

# BOARDROOM REVIEW

## Garrett County Board of Education

March 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**

- Fern Wroten, Brandy Guy, Rebekah Brobst, Laura Dubansky, and Dawn Washington each addressed the Board regarding the use of school facilities for “outside groups”.
- Nicole Christian, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Board regarding a post-Labor Day start of schools for 2021-22.

#### **Announcements**

- March 15: Grades 2-12 return
- March 16: Garrett County Commissioner Meeting-Virtual; Board Presents FY22 Budget to Commissioners at 4:00 PM
- March 30: MABE Board Service Academy-Virtual: The Trust Edge for School Districts 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- April 1: End of the 3rd grading term
- April 2: Good Friday - Schools Closed
- April 5: Easter Monday - Schools Closed

#### **Recognitions**

##### ***Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education – Dr. Suzanne Wilburn***

- Dr. Matthew Paugh, Board member, recognized Dr. Suzanne Wilburn, teacher at Broad Ford Elementary, for receiving the Gifted and Talented (GT) award from the Maryland State Department of Education Gifted and Talented Advisory Council. Dr. Wilburn received the “Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education - Teacher as Leader Award” for a classroom and school-based resource teacher. A ceremony was held virtually on February 25, 2021, to award teachers throughout the state of Maryland who were selected based on recommendations of their administrators.

##### ***National School Social Worker Week: March 7-13, 2021***

- Mr. Rodney Glotfelty, Board Member, recognized National School Social Worker Week, March 7-13, 2021, with a proclamation. Ms. Carrie Hook, School Social Worker for the northern schools, received the proclamation on behalf of the social workers in the school system.

#### **New Business**

##### ***Budget Transfer Request***

- Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented this action item.
- Mrs. Sweitzer recommended to the Board three budget transfers:
  - **ADA Compliance** – Several ADA compliance projects must be completed including (a) replacement of the surface at the Grantsville Elementary playground (\$4K), (b) replacement of equipment and surface at the Accident Elementary playground (\$75K), and (c) restroom fixtures at Accident Elementary School (\$1,500). A transfer from Special Education was recommended. Please consider taking action to transfer \$80,500 from Special Education: \$75,000 to Capital Outlay and \$5,500 to Maintenance.
  - **Digital Signs at High Schools** – The signs at both high schools require replacement. A transfer from Instructional Salaries was recommended. The funds will be transferred from PBIS and Home & Hospital stipend funds which have been funded with restricted sources for this year only. Please consider taking action to transfer funds to reduce Instructional Salaries by \$60,000 and increase Capital Outlay by \$60,000.
  - **Legal Fees** - A transfer to Administration is required for legal fees. Due to positive budget variance as a result of the COVID pandemic, there are fuel budget funds available in Pupil Transportation that may be transferred. Please consider taking action to transfer \$35,000 from Pupil Transportation to Administration.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept the three budget transfers.

### ***Air Quality Project Bid Award***

- Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, Operations, and Transportation, presented this action item.
- Mr. Wesolowski requested the Board approve awarding Daiken Applied Cooperation to complete Phase 1 of indoor air quality improvements in the school system for \$270,761.00.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept Daikin Applied Cooperation.

### **Policies and Procedures**

#### ***Policy #JEBA – PreKindergarten Enrollment***

- Dr. Nicole Miller, Director of Elementary and Early Childhood Education, presented this action item and second 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 15<sup>th</sup> each year. During the application period, parents/guardians will be asked to complete a Notification of Interest Form.
- The Board unanimously voted to accept *Policy #JEBA – PreKindergarten Enrollment*.

### **Continuing Business**

#### ***School Calendar 2021-22***

- Dr. Jane Wildesen, Director of Human Resources, on behalf of the Calendar Committee, presented this action item.
- Dr. Wildesen indicated that public comments were received and compiled regarding the proposed 2021-22 school calendar. The Board received a copy of the comments.
- The original motion was a recommendation for a pre-Labor Day start of school. After a discussion, the motion was amended to a post-Labor Day school start.
- The Board unanimously voted for a post-Labor Day start of school for students to begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.
- Several highlights of the 2021-22 school calendar are:
  - September 6: Schools closed for Labor Day
  - September 7: First day of school for students
  - October 15: Schools closed for Autumn Glory
  - November 25, 26, 29: Schools closed for Thanksgiving break
  - December 24-January 2: Schools closed for Winter break

- January 17: Schools closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 31: School closed for Parent-Teacher Conferences
- February 18: Schools closed for Presidents' Day
- April 15 and 18: Schools closed for Easter break
- May 30: Schools closed for Memorial Day
- June 4: High School Graduation
- June 6: Three-hour early dismissal for students
- June 7: Last day of school for students: 3-hour early dismissal

### ***Superintendent Budget FY2022***

- Ms. Barbara Baker, Superintendent, and Mrs. Alison Sweitzer, Director of Finance, presented the FY2022 Superintendent's Budget for the Board's review.
- Mrs. Sweitzer discussed the budget document regarding revenues and expenditures in the detailed FY2022 Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget.
- Ms. Baker outlined the Budgetary Highlights with her goals of accelerating academic achievement, addressing the social/emotional wellbeing of students and staff, and moving GCPS forward.
- The budget presentation can be viewed [here](#).

### ***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.
- March 15, 2021, will be the return to school for students in grades 2-12, as well as spring athletics and extra-curricular activities.
- The Board unanimously voted to continue in-person learning four days a week with asynchronous Wednesdays through at least April 13, 2021.
- The Board will continue the review and discussion of the recovery/reopening plan at its next meeting.

### **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) continues to meet with the focus on the mental health initiative.
- Mr. Miller indicated that asynchronous Wednesdays are important and should remain in the schedule. He indicated that the schools are very clean and students are properly wearing required masks.

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

- Mr. Glotfelty indicated that there have been several recent MABE meetings with important discussions and information from the meetings.
- Mr. Woods indicated that the GCPS Foundation has funds available for education, proms, and scholarships. Also, 11 mini-grants of \$250 will be awarded to teachers. Applications will be available soon.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be Tuesday, April 14, 2021. Details will be announced prior to the meeting.