

**Minutes of Open Regular Session Meeting
Somerset Intermediate School
April 16, 2013**

OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 3:08 p.m. **Location: Somerset Intermediate School**

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairman William Miles, Vice Chairman Robert Wells, Mr. Warner Sumpter, and Mr. Dan Kuebler; Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles; Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers; and Board Secretary Melissa Tilghman. Supervisors, Media and community members were also present. Ms. Green-Gale arrived at 3:12 p.m.

Chairman Miles declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion – Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Mr. Sumpter to approve the amendment of the agenda; motion carried unanimously

TRIBUTE TO DR. H. DEWAYNE WHITTINGTON

Ms. Kathleen Green, ECI Warden, and her staff presented a tribute in honor of the late Dr. H. DeWayne Whittington. Dr. Whittington was an advocate for inmates and assisted in the implementation of the inmate work placement program which was designed to allow inmates to perform work-related duties throughout the community in areas of special need. The inmates wanted to express their appreciation and designed and constructed a bench engraved with “*In Honor of Dr. H. DeWayne Whittington’s faithful Service to the Eastern Correctional Institution’s Citizens Advisory Committee.*” This bench is housed at the Somerset County Board of Education. The Board members thanked Ms. Green and her staff for their attendance.

CLOSED MEETING:

3:20 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 10-508 of the **Annotated Code of Maryland**
Motion: Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Mr. Sumpter; motion carried unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Motion – Ms. Green-Gale and seconded by Mr. Kuebler and approved to table minutes of March 19, 2013, April 3, 2013 and April 8, 2013; unanimously carried

Performed Administrative Functions – Section 10-503

Received and discussed administrative items

Discussed Personnel Matters (New Hires, Retires, Resignations)–Section 10-508(a) (1)

Received, reviewed and discussed personnel matters

Consulted with Attorney to Obtain Legal Advice – Section 10-508 (a)(7)

Received advice from the Board Attorney

Discussed Negotiated Agreements – Section 10-508 (a)(9)

Received and discussed negotiated agreements

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairman William Miles, Vice Chairman Robert Wells, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, Mr. Warner Sumpter, Mr. Dan Kuebler, and Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers; Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles; and Board Secretary Tilghman. Human Resource Supervisor, Beth Whitelock was also present for a portion of the meeting.

The Board convened in an Open Public Budget Hearing - 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Miles presented an overview of the projected revenue for the FY2014 Budget. It included an additional \$2.8 million budget increase. This increase will be distributed throughout the following areas of the budget where significant increases were needed.

- professional development, materials of instruction, textbooks, substitute costs, media supplies, school office supplies, consumables, consultants, technology, Special Education Consultants, Out of County Student Placement, cleaning supplies, insurance, Workmen’s Compensation, pensions shift, Board legal fees, maintenance service contracts, and the advocacy of additional CTE programs.

The increase will also be absorbed by the reinstatement of missing line items, new positions, an increase in fringe costs, and the negotiated agreements’ package costs.

Mr. Melvin Higgs, SEA President, addressed the Board in reference to unattractive salary negotiations, employee compensation for additional workload, and the redirecting of additional funding to assist support staff and teacher salary packages.

Chairman Miles called for a recess at 5:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened in the Open Regular Meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Public Participation

Several students, teachers, and members of the community addressed the Board expressing their support of the Washington High School Administration, the Washington High School Basketball coach and the Superintendent. Additional concerns and comments are listed below:

- Speeding of bus contractors
- Disrespectful students
- The need for professional development provided to teachers to engage students' interest in learning
- Professional development for Washington High School principal
- Appreciation for SAT preparation and media materials added to the budget
- The need for positive African American role models in administrative positions within the school system
- The need for school resource officers within the schools
- Inappropriate media posts by Mr. Kuebler and remarks made by Mr. Wells regarding Washington High School's principal
- The demand that the Board follow protocol when addressing personnel issues
- Parent's request to dismiss a substitute teacher at Washington Academy & High School for alleged bullying and harassment and refusal to apologize to student
- The purpose of six sheriffs attendance to the meeting

Approval of Open Regular Session Minutes

The Board unanimously agreed to table the approval of minutes for the March 19, 2013, April 3, 2013 and the April 8, 2013 Board meeting minutes.

Announcement of Closed Meetings:

Chairman Miles announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in Closed Sessions on the following dates pursuant to Section 10-508(a) and Section 10-503 of the *Maryland Annotated Code* for the reasons listed below:

- April 3, 2013
 - To Perform Administrative Functions – Section 10-503
 - To Discuss Personnel Matters – Section 10-508(a)(1)
 - To Discuss Negotiated Agreements – Section 10-508(a)(9)
 - To Discuss Matters not Related to Public Business – Section 10-508(a)(2)
- April 16, 2013
 - To Perform Administrative Functions – Section 10-503
 - To Discuss Personnel Matters – Section 10-508(a)(1)
 - To Receive Advice from Legal Counsel – Section 10-508(a)(7)
 - To Consider Matters that are related to Negotiations – Section 10-508 (a)(9)

Student Board Members' Activities Reports

The student Board members presented their reports and were thanked by the Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

Policies

Motion: Mr. Kuebler and seconded Mr. Sumpter to approve revisions to policy #100-12, Public Participation; motioned carried unanimously

Motion: Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Mr. Sumpter to approve the revisions to policy #100-13, School Board meetings; motion carried unanimously

Motion: Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Vice Chairman Wells to approve policy #700-58, Whistle Blower Policy with recommended changes; motion carried unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum & Instruction

STEM Update

Ms. Michelle McGoogan and Ms. Traci Schneider presented the Board with an update on the STEM Program. She stated that students are designated by the teachers. Three students from Somerset Intermediate School presented a Robotic Sea Perch Project. Ms. Pam South was selected as a week long summer institute participant.

