



**Board Minutes
Westover, Maryland
August 16, 2011**

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in an open work session at 4:00 p.m., closed session on August 20, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal matters as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, §10-508(a)(9) of the State Government Article. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Sumpter Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

OPEN WORK SESSION

All Board members were present at the open work session. Dr. Miles distributed the bus contractors list and discussed the scoring process and the substitutes advantages over the contractors. Dr. Whittington agreed with Vice Chairman Miles that substitutes should not be given advantage points. Dr. Miles discussed the continued issue concerning Nick Moon. The Board agreed that the contract for Route #3 will be re-advertised. Chairman Sumpter stated that under the current regulation SCPS has used the current policy to award contracts and that some attorneys may find it illegal. Dr. Whittington stated that the Board could choose whomever they would like for the interview contract. Chairman Sumpter questioned how the public found out about Nick Moon's contract and stated that interviews should be confidential. Dr. Whittington questioned how every response weighed on the interview points.

Dr. Whittington questioned the difference in the scoring from bus route #3 and bus route #28. Vice Chairman Miles questioned that "d" in the Transportation policy was not followed. Chairman Sumpter stated that Mr. Moon could have gotten a higher score this time because he may have been more prepared than at one of his first interviews. Vice Chairman Miles questioned the ongoing flaws of the transportation policy and an explanation of the 60 point advantage. He also asked Chairman Sumpter about the threat of a lawsuit when the current policy has not been followed. Mr. Wells stated that he understood the transportation policy must be corrected, but the Board is losing sight on what's important, "Why interview if the Board and Superintendent is not willing to accept recommendation?" Dr. Miles suggested that Route #3 be re-advertised. Dr. Whittington stated that the Superintendent can decide and choose whomever she would like from the interview list and does not have to choose the candidate that has been brought before the Board by the interview panel. Chairman Sumpter stated that the bus route #3 would be re-advertised because the policy was not followed and will be announced at the open regular session. Dr. Whittington made the recommendation that a new interview team is needed to ensure the interview is fair.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sumpter at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all five Board members and the Superintendent were present.

3. Declaration of Quorum

It was declared that a quorum was present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Sumpter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve the minutes of July 19, 2011. The vote was unanimous.

6. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous.

7. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

8. A. Transportation and Facilities

Change Order Requests

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's presented change order requests #55 - #57. The vote was unanimous with all Board members in agreement.

Approval of Emmitt Cotton's Substitute Approval Request

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to allow Mr. Emmitt Cotton to hire a substitute to operate his bus. Dr. Whittington stated that approval was given with the stipulation that the substitute will only drive for the life of the bus. The vote was unanimous.

Request of Commissioners to Obtain One of the WAHS Portables

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve the Somerset County Commissioner's request to obtain ownership of one of the WAHS portables. Mr. Daugherty stated that the commissioners had originally paid for it and would like to have it back. All Board members agreed to give the portable to the commissioners.

Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

Mr. Daugherty presented the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the September Board meeting.

Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Daugherty presented the Capital Improvement Plan for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the September Board meeting.

Request to train Substitute Bus Driver

A motion was called for by Chairman Sumpter, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve the training of Rita Bailey and John Kurtz as substitute bus drivers. The vote was carried unanimously.

B. Transportation Policy, 200-18

The Board agreed that the transportation was flawed and that further review and discussion was needed before a vote could be made.

Contract #3 Recommendation

A motion was made by Mr. Wells to approve the awarding of Nick Moon's bus contract. The motion did not receive a second vote and failed to pass.

C. Policies

Policy 600-19, Student Assignment, Policy 600-21, Student Enrollment/Attendance Eligibility, Pupil Assignment

It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve Policy #600-19, Student Assignment. The vote was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Wells to review Policy #600-21, Student Enrollment/Attendance Eligibility, Pupil Assignment. The Board would like to review the non-resident section of the policy.

D. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve the following revised job descriptions: Media Specialist, Technology Education Teacher and Teacher –In-Charge

Policy #700-12, Sick Leave and Policy #700-35, Family and Medical Leave Act

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Policy #700-12, Sick Leave and Policy #700-35, Family and Medical Leave Act. Mr. Wells questioned the 12 week sick leave for husband and wife. Mr. Lawson informed him that the husband and wife would get 12 weeks together and the time would run concurrent. The vote was carried unanimously.

Policy 700-26, Tuition Reimbursement

The Board agreed that more discussion is needed before a vote can be made on Policy #700-26, Tuition Reimbursement. Mr. Lawson stated that information will be sent to all teachers and that Administrative Leave could not be used to attend classes.

E. Student Services - Policies

A motion was called for by Chairman Sumpter, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve the following policies:

- Policy #500-21, Extra Curricular Activities Eligibility
- Policy #600-15, Student Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Policy #600-17, Standards of Social Behavior
- Policy #600-34, Student Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation

- Policy #600-36, Fighting

The motion was carried unanimously.

9. New Business

A. Finance

Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Miller informed the Board that finance reports had not been provided due to the auditor's scheduled presentation at the September Board meeting.

Food Service Report

Ms. Miller presented the Food Service report stating that the deficit was much less than last year. She also stated that revenue from snack sales have decreased.

Policy #100-03, Ethnic Policy

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve Ms. Miller's revisions to Policy #100-03, Ethnic Policy. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Miller will present the revisions to the State for final approval. Once the state has approved the Policy #100-03, it will be resubmitted for the Board's approval at the September Board meeting.

B. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

Mr. Lawson presented the Board with the revisions to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction Principal for their review and study. The Board will vote at the September Board meeting.

Policies

Policies #700-15, Workers Compensation and, #700-29, Classified Employee Probationary Period was presented to the Board for their review and study. The Board will vote at the September Board meeting.

Human Resources Report

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources Report. The vote was unanimous.

C. Approval of Somerset County Public School Negotiations Group

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the Somerset County Public School's Negotiations List presented by Mr. Lawson. The vote was unanimous. The teams are as follows:

- Unit I – Vicki Miller, Leo Lawson, Doug Bloodsworth, Beth Whitelock, and James Webster
- Unit II – Vicki Miller, Leo Lawson, Doug Bloodsworth
- Unit III – Vicki Miller, Leo Lawson, Beth Whitelock, James Webster, and Rodger Daugherty

D. Out of County School Trip Requests

A motion was called for by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the Out of County Trip Requests. The vote was unanimous.

10. Superintendent and Board Member Comments

Ms. Green-Gale requested to be excused from the September Board meeting. Dr. Whittington thanked the community for their attendance. He also stated that further discussion on the bus issues was needed before a vote could be made. General Sumpter stated that he is looking forward to a great promising school year.

- 11. September 2011** – A motion was called for by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve September 20, 2011 as the next open regular session. An open work session will be held at 5:00 p.m. to discuss facilities items, a closed session at 6:00 p.m. and an open regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

12. Adjournment

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Marjorie Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary