

BOARDROOM REVIEW

Garrett County Board of Education

October 13, 2020

Prepared by: Public Information Office

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

The meeting was live streamed, but closed to the public, due to COVID-19 and Governor Hogan's executive orders prohibiting public gatherings.

PUBLIC SESSION

Hearing of Constituents

- There were no comments at this time.

Announcements

- Oct. 12: Grades 2, 3, 6, 9, 12 returned to in-person instruction in hybrid model
- Oct. 14-15: MABE Virtual Annual Conference
- Nov. 3: Election Day (Schools Closed)
- Nov. 10: Board Meeting and end of first grading period

Recognitions

National School Bus Safety Week: October 19-23, 2020

- Mr. Tom Woods, Board President, recognized National School Bus Safety Week: October 19-23, 2020, with a proclamation. The proclamation was presented to Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Maintenance, Operations, Facilities, and Transportation, on behalf of all school bus drivers, bus assistants, and bus contractors.
- 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.

Food and Nutrition Services Department

- Mr. Tom Woods, Board President, recognized the Food and Nutrition Services Department for all of their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and summer feeding programs.
- Mrs. Scott Germain, Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services, and the 22 food services workers who assisted with the feeding programs accepted the recognitions.

New Business

Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Educational Facilities

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Maintenance, Operations, Facilities, and Transportation, presented this informational item.
- Mr. Wesolowski presented the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Educational Facilities to the Board for their review.
- The Comprehensive Maintenance Plan was established and is updated yearly to develop, maintain, and/ or improve all facilities in the Garrett County Public School System. The goal is to support the delivery of educational programs and services in safe and healthy environments as effectively and efficiently as possible. A combination of the Educational Facilities Master Plan, the Capital Improvement Plan, and the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, are used to identify and determine the district's maintenance needs. Each year the Facilities, Maintenance, Operations and Security Department identifies projects in various categories from parking lot overlays, roof replacements, energy efficient boiler upgrades, etc.

Quarterly Finance Report (FY21, Quarter 1)

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this informational item.
- Mrs. Sweitzer shared the FY2021 first quarter financial review by showing the school system's expenditure/balances by category.
- For the Unrestricted Expenditure Budget to this point, the system has spent 12.9% of the FY21 budget. Compared to the percentage (11.3%) at this time last year, \$979,724 more was expended in FY21 compared to FY20.

Enrollment and Revenue Estimates

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this informational item.
- Mrs. Sweitzer provided and updated the Board on the FY21 enrollment and revenue projections.
- Since 2010, the school system's enrollment has declined by 591.25 students (This does not include Pre-K enrollment.). For 2019-20 school year, the system experienced a total decline of 57 students.

- GCPS leading indicators estimate a decline from September 30, 2019, to September 30, 2020, enrollment counts to be approximately 135 students. With these numbers, the school system could possibly lose between \$1.0-\$1.7 million in FY22.

Letter to Governor Regarding Attendance at Activities

- Ms. Baker discussed a draft letter to Governor Hogan concerning attendance at extracurricular activities.
- In the letter, Mrs. Baker requested that the school system can safely accommodate the reasonable number of 250 spectators in an outside venue and 100 spectators in an indoor venue, excluding the players and support personnel from that count.
- The Board unanimously voted to approve the letter regarding capacity requirements to send to Governor Hogan.

Policies and Procedures

Policy and Procedure #JCB – Admission to School Out of Attendance Area

- Dr. Phil Lauver, Supervisor of Pupil Services, presented this informational item and first reading.
- The purpose of this policy is that Public Schools Laws of Maryland give the Board of Education the responsibility for establishing school districts and determining which pupils shall be admitted to the public school within that district.
- Dr. Lauver outlined the out-of-area application process and conditions under which Garrett County students may be permitted to attend school outside of the local area on a one-year basis.
- The Board will review the policy at next month's meeting.

Continuing Business

Return to Learn

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, presented this informational item.
- Ms. Baker provided the Board with an update on the GCPS Return to Learn plan. She indicated that this week, students in grades 2, 3, 6, 9, and 12 returned to school for in-person learning.
- Mr. Bob Stephens, Garrett County Health Officer, answered Board members' questions and discussed various topics regarding safety in the schools during the pandemic.

Board Business

Student Board Member Report

- Mr. Jarrett Miller, Student Board Member, presented informational items.

- Mr. Miller discussed middle and high school student council and Garrett County Association of Student Councils (GCASC) elections.
- He also discussed the extra-curricular activities that started in the high schools and the reopening plan for in-person learning.

Board Member Updates

- Mrs. Sebold discussed the Maryland Teacher of the Year Gala that was held virtually this year, that included Kista Powell from Northern High School. The Gala can be viewed on YouTube.
- Mr. Woods reminded the Board of the meeting on Friday to complete the Superintendent's evaluation.
- Mrs. Rinker indicated that all GCPS employees should receive a big thank you for all they have done during the pandemic and the reopening of schools.

Next Meeting

- The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be Tuesday, November 10, 2020. Details will be announced prior to the meeting.