

BOARDROOM REVIEW

Garrett County Board of Education

September 11, 2018

Prepared by: Public Information Office

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

PUBLIC SESSION

Hearing of Constituents

- Mr. Tom Bosley, Southern High School Basketball Coach, addressed the Board regarding athletic trainers.

Announcements

- Sept. 18: Staff Development - Students Dismissed 3 hours early
- Sept. 26: Progress Reports for first grading period
- Sept. 27: Special Board of Education Meeting - Audit Review at 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 3-5: MABE Annual Conference in Ocean City, MD
- Oct. 9: Board of Education Meeting
- Oct. 12: Teacher of the Year Gala at Martins West in Baltimore, MD 5:30–9:30 p.m.
- Superintendent Baker also shared various Patriot Day activities held today in schools.

New Business

OPEB Presentation

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, provided the Board with information regarding OPEB.
- OPEB is other post-employment benefits and refers to the benefits, other than pensions, that an employee receives as part of his or her package of retirement benefits.
- The Board of Education provides post-employment health care benefits. Retirees pay a percentage (from 0%–60%) of the pre-65 Point of Service individual plan benefit for themselves based upon years of service in Garrett County at the date of retirement.

Continuing Business

RISE Strategic Plan Progress Update

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, provided an update on the progress of the RISE Strategic Plan.
- RISE represents Reforming, Innovating, and Strengthening for Excellence.
- After an examination of the strategic issues and the overarching goals and values of the Board of Education, the following grade band options have been identified as a next step in the strategic process:

- Option A: Revise the current grade band arrangement in most schools to two grade bands: PreKindergarten-6 and 7-12.
- Option B: Revise the current grade band arrangement in most schools to three grade bands: PreKindergarten-2, 3-6, and 7-12.
- Option C: Make no changes to grade band alignment: Three grade bands (PreKindergarten-5, 6-8, and 9-12).
- Option Alternate 1: Create regional grade bands based on enrollment and capacity.
- Option Alternate 2: Create a consolidated, comprehensive high school.
- The Board will seek feedback from the public on the proposed grade band alignment options and the alternate options.
- Two Superintendent Subcommittees will meet several times in September-October to analyze the grade band options to identify the advantages, challenges, and barriers to each.

CIP

- Mr. William Swift, Director of Maintenance/Facilities/Security, presented this action item.
- Mr. Swift indicated that the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) is a combined document for 2020-24 that now includes previously approved projects.
- The projects will require local and state funding to complete. The document must be submitted to MSDE by October 4, 2018.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept the CIP.

Policies and Procedures

Policy #IKF – Maryland and Garrett County Graduation Requirements

- Mr. Paul Edwards, Director of Secondary Education, presented this action item and second reading.
- Mr. Edwards indicated that policy changes include updates in the recommended format and a financial literacy course offering.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept Policy #IKF– Maryland and Garrett County Graduation Requirements.

Procedure #IKFC – Programs Leading to High School Completion

- Mr. Paul Edwards, Director of Secondary Education, presented this informational item.
- Mrs. Edwards indicated Procedure #IKFC changes include formatting, updating ECAP criteria, and adding the Early Vocational Technical Program (EVTP) Selection Criteria.

Policy #EEA – Student Transportation

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Transportation, presented this informational item and first reading.
- Mr. Wesolowski indicated that this policy provides the parameters for the student transportation service for Garrett County Public Schools.
- The Board of Education operates a school bus transportation service by contracting with local school bus contractors to transport students to and from school each day along with field trips, extra and co-curricular activities, and athletic events.
- The rate of payment will be established each year and payments for transportation services rendered will be paid in accordance with the school bus contract table of rates.
- Bus contractors are responsible for the safe operation of their school buses and must comply with the school bus contract, along with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, standards, GCPS policies and procedures, and specifications.
- The Board of Education shall provide liability, property damage, and personal injury insurance on contractor-owned vehicles.
- The Board will revisit Policy #EEA - Student Transportation at next month's meeting.

Policy and Procedure #EEC - Communication of Student Transportation

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Transportation, presented this informational item and first reading.
- Mr. Wesolowski indicated that the Board of Education identifies the communication methods for GCPS Student Transportation and makes them available to parents, students, school administrators, school staff, school bus contractors and the public.
- It is the responsibility of the Director of Transportation to update the information when there are changes to federal, state, or local laws, GCPS policies and procedures, or when necessary to insure safety. The methods will include the GCPS website, calendar, and the student handbook. Social media, newsletters, instructional programs, meetings,

assemblies, local radio stations, and school messenger services will be utilized as needed.

- The Board will revisit Policy #EEC – Communication of Student Transportation at next month's meeting.

Policy and Procedure #IHCG – Robotics Program

- Mr. Chuck Trautwein, Resource Teacher and GCPS Robotics Program Coach, presented this informational item and first reading.
- Mr. Trautwein indicated that the Garrett County Board of Education supports robotics as a co-curricular school-based student activity. It is both an after-school activity and an embedded STEM activity conducted during the school day as part of the instructional program at the elementary and secondary levels. It is recognized that robotics teams are sponsored by other agencies and organizations other than GCPS, such as 4-H, GEARS, and local area churches. This policy and associated procedure only applies to robotics teams sponsored by GCPS as an official co-curricular program.
- The Garrett County Public School robotics program will operate under the direction of the Superintendent and/or a designee of the Superintendent in cooperation with the program's community and corporate partners. Garrett County Public Schools will operate its robotics program under the guidelines of FIRST, as the guiding principles and core values of FIRST align with the purposes that GCPS has established for its robotics program and supports the goals and objectives of the Garrett County Board of Education.
- The Board will revisit Policy #IHCG – Robotics Program at next month's meeting.

Policy and Procedure #BC – Ethics

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, presented this action item.
- Dr. Wildesen recommended the Board adopt the revised BC Ethics Policy and Procedure. The State Ethics Commission approved the revisions forwarded on August 14, 2018, as meeting the requirements of Subtitle 8 of the Public Ethics Law and COMAR 19A.05.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept Policy and Procedure #BC – Ethics.

Hearing of Constituents

- Dr. Lorrie Filsinger-Miller, parent, commented on the proposed Robotics policy.

Recognitions

Student Artwork

- The Board recognized students whose artwork *were selected* by the Fine Arts Committee to be purchased and displayed at the Central Office of Garrett County Public Schools.
- Mrs. Penny Proudfoot, Director of Elementary Education, discussed the Fine Arts Committee selection process.
- The students recognized were:
 - Northern Garrett High School student, Ella Ashby, for “Koi Colors”.
 - Accident Elementary School student, Lydia Secrist, for “Purple Flower”.

Board Business

Student Board Member Report

- Ms. Katherine Catulle, Student Member of the Board, presented informational items.
- Ms. Catulle indicated that she attended a MABE Student Board Member Orientation. She learned about Board dynamics and procedures.
- The Garrett County Association of Student Councils (GCASC) recently met, reviewed, and approved events for the year, including the support of the state charity “Believe in Tomorrow”.

Board Member Updates

- Mr. Woods recently attended the Dr. Wendell Teets Foundation meeting. He indicated the Foundation will try to contact the Insight Company for a website to truly articulate what the Foundation is all about. The Foundation has started to receive donations.
- Mrs. Sebold and Mrs. Baker attended the grand opening of the STEM building at Garrett College.

MABE Committee Assignments

- MABE seeks local school board members from across Maryland to serve on committees in their areas of interest. The Board discussed the various committee assignments and meetings attended. Board members will let Mr. Paugh know if they are interested in serving.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 5:00 PM, regarding the FY2018 Financial Statements and Single Audit Report.
- The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, October 9, 2018. Details will be announced prior to the meeting.