

BOARDROOM REVIEW

Garrett County Board of Education

February 9, 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.

PUBLIC SESSION

Hearing of Constituents

- There were no comments at this time.

Announcements

- Feb. 15: President's Day; Schools Closed
- Feb. 22: All Staff Return to Buildings
- Feb. 23: Staff Development - 3 Hour Early Dismissal; Board Meeting - Budget Work Session 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 25: MABE Board Service Academy, Virtual - Board Chair and Superintendent Relationship During Challenging Times 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Mar. 1: PreK, 1st, and 2nd Grade Students Return; Special Groups of Students Return
- Mar. 2: Progress Reports for 3rd Grading Period
- Mar. 3: MABE Board Service Academy, Virtual - Equity: The Board Governance Role 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Recognitions

National School Counseling Week: February 1-5, 2021

- The Board recognized National School Counseling Week, February 1-5, 2021. Dr. Phil Lauver, Supervisor of Pupil Services; Mrs. Connie Glotfelty, School Counselor at Accident Elementary School; Ms. Kelly Beavers-Davis, School Counselor at Broad Ford Elementary School; and Mr. Tim Watson, Counselor at Grantsville Elementary School; attended virtually to receive the recognition.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration Report

Grantsville Elementary Social-Emotional Learning Hub

- Mrs. Karen DeVore, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Administration, provided an introduction and overview of the presentation.
- Grantsville Elementary School committed this school year to help support students' Social-Emotional Learning needs. Ms. Kirsten Nesselrodt, Behavior Coach, created a Virtual Social Emotional Learning Hub on Schoology for all students and staff to use. A video was shared with the Board highlighting the school's efforts on this matter. <https://youtu.be/4fL7CiiEjn4>

New Business

Seniors Last Day of School

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent presented this action item.
- Ms. Baker requested that the last school day for seniors be June 2, 2021. This is the reciprocal date as the last couple of years for the seniors' final day. After consultation with both high school principals, this day provides ample opportunities to practice graduation ceremonies, complete final exams, and make up any work necessary for seniors to earn their diplomas on June 5th. All testing, including AP exams, will be concluded by this date, as well.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept June 2, 2021, as the last day of school for seniors.

Child and Adolescent Work Group Presentation

- The Child and Adolescent Work Group is a subcommittee of the Health Planning Council. The Work Group has been meeting to review the Behavioral Health needs of our community. The group has been working with both primary care providers and behavioral health providers to expand services where possible. The group's work with Garrett County Public Schools is an integral part of supporting children and adolescents. The members of The Child and Adolescent Work Group presenting this topic included Dr. Karl Schwalm, Physician; Amber King, Physician Assistant; Mary VanSickle, GCPS Mental Health Coordinator; and Dr. Phillip Lauver, GCPS Supervisor of Pupil Services.

- The group presented information and data on mental health services and behavioral health.

Budget Transfer Request

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this action item.
- **Elementary Reading Series:** A transfer to Instructional Supplies was recommended. The new Reading Language Arts curriculum was previously approved by the Board. At the time, there was a plan to purchase the curriculum supplies over a three fiscal year period. It is the recommendation that the Board accelerates the FY2022 planned purchase to FY2021 by utilizing positive budget variance from Instructional Salaries. The recommendation was to:
 - Reduce Instructional Salaries by \$227,000;
 - Increase Instructional Supplies and Materials by \$227,000.
- **Security Vestibules:** A transfer to Capital Outlay was recommended. Security Vestibules have been constructed at Yough Glades and Accident Elementary Schools. The Board previously approved the bids. Due to the positive budget variance, as a result of the COVID pandemic, there are fuel budget funds available in Pupil Transportation that may be transferred. The recommendation was to:
 - Reduce Pupil Transportation by \$211,710;
 - Increase Capital Outlay by \$211,710.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept both budget transfers.

School Calendar 2021-22

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, on behalf of the Calendar Committee, presented this informational item.
- Dr. Wildesen introduced a proposed Pre-Labor Day calendar for the 2021-22 school year. She shared highlights of the proposed calendar, which indicates school starting on Monday, August 30, 2021, and the end of school on May 31, 2022.
- The Board is seeking public comment regarding the proposed 2021-22 calendar before the March meeting.

Route 40 Sewer Replacement Project Bid

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, Operations, and Transportation, presented this action item.
- Route 40 Elementary School's current septic system is failing. The Garrett County Health Department has determined a new field is required.
- Mr. Wesolowski recommended the approval of Beitzel Excavating, the lowest qualified bidder, for the Route 40 sewer replacement project.

- The Board unanimously voted to accept the bid from Beitzel Excavating for the Route 40 sewer replacement project.

Policies and Procedures

Policy and Procedure #JEBA – PreKindergarten Enrollment

- Dr. Nicole Miller, Director of Elementary and Early Childhood Education, presented this informational item and first reading.
- The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent process for enrolling students in the prekindergarten program.
- Dr. Miller indicated that the proposed application period will be advertised in advance and will begin no later than March 15th each year. During the application period, parents/guardians are asked to complete a Notification of Interest Form.
- The Board will review this policy at next month's meeting.

Continuing Business

GCPS Recovery Plan Models Update

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, provided the Board with an update on the recovery and reopening plans for the school system.
- Ms. Baker shared the COVID-19 metrics trend data and showed how the county numbers are dropping and below the goal areas.
- March 15, 2021, will be the start of spring athletics and extra-curricular activities.
- Various Central Office staff answered questions from the Board members regarding the return to in-person learning.

Board Priorities for FY22 Operating Budget

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, and Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, requested that the Board provide its budget priorities for the FY2022 Operating Budget.
- Mrs. Sweitzer shared the estimated revenues for the FY22 operating budget.
- Ms. Baker shared the budget priorities for FY2022.
- Mrs. Sweitzer also shared the process and steps for defining priorities for the upcoming budget development work session.

Board Business

Student Board Member Report

- Mr. Jarrett Miller, Student Board Member, presented informational items.
- Mr. Miller stated that the Garrett County Association of Student Councils (GCASC) has made it a top priority to address mental health. A survey was created addressing student mental health and the

return to school. About 800 responses were received. GCASC is reviewing the data at this time.

Audit Firm Selection

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, recommended that the Board continue to contract with The Rodeheaver Group P.C. for the 2021 audit.
- The Board unanimously approved The Rodeheaver Group P.C. for the 2021 audit.

Next Meeting

- A special budget work session will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. Details will be announced prior to the meeting.
- The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Details will be announced prior to the meeting.