for curriculum based on the kindergarten standards), 61% of the county's kindergarteners demonstrated readiness, entering classrooms fully prepared to participate in the kindergarten curriculum.
- At the "Approaching Readiness" level (A child exhibits some of the foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for curriculum based on the kindergarten standards), 31% of the students attained some of the foundational skills.
- At the "Emerging Readiness" level (A child displays minimal foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for curriculum based on the kindergarten standards), 8% of the students displayed minimal foundational skills.
- Thirteen of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions, including Garrett County, exceed the statewide average (greater than 45% demonstrating readiness).

Makeup Days for School year 2017-18

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, discussed the make-up days for this school year and the last day for students and last day for teachers.
- Ms. Baker discussed the make-up days for other counties and the emergency Senate Bill 729, which was amended to allow school systems to extend the school year up to 5 days beyond June 15th without consent of the State Board.
- Currently, the last day of school for Garrett County students is Wednesday, June 13, 2018. The last day for teachers is Thursday, June 14, 2018.
- The Board took no action on makeup days or waivers.

Maryland Legislative Session Update

- Mrs. Karen DeVore, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration; Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance; and Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Finance; provided an update to the Board regarding current Maryland legislation.
- The presenters discussed the potential impact of the bills regarding public education and the Garrett County school system in the areas of employee relations, assessment/curriculum, student health, and school safety facilities.

Board Business

Student Board Member Report

- Ms. Sheyenne Tichnell, Student Member of the Board, presented informational items.
- Ms. Tichnell shared activities in which the schools and student councils have been participating during the last several months.
- Ms. Tichnell indicated that GCASC (Garrett County Association of Student Councils) held a spring general assembly and election of officers for next school year. GCASC is sending a delegation to Ocean City for the student council annual conference.

Board Member Updates

- Mrs. Sebold attended the We C.A.R.E. event at Garrett College CARC.
- Mrs. Rinker visited several schools with Dr. Karen Salmon, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools.

Opinion of the Open Meetings Compliance Board

- Mr. Matthew Paugh, Board President, shared the opinion of the Open Meetings Compliance Board regarding an Open Meeting Act complaint received by an individual.
- The Open Meetings Compliance Board issued the following conclusion: "We find that the school board violated §§ 3-305(d) and 3-306(c), so this opinion is subject to the announcement and acknowledgment requirements of § 3-211. Although we found that the complaint stated some violations, those violations were in the nature of imperfect efforts to comply with the Act. We did not see any intent on the part of the school board to circumvent the Act's broad goal of openness. In closing, we commend the school board for reviewing and revising its practices."
- The Board members signed the formal response to accept the Opinion of the Open Meetings Compliance Board.

Next Meeting

- The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. Details will be announced prior to the meeting.