

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE GARRETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Oakland, Maryland 21550

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Part I - Call to Order

Mrs. Charlotte Sebold, President, called the monthly meeting of the Board of Education to order at 4:07 p.m. Also in attendance were Mr. Rodney Durst, Vice President; Mr. Thomas Carr, Dr. Donald Forrester, and Mrs. Cynthia Downton, associate members; and Mrs. Sue Waggoner, Interim Superintendent of Schools. The meeting was held at Southern Middle School.

Part II - Public Comment

Don Coble and Gordon Sisler made public comment in regards to the possible school closings.

Part III - Executive Session

Upon a motion by Dr. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Carr, the Board of Education unanimously agreed to move to executive session at 4:16 p.m. in accordance with Public Law 4-1-6 and Section 10-508 of the State Government Code for the purpose of approving minutes for the March 13, 2012 meeting, discussing personnel matters affecting one or more individuals, and negotiations.

Mrs. Barbara Baker, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Keith Harvey, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Larry McKenzie, Director of Finance; Miriam Sincell, Board Attorney; and Commissioner Gregan Crawford, Ex-Officio member, were present during all or part of the Executive Session.

Part IV - Re-Opening of Public Session

The Board reconvened in public session at 5:49 p.m. Student Board Member, Elizabeth Sines, joined the meeting at this time. Mrs. Sebold led a moment of silence after which Ms. Sines led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Durst stated that he said a silent Protestant prayer in the name of Jesus.

Part V -Acceptance of Agenda

Upon a motion by Dr. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Carr, the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

Part VI – Announcements

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| April 13 | Garrett County Student Arts Fair – Garrett College High School Honor Chorus and Band |
| April 13-14 | SH Spring Play, <i>Sweeny Todd</i> , 8:00 p.m. |
| April 14 | Garrett County Student Arts Fair – Garrett College Elementary Honor Band and Chorus
Middle School Honor Band and Chorus |
| April 19-21 | NH Spring Play, <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> , 7:00 p.m. |
| April 22 | Earth Day |
| April 24 | Special Board of Education Meeting
(Board of Education Vote on Superintendent’s Recommendation)
– if necessary |
| April 25 | Administrative Professionals Day |
| May 1 | High School Success Night at 6:00 p.m. – Southern High |
| May 8 | Student Councils will attend Regular Board Meeting |
| May 15 | Middle School Success Night at 6:30 p.m. – Northern Middle |
| May 20 | Graduation: Northern High School – 1:00 p.m.
Southern High School – 4:00 p.m. |

Part VII – Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2012

Upon a motion by Dr. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Carr, the minutes of March 13, 2012 were unanimously approved as amended.

Part VIII – Recognition

Girl Scout Troop 55021 presented their Visionary Award Project to the Board. Debbie Carpenter, leader, introduced the Girl Scouts present and thanked the Board for allowing the girls, from Northern Middle School and Northern High School, to present their project. The Girl

Scouts Visionary Project was on the topic of the Driver's Education program offered through the Board of Education. The Girl Scouts project presented three alternatives for keeping the program intact. The first option was to have one teacher and one contractor administer the class without salary or benefits. The second alternative was to lease electric cars and have the students pay a fee for taking the class, and the third option was to have a private company teach the class. Mrs. Waggoner and Mrs. Sebold thanked the girls for their presentation and for their thoughtful ideas.

The Board also recognized Austin Shaffer for capturing the individual 1a/2a Maryland state wrestling championship in the 106-pound division at College Park. He defeated four opponents in the tournament by recording two pins, a technical fall, and a 3-0 decision over another student from Oakland Mills High School in the championship match. Austin is a sophomore at Southern High School. His parents, Joe and Kim Shaffer were present for his recognition.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Team 1629 was recognized by the Board for receiving top honors in the Cleveland Robotics Competition including the Chairman's Award, the most prestigious award that FIRST offers in their regional competitions. Mr. Trautwein thanked the Board for inviting the team to be recognized. He gave thanks and recognition to the business sponsors, Pillar Innovations, Beitzel Corporation, Garrett Containers, Wilson Supply, and Economic Development, for their part in making the team a success. He also thanked the Board of Education and parents for their support and dedication.

Mr. Trautwein shared that Aaron Lantz received the FIRST Dean's List Finalist Award at the Chesapeake Regional. This award celebrates outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining FIRST ideals is exemplary. In addition, the Board recognized Mr. Trautwein for being selected as the Woodie Flower's Finalist Award (WFFA) winner for the 2012 Buckeye Regional. This award recognized mentors who lead, inspire, and empower using excellent communication skills.

Mr. Trautwein informed the Board of the various fundraising functions which have been held or are to be held which will support the team. Before introducing the team members, he again thanked all involved for the support and stated that he is very proud.

Part IX – New Business

Ms. Kotulak presented, as information, the special education procedure, Undocumented Suspensions. She informed the Board that this will be added to the Special Education Handbook as a requirement by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

Ms. Kotulak also presented, as information, the special education procedure, Service Animals. This procedure is a requirement of Americans with Disability Act and will be added to the Special Education Handbook.

Part X – Continuing Business

Mr. Harvey reviewed his recommendation from last month for the 2012/2013 school calendar. The recommendation of the calendar committee, who is charged with establishing the calendar, is for the first day of school of the 2012/2013 school year to be on Monday, August 27, 2012 (calendar A). The calendar committee submitted three calendars. One with a start date of August 27, 2012, one with a start date of August 29, 2012, and the third with a start date of September 4, 2012. He explained to the Board that he completed a survey and there are thirteen other counties in the state of Maryland who have already set their 2012/2013 calendar to begin prior to Labor Day. He continued to explain that this recommendation falls in line with the research of how many days school has been out of session in Garrett County due to inclement weather since 2000.