Grading Committee Update

Mr. Elebash presented a report from the Grading Committee. He stated that there are twenty three members working on revising the grading system. Mr. Kuebler requested that changes be included in summer professional development.

SAT Testing

Mr. Elebash reported that eighty-five students had taken SAT's in 2013.

2013-2014 School Calendar

Mr. Lawson presented the Board with two drafts of the 2013-2014 school calendars for the Board's review and study. The Board requested that the calendars be posted online for parent review.

J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center Curriculum

Mr. Glenn Ennis, Administrator in Charge at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, presented the State CTE course offerings at Tawes. Those courses are:

- Health Biomedical Science
- Auto Mechanics - Matef/ASE Certification
- SWAT Mock Trials
- ROTC

Mr. Ennis expressed that he would like to offer heavy diesel equipment operations courses. Mr. Kuebler stated that a welding class should be added to the curriculum.

Washington Academy & High School Update

Ms. Carter provided an update on the various incidents and code red calls at Washington Academy & High Schools. She informed the Board that Dr. Nugent of UMES had collaborated with Somerset County students and will be offering a six credit course this summer.

Dr. Miles stated that she had been notified by one of the referees at the game and was informed that Mr. Johnson was not inappropriate at the basketball game. Chairman Miles requested a written statement from the referee.

Technology

Career & Technology Center Expansion

Mr. Lankford showed a presentation on data and statistics outlining the critical need of the investment in the expansion of the Career & Technology Center. He stated that more Somerset County students are going to the workforce instead of going to college. Mr. Lankford asked that the Board help students and put forth the efforts to approve the CTE expansion.

Finance – Monthly Finance and Food Service Reports

Ms. Smoker presented the monthly finance and food service reports to the Board. She reported that the food service deficit is approximately \$15,087 in the negatives.

Special Education Staffing Report

Dr. Lynnette Johnson presented the Special Education Staffing report to the Board members. She reported that teachers will be moved around and added to the comprehensive classrooms. Mr. Kuebler expressed concern regarding the number of Special Education students in a classroom being taught by one teacher and one assistant.

STUDENT SERVICES

Attendance

Ms. Cortney Monar, Princess Anne Elementary School's Principal, and Ms. Elizabeth Marshall, Princess Anne Elementary School's Vice Principal, presented reports on student attendance and student discipline.

Ms. McLaughlin reported on the percentage of homeless students in the county and mental health services provided to students.

Truancy Mitigations

Ms. Carter presented a truancy mitigation report to the Board. She stated that compared to the State, Somerset County truancy numbers are very low. Mr. Kuebler requested additional information on truancy issues.

FACILITIES

Mr. Jefferson reported on the following:

- Pole Building construction will begin on April 22, 2013
- School Security update will be presented to the Board once completed
- Work continues on the athletic fields at Crisfield Academy & High School
- The next Athletic Committee update is on April 28, 2013
- CAHS heating unit replacement cost is \$300,000
- Deal Island Elementary School's serving line replacements will cost approximately \$15,575.00
- Greenwood Elementary School's steamer will cost approximately \$4,300 and will be added as a line item in next year's budget

Mr. Kuebler requested the development of a facilities strategic plan. Mr. Jefferson stated that the Strategic Plan is included in the Capital Improvement Plan which must be updated.

Approval to develop a Transportation Committee

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wells, seconded by Mr. Sumpter and passed to approve Mr. Jefferson's request to develop a Transportation Committee; motion carried unanimously.

Human Resources

New Hire, Retires, Resignations

Motion: Mr. Sumpter and seconded by Ms. Green-Gale to approve the Human Resources report; motion carried unanimously.

Substitute Costs

The Board discussed the teachers' substitute costs' impact on the budget and student achievement.

Honoring Retirees

Mr. Lawson reported on the status of the Retiree Ceremony. He reported that, to date, fourteen retirees have accepted the invitation to attend the ceremony.

BOARD OF EDUCATION'S SELF EVALUATION REPORT

Chairman Miles reported on the Board's Self Evaluation and concluded the following:

- The Board must work together
- The Board will create and develop a vision statement
- The Board will develop a Board Handbook
- The Board will adhere to Policy #100-04, School Board Duties
- The Board members will attend the MABE Leadership Academies

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The Board thanked the staff for their reports and the community for attending. Dr. Miles thanked everyone for attending and congratulated Dr. Lynette Johnson for obtaining her Doctorate.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Green-Gale and seconded by Vice Chairman Wells and approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m.; motion unanimously carried

Dr. Marjorie Miles, Superintendent of Schools
William Miles, Board of Education Chairman

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Board Secretary