

BOARDROOM REVIEW

Garrett County Board of Education

January 12, 2021

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, Mr. Jason VanSickle, 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.

Garrett County during the pandemic and school closures.

PUBLIC SESSION

Election of Officers

- Mr. Thomas Woods was re-elected President of the Board of Education for 2021.
- Mrs. Monica Rinker was re-elected Vice President for 2021.

Hearing of Constituents

- Betsy Spiker-Holcomb, parent, addressed the Board regarding the return to live in-person instruction for students.
- Evan West, UniServ Director, requested for virtual learning to continue until Garrett County has achieved the COVID metrics that deem it is safe to return.

Announcements

- Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Schools Closed
- Jan. 21: Key Work of School Boards, MABE Virtual Professional Development 9:30 - 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 26: End of First Semester
- Jan. 27: Professional Day (Tentative), 3 Hour Early Dismissal
- Jan. 28: Parent-Teacher Conferences All Schools 11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Schools Closed; Report Cards Released for Elementary and Middle Schools
- Feb. 2: Report Cards Released for High Schools
- Feb. 3: Open Meetings Act, MABE Virtual Professional Development - 9:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration Report

- Mrs. Karen DeVore, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Administration, presented this information item.
- Mrs. DeVore shared a brief video outlining the virtual learning process from the different schools in

New Business

2021 IRS Mileage Rate

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this informational item.
- Mrs. Sweitzer indicated that the 2021 federal mileage rate is \$0.56 per mile. Garrett County Public Schools follows this federal mileage rate.

Policies and Procedures

Policy #GBAA – Sexual Harassment

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, presented this action item and second reading.
- The Garrett County Board of Education prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in its educational program, activities, and employment as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments (34 CFR Part 106) and recognizes sexual harassment as a form of sexual discrimination.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept *Policy #GBAA – Sexual Harassment*.

Policy #454.0 - Preventing Sexual Harassment (Retire)

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, presented this action item.
- Dr. Wildesen requested the Board retire *Policy #454.0 - Preventing Sexual Harassment*. As *Policy #GBAA Sexual Harassment* was revised based on guidelines of Title IX, this policy and procedure are no longer applicable.
- The Board unanimously voted to retire *Policy #454.0 - Preventing Sexual Harassment*.

Non-Discrimination Statement

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, presented the Board of Education Non-Discrimination Statement for Title IX regulations for action.
- *In accordance with state and federal laws, and the policies of the Board of Education, Garrett County Public Schools (GCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, age, religion,*

disability, genetics, ancestry/national origin, marital status, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing educational programs and services, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. GCPS operates equal opportunity programs for students and staff. The Board of Education of Garrett County is an equal opportunity employer.

- The Board unanimously voted to accept the *Non-Discrimination Statement*.

Continuing Business

Quarterly Finance Report

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this informational item.
- Mrs. Sweitzer shared the FY2021 second 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 34.8% of the FY21 budget compared to 37.7% at this time last year. Thus far in FY2021, \$1,345,221 less has been expended compared to FY2020.

Recovery Plan and Learning Models Update

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, discussed the status of the recovery plan and made a recommendation regarding the return to school.
- The health metrics are to be used as guidelines for moving between phases of opening for GCPS:
 - Red Model - Garrett County metrics show a positivity rate above 5% and a new case rate above 15 per 100,000 over a 7-day period for 2 consecutive weeks.
 - Yellow Model (implement Blue Model) – Garrett County metrics show a positivity rate equal to or less than 5%, and a new case rate between 5 & 14 per 100,000 over a 7-day period for 2 consecutive weeks, and GCPS can sustain instruction based on the status of staff in isolation and/or quarantine.
 - Green Model (Continue Blue Model) – Garrett County metrics show a positivity rate less than 5%, and a new case rate less than 5 per 100,000 over a 7-day period for 2 consecutive weeks, and GCPS can sustain instruction based on the status of staff in isolation and/or quarantine, and regulations allow for less than 6 ft. social distancing.
- Ms. Baker recommended that the system remains in the red model virtual learning until the Garrett County metrics are at a 5% or less positivity rate and 15 or less per 100,000 over a 7-day period for 14

consecutive days, based on recommendations of MSDE and DHMH. Teachers will have the option to return to the classroom beginning January 19. Once vaccinations become available for teachers, we will work with the Garrett County Health Department to make vaccines available as quickly as possible. Once the vaccine is available to teachers, the metrics will be re-evaluated and plans for a return to learning will be re-evaluated to return students to the buildings as quickly and safely as possible.

- The Board voted to accept Ms. Baker's recommendation for returning to school.

Board Annual Selection

Meeting Date, Time, and Place

- The Board approved the second Tuesday of every month as the Board meeting date with a 4:00 PM start time for Executive Session.

Legal Counsel

- The Board approved Mr. Brandon Hoover as the Attorney for the Board.

Committee Assignments

- The Board discussed and filled committee assignments for 2021.

Board Business

Student Board Member Report

- Mr. Jarrett Miller, Student Board Member, presented informational items.
- Mr. Miller mentioned his participation in the School Calendar Committee.
- He stated that the Garrett County Association of Student Councils (GCASC) is very active with virtual seminars, assemblies, and general meetings.
- Mr. Miller discussed the process of seniors applying for colleges. The process is harder for students when a guidance counselor leaves a position and is not filled immediately.

Board Member Updates

- Mr. Woods mentioned that he attended the recent School Calendar Committee meeting.

Next Meeting

- The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be Tuesday, February 9, 2021. Details will be announced prior to the meeting.