Mr. Harvey also asked the Board for permission to change the time of the year when the school calendar is presented for information and approval. He stated that he would like to provide the information in January and have the vote in February. This allows for families to have more of an opportunity to plan vacation.

Discussion ensued. Nicole Christian, President of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, participated with public comment in regards to the 2012/2013 calendar in support of the September 4, 2012 start date.

Mrs. Waggoner made her recommendation, supporting the calendar committee's recommendation, for first day of school to be August 27, 2012 (calendar A). Upon a motion by Dr. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Carr, the Board of Education voted (3-1) to accept Mrs. Waggoner's recommendation of August 27, 2012 (calendar A) as the first day of school for the 2012/2013 school year. Mr. Durst voted against calendar A stating that now might be a good time to listen to the business community and start school after the Labor Day weekend seeing that it falls early in September.

The decision to move the calendar as an information item to January and the vote in February will be an action item on the May board agenda.

Mrs. Waggoner presented May 31, 2012 as the date for the retirement dinner. The Board asked Mrs. Waggoner to pursue other dates and present them as an action item on April 16, 2012.

The Board took a break from 7:00 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.

Mrs. Waggoner presented the Board with a Power Point presentation outlining the reasons for her recommendation for closing both Dennett Road Elementary School and Kitzmiller Elementary School. Also included in the presentation were other areas that will be affected in order to have a balanced budget. These areas include supplies and materials, transportation, maintenance equipment and materials, staff development, the driver's education program, extended media hours, JROTC, and various staff positions.

Mrs. Waggoner's recommendation is as follows:

“Based on the current financial situation, I feel that to preserve our excellent school system, PK-12, and provide a balanced budget, I must recommend the closing of Dennett Road Elementary and Kitzmiller elementary at the end of this school year. “

Mrs. Sebold thanked Mrs. Waggoner for her presentation.

Part XI – Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Mrs. Sebold announced that there will be an executive meeting on April 16, 2012. She also announced a special board meeting on April 24, 2012 beginning at 7:00 p.m. for the vote on

the superintendent's recommendation. She informed the public that public comment will be taken prior to the vote.

Part XII – Personnel Recommendations

Resignation: Timothy L. Wilson, JROTC, SH, effective July 1, 2012

- Volunteer Coaches: Corey Carr, Baseball Coach, NH
Steve Newcomb, Tennis Coach, SH
Kevin Miller, Tennis Coach, NH

- Professional Leave Requests:

JSOCC Advance Course
Ft. Knox, KY
March 25-31, 2012

2012 FIRST Robotics Competition Championship Event
St. Louis, Missouri – Edward Jones Dome
April 24-29, 2012

Upon a motion by Dr. Forrester, seconded by Mrs. Downton, the Board of Education approved (4-0) the superintendent's recommendations.

Ms. Sines reported that she has been very busy since giving her last report two months ago. She has been serving as a page in Annapolis for the Maryland House of Delegates and has had the opportunity to meet with other motivated, active young individuals including other student board members. Together they brainstormed ideas regarding current issues students are facing. She attended hearings, lobbied on behalf of the bills concerning funding for Garrett County Schools, and also spoke briefly with several delegates regarding the wealth formula. Last month she attended the Maryland Association of Student Councils annual conference in Ocean City, Maryland with the Garrett County Association of Student Councils. She explained that this provided an opportunity for leaders from both ends of the county to bond and work on leadership skills. In addition, Southern High recently held student council officer elections and will hold representative elections in the upcoming week. Northern High will be having elections in the coming month. All member elects will be introduced to the Board at the May meeting along with their ideas for the upcoming year. She reported that she will be meeting with the newly elected to educate them on their duties next year. She quoted "It is only in the darkest of nights that we can truly see the stars." by Martin Luther

King, Jr. She stated that she understands there are still numerous challenges to be faced in the upcoming years but she is confident that rising and former student leaders will not only be able to meet those challenges but thrive while doing so.

Part XIII – Board Business

The next LSA meeting will be held on Monday, April 16, 2012.

Mr. Durst reported that John Woolums called him today and advised him that the Maintenance of Effort bill did pass. Mr. Durst stated that this does not have an effect on our system because the County Commissioners have done a wonderful job supporting the Board of Education.

Mr. Carr reported that the superintendent search continues. The Board of Education met with MABE staff to review all applications. The initial interviews were held on March 31, 2012 and the second round will be held on April 21, 2012. The finalist will be asked to Garrett County to interview with stakeholders on May 16, 17, and 18, 2012.

Mrs. Sebold addressed the audience assuring them that during the coming month the Board will carefully consider the superintendent's recommendation and will have the good of every student in the county in mind. She stated that the Board appreciates the time, effort, and attention which have been put into this endeavor.

Part XIV – Information Items

The board members received the following information:

- SGHS Battalion News Letter & Spring Award Dinner Brochure
- *The Steering Wheel* Newsletter from the Transportation Department
- Transportation Survey – Fly-by count
- April 2012 School Activities
- April 2012 *Home & School Connection*
- Invitation of Kitzmiller Elementary 5th Grade Graduation – May 21, 2012

Part XV – Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Durst, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Mrs. Charlotte Sebold
President

Sue F. Waggoner
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: May 14, 2012