



CALLED OPEN WORK SESSION

By unanimous agreement the Somerset County Board of Education met at the University of Maryland Easter Shore, Wednesday, January 12, 2012 at 5:15 p.m. to hold the Called Open Work Session. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Mr. Wells, Superintendent Dr. Marjorie E. Miles and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Vice Chairman Miles was absent from the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sumpter at 5:15 p.m.

2. School Restructuring

Dr. Miles introduced Theresa Knott of MSDE. Ms. Knott works with the School Improvement Initiative and helps to design and develop restructuring plans. Ms. Knott first congratulated Maryland Schools for having such high achieving schools.

Restructuring

Ms. Knott further described Dr. Maxwell's, Superintendent of Annapolis, structuring plans. Dr. Maxwell was the Superintendent of one of the worst achieving schools. Within two years, after reconstruction, his school is now one of the top performing schools.

It was decided that staff and administration needs to be in agreement and that everyone in the system is looking forward to some kind of achievement. Federal Law requires changes be made within the schools. Ms Knott stated that the beginning stages are critical. An Alternative Governance Board must be developed, professional development for teachers, and an instructional improvement plan. Background information and teacher documentation will be needed before restructuring can begin.

School Improvement

Ms. Knott distributed and reviewed with the Board Somerset County's Corrective Action Report for Crisfield and Washington High Schools. Crisfield High School is in restructuring status. She informed the Board that the only option at this point was to replace staff. SCPS can also engage in a Charter School or Educational Management Company which would be at least an eighteen month plan.

The plan needs to be developed, approved by the Board, and sent to Theresa Knott who will present to the State Board. There are twenty-four schools in restructuring implementation and 78 with a restructuring plan.

School Stakeholder Professional Development

A diagram outlining a step by step direction in reaching increased student achievement was discussed. CAHS did not make the AYP graduation rate with reoccurring problems in Reading and Math/Special Education. WAHS made all of the AYP requirements.

Safe Harbor

Washington High School is in Safe Harbor. Safe Harbor placement occurs when students show at least some improvement. The graduation rate helped WAHS score AYP.

Crisfield Academy and High School

Ms. Knott explained that high attendance was not considered in AYP and that Crisfield did not make overall AYP. She informed the Board that even though there has been an increase in highly qualified teachers, CAHS lacks supportive instructional staff needed to get the school out of school improvement. Ms. Knott stated that CAHS needs to reevaluate their corrective plan of action.

Derivative Schools

Ms. Knott stated that SCPS should not be worried about Derivative Schools at this point. The consolidation of schools could be written in the Alternative Governance Plan. She stated that SCPS should think about what is best for both schools and that consolidation would not be impossible. The Board should seek community support, corrective action plans must be reevaluated, timelines, resources, unions, building space, staffing, graduation challenges culture combination of schools, physical and legal plans and strategic plans are all needed. The Governance Plan should be completed with no more than eighteen pages, but a few additional pages can be requested.

Crisfield High School's restructuring should begin with staff replacement. Administration should learn from the past what did and did not work. Stakeholder support is needed and an academic profile needs to be completed. Washington Academy and High School should also complete a Governance Plan. Both high schools plan should be compared and written to correlate with each other. The first steps in developing a Governance Plan should be to discuss the challenges and failures, identify resources, and to reform an Alternative Governance Plan. The LEA Alternative Governance Board plays an important role and should be willing to provide hands on assistance and ideas.

Guideline History

Guidelines should be developed where the Governance Team will discuss, at the end of every year, a revised school development plan.

Chairman Sumpter questioned the Junior High School trend. Ms. Knott responded that Junior High Schools are more traditional and that the development of a junior high school would depend on the need of the county and what would work best for the students. Should SCPS decide to move towards two junior high schools a grading alignment would have to be developed and discussed with MSDE.

3. Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the adjournment of the meeting and go into close session at 6:25 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary