

# BOARDROOM REVIEW

## Garrett County Board of Education

October 9, 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

- There were no comments at this time.

#### Announcements

- Oct. 11: Staff Development (3-hour early dismissal for students)
- Oct. 12: Autumn Glory (Schools Closed) and Teacher of the Year Gala at Martins West in Baltimore, MD from 5:30-9:30 p.m.
- Oct. 15-19: National School Lunch Week
- Oct. 22-26: National School Bus Safety Week
- Nov. 5: Parent/Teacher Conferences (Schools Closed)
- Nov. 6: Election Day (Schools Closed)
- According to RewardExpert, Garrett County Public Schools was ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> best public school system in the Northeast region of the United States.

#### Recognition / Proclamation

##### *I Can Swim Program – Month of October*

- Mr. Thomas Woods, Board Member, recognized the *I Can Swim!* Program, in partnership with Garrett College, by presenting a proclamation for the month of October. Accepting the proclamation were Cherie Krug, Executive Director of Garrett College Foundation, Penny Proudfoot, Director of Elementary Education, Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance and Karen DeVore, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration.
- In September 2011, Garrett College began providing free American Red Cross basic swimming and water safety instruction for all kindergarten children. Garrett County Public Schools, in conjunction with the College and Me program provides school bus transportation for the children to the college campus as part of their daily schedule for a four-day active learning program during the regular school week.
- Every child participating in the program receives an *I Can Swim!* certificate and a one-year discount on a family membership to the CARC, along with four free one-day swimming passes. At the conclusion of its sixth year, the program has graduated over 1,900 Garrett County kindergarten students.

- Click [here](#) to view the *I Can Swim!* Proclamation.

##### *National School Bus Safety Week Proclamation – October 22-26, 2018*

- Mrs. Monica Rinker, Board Member, recognized National School Bus Safety Week: October 22-26, 2018, with a proclamation. The proclamation was presented to Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Transportation.
- The Board proclaimed the third full week in October as **National School Bus Safety Week**, and encourages all citizens to recognize the hard work and dedication of pupil transportation professionals, the excellent safety record of school bus drivers, the benefits of school bus driver training, the importance of students obeying safety rules at all times, and the need for heightened vigilance on the part of all vehicle drivers when in the vicinity of school buses.
- Click [here](#) to view the National School Bus Safety Week Proclamation.

#### 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, at last month's Board meeting, the following grade band options had been identified as the 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.

- Compiled by the Public Information Office, the Board received feedback from the public on the proposed grade-band alignment options and the alternate options.
- Mrs. Baker presented RISE Plan information regarding the RISE Plan Timeline; Capital Budget (long term focus/issues) versus the Operating Budget (short term focus/issues); Capital funding by the state and local government; Facility utilization, age, and conditions; and Critical needs of the school buildings.
- Each committee (Secondary, Elementary, and Administrative) reported on the options with pros/cons, suggestions, and discussions.
- Mrs. Baker outlined the next steps: Educational Services and Administrative Services Committees will come together to review, research, collaborate, brainstorm, and identify strategies and solutions to address key strategic issues. The footprint may look like the following:
  - Northern Garrett High and Southern Garrett High would house grades 7-12.
  - Route Forty, Grantsville, Friendsville, Crellin, and Yough Glades Schools would house PK-6.
  - Southern Middle would be renovated as a PK-6 educational facility to house the Broad Ford community. The Accident Elementary community would shift to the Northern Middle facility. In these two facilities, there would be space for Special Education, Head Start, Judy Center, and other birth to 6th grade support and programming.
  - Swan Meadow will remain open, and the grade band configuration will be researched.
- The following options are removed at this time:
  - One comprehensive high school - This is a ten-year project & requires much more work outside of the scope of this RISE Plan.
  - Grade banding PK-2, 3-6, & 7-12 – This alignment has not received favorable initial research through the work of the committee thus far.
  - Regional grade bands – The committees feel that this option should only be temporary in nature.

### **New Business**

#### ***Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Educational Facilities of Garrett County***

- Mr. William Swift, Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations and Security, presented the ***Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Educational Facilities of Garrett County*** to the Board.

- Mr. Swift indicated that the *Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Educational Facilities of Garrett County* is established to develop, maintain, and/or improve the maintenance program of the public school system of Garrett County in order to support the delivery of educational programs and services in safe and healthy environments as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- The primary objective of the maintenance program is the upkeep of buildings and grounds and fixed equipment through repairs or replacement during the 40-year life expectancy of a building.
- The Comprehensive Maintenance Plan can be viewed **here**.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept the *Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Educational Facilities of Garrett County*.

#### ***FY2018 Carryover Budget Amendment***

- Mrs Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this action item.
- Mrs. Sweitzer presented the FY2018 carryover budget amendment for the Board to review and approve. She discussed the outline of the unrestricted FY2018 fund balance. The Total Governmental Fund Balance as of June 30, 2018, was \$6,429,580. Mrs. Sweitzer requested transferring \$1,643,455 in the FY2019 Operating Budget to the categories of Instructional Needs (\$400,000), Support Service Needs (\$400,000), and Future Budgetary Needs (\$811,445). View the carryover request **here**.
- Mr. Woods requested adding \$32,000 to the administration category to contract for two secretaries at Broad Ford and Southern Middle.
- The board unanimously voted to approve the FY2018 carryover budget amendment, along with the administration request.

#### **Hearing of Constituents**

- Mr. Don Coble commented on the need for community schools.
- Mr. Mike Henderson commented on the options of the RISE Plan and preserving what Garrett County has.
- Mr. Fred Fox remarked on the RISE Plan and the need for community schools to boost economic development.
- Ms. Amy Rowe, representing Route 40 Elementary School PTO, commented on the RISE Plan and the need for community schools.
- Ms. Rebecca Gordon remarked on the RISE Plan and the need for community schools.

- Stephanie Lewis, teacher, commented on the need to retain staff in the schools to maintain the educational stability.
- Ms. Lora Portelli-Lohr addressed the Board on the need for community schools in Garrett County.
- Mr. Rodney Bird commented on the availability of gymnasium use for youth sports and non-profit organizations if there are no community schools.
- Ms. Lynda Savopoulos remarked on the need for community schools and the need for research and data for guidance regarding the RISE Plan options.

- Mr. Woods toured the Dennett Road Education Complex.
- Mr. Hoover, Attorney, and Ms. Baker, Superintendent attended several workshops and other professional development opportunities at the recent MABE (Maryland Association of Boards of Education) conference.

## **Policies and Procedures**

### ***Policy #EEA – Student Transportation***

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Transportation, presented this action item and second reading.
- Mr. Wesolowski indicated that this policy provides the parameters for the student transportation service for Garrett County Public Schools.
- The Board unanimously accepted *Policy #EEA - Student Transportation*.

### ***Policy #EEC - Communication of Student Transportation***

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Transportation, presented this action item and second 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.
- The Board unanimously accepted *Policy #EEC – Communication of Student Transportation*.

## **Board Business**

### ***Student Board Member Report***

- Ms. Katherine Catulle, Student Member of the Board, presented informational items.
- Ms. Catulle shared activities from the various student councils over the past month.
- She indicated that the Garrett County Association of Student Councils (GCASC) recently traveled to Washington County for a Western Maryland Summit.

### ***Board Member Updates***

- Mrs. Sebold attended the Crellin movie, *Wings of a Dove*, at the Garrett 8 Cinemas. She also attended Swan Meadow's Harvest Sale.
- Mrs. Rinker attended the "Garrett Reads Festival" in downtown Oakland for all 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students.

## **Next Meeting**

- The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. Details will be announced prior to the meeting.