

BOARDROOM REVIEW

Garrett County Board of Education

March 12, 2019

Prepared by: Public Information Office

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

PUBLIC SESSION

6 wrestlers to the individual state tournament, and all 6 placed in the top five in their weight classes.

Hearing of Constituents

- There were no comments at this time.

Announcements

- March 14: Staff Development, 3 Hour Early Dismissal
- March 18: MABE Board Service Academy, "Equity Academy" in Annapolis, MD 9:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- March 26: MABE Board Service Academy, "Telling Your Story" (with Jackie Weisman and Molly Young) in Annapolis, MD 9:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- March 29: Parent Teacher Conferences - Schools Closed
- April 4: End of 3rd Grading Term
- April 10: MABE Board Service Academy, "The Role of the Board President/Chair" in Annapolis, MD 9:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- April 11: Report Cards Released

Recognitions

Rethink Recycling Sculpture Contest Winner - Jocelyn Schoch

- Mrs. Monica Rinker, Board Member, recognized Ms. Jocelyn Schoch, student at Southern Garrett High School, as the recent first place winner of the Maryland Department of Environment's Rethink Recycling Sculpture Contest in the Craftsmanship Category. Ms. Schoch's sculpture, "Flying Freedom", is an eagle composed of steel wool, wire, wood, foam, soda cans, plastic bags, hot glue, and CDs.

Southern Garrett High School Wrestling Team State Champions

- Mr. Thomas Woods, Board Vice President, recognized the Southern Garrett High School Wrestling Team for winning the Maryland State Championship (Duals) and for placements in the Individual State Championship. The wrestling team finished the season with a perfect 39-0 record. They ended the season as the top ranked public school of all divisions in the state and 3rd ranked overall behind two private schools. The Southern Rams sent

School Social Worker Week

- Mr. Rodney Glotfelty, Board Member, recognized School Social Worker Week, March 3-9, 2019, with a proclamation. The theme for School Social Worker Week 2019 was "Lucky Enough!" Shannon Haley and Mary VanSickle, School Social Workers, and Dr. Phil Lauver, Supervisor of Pupil Services, accepted the proclamation.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration Report

Northern Garrett High School Presentation

- Mrs. Karen DeVore, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration, presented this informational item.
- Mrs. DeVore and Mr. Jim Maddy, Principal of Northern Garrett High School, discussed various highlights and programs at the school. Mr. Maddy elaborated on the conscious effort of communication between the school and students/parents. He also mentioned the Envirothon team finishing 5th in the state last June, Environmental Science highlights, the photography club, the Bocce Team state champions, and the Supervised Agriculture experience.

Policies and Procedures

Policy #DKCA – Travel and Incidental Expenses

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this action item and second reading.
- The Superintendent and Garrett County Public Schools employees conducting Board business shall be provided with the transportation necessary for the effective and efficient performance of their official duties and are entitled to reimbursement for travel and other expenses. These expenses may not be included in or counted as a part of their annual salary. Reimbursement is only due to GCPS employees when incurring expense while conducting approved GCPS business.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept *Policy #DKCA – Travel and Incidental Expenses*.

Continuing Business

2018-19 School Calendar (Easter Monday Makeup Day)

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, presented this action item.
- Dr. Wildesen requested the Board to approve the use of Easter Monday, April 22, 2019, as a school make up day if school is closed one more day before April 1. She indicated that the Maryland State Board of Education approved the request.
- As of March 12, 2019, GCPS has been closed for 9 school days due to inclement weather in this year's calendar. The school system's approved calendar includes 10 total inclement weather make-up dates: 8 at the end of the school year (May 31-June 11); and 2 additional days identified in the calendar as possible make-up days (February 18 and April 22).
- The Board voted (3-2) not to approve Easter Monday as a makeup day.

School Calendar 2019-20

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, presented this action item.
- At last month's Board meeting, Dr. Wildesen introduced a proposed pre-Labor Day calendar for the 2019-20 school year. She explained that Governor Hogan's Executive Order indicates that schools must start after Labor Day. However, his Executive Order also allows for school systems to request a waiver to start before Labor Day. Garrett County is eligible to request a waiver because it has closed ten days per year during two of the last five years because of severe weather conditions.
- Dr. Wildesen indicated that 14 comments from the public had been received and compiled regarding the proposed calendar for the 2019-20 school year. The Board received a copy of all the comments.
- Dr. Wildesen recommended the adoption of the proposed 2019-20 school calendar.
- The Board voted (3-1) to accept the 2019-20 school calendar. This vote is contingent upon the State Board's approval of the GCPS waiver of a mandated post Labor Day start.
- Highlights of the 2019-20 school calendar are:
 - Tuesday, August 20: First day for teachers
 - Monday, August 26: First day of school for students.
 - Friday, October 11: Schools closed for Autumn Glory
 - November 28-29: Thanksgiving break
 - December 23-January 1: Winter break
 - Monday, January 20: Schools closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

- Monday, February 17: Schools closed for Presidents' Day
- April 10 and 13: Schools closed for Easter break
- April 28: Schools closed for Primary Election Day
- Monday, May 25: Schools closed for Memorial Day
- Thursday, May 28: Three hour early dismissal for students
- Friday, May 29: Last day of school for students – 3 hour early dismissal
- Monday, June 1: Last day for teachers

FY 2020 Budget Work Session

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, and Mrs. Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this informational item.
- Mrs. Baker shared a FY2020 Budget Presentation and its Initiatives: Continue to invest in our own employees; Attract and retain high quality professionals in all facets of the school system; Implement ESSA standards with excellence and fidelity; Continue to enhance existing initiatives; Embed technology; Manage health care expenses; and Continue to strategically plan with each department.
- Mrs. Baker also discussed the implementation of ESSA Standards with excellence and fidelity in several of the initiatives.
- Mrs. Baker recommended several staffing changes and the proposed requests from the local government.
- The Board unanimously approved the request of \$47,000 for a security DVR upgrade as a match from the County Commissioners.

Strategic Facilities Plan Bid Update

- Mr. Matthew Paugh, Board President, provided an update on the Strategic Facilities Plan bid request.
- Mr. Paugh indicated that the board has been considering several firms regarding strategic planning.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept the proposal from Education Facilities Planning, LCC, for a strategic facilities plan.

Friendsville Elementary School Land Transfer

- Mr. Bill Swift, Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations and Security, requested the Board approve a land transfer from Friendsville Elementary to the Sanitary District in Friendsville for a sanitary line project. The cost of the transfer would be 100% on the Sanitary District.

- The original proposal was to transfer .914 acres. The new proposal has been reduced to .631 acres.
- The Board unanimously voted to approve the land transfer from Friendsville Elementary School to the Sanitary District.

Hearing of Constituents

- Thomas Vose, Ruth Enlow Library, spoke to the Board regarding the 2020 Census.
- Brenda McDonnell addressed the Board regarding the benefits of a post Labor Day school start.

New Business

FY19 Budget Amendment

- Mrs Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this action item.
- Due to the age of Garrett County Public Schools' facility infrastructure, there has been the need for unbudgeted emergency repairs. As of March 5, 2019, \$132,000 of unbudgeted expenses have been spent or encumbered. It is estimated that another \$66,000 of emergency repairs could occur prior to the end of the fiscal year.
- Mrs. Sweitzer requested the transfer of \$100,000 from Operations Electricity to Maintenance of Plant Building and Grounds Repair. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent to transfer funds to cover these expenses.
- The Board unanimously voted to approve the budget amendment.

Board Business

Student Board Member Report

- Mr. Danny Nickel, Southern Garrett High School student, on behalf of Katherine Catulle, Student Board Member, presented informational items.
- Mr. Nickel shared activities in which various student councils have been actively engaged.
- The Garrett County Association of Student Councils (GCASC) members attended various workshops and events and the Western Maryland Regional Retreat.

Board Member Updates

- Mrs. Sebold attended the History Day Showcase Exhibit at the Hickory Environmental Education Center.
- Mrs. Rinker participated in Read Across America activities at Swan Meadow School.

Next Meeting

- The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. Details will be announced prior to the meeting.