



**Board Minutes
Westover, Maryland
December 13, 2011**

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in an open work session at 5:00 p.m., and a closed session at 6:00 p.m. on December 13, 2011 to discuss personnel and legal matters as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, S10-508(a)(9) of the State Government Article. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Miles, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Mr. Wells was excused from the meeting.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:15 p.m. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Miles, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

OPEN WORK SESSION

Chairman Sumpter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Daugherty presented Change Orders #68 (deduction from the remaining allowance on sitework and utilities) and #69 (deduction in the allowance for contract 15-A, Mechanical & Plumbing) for the Washington Academy & High School renovation project to the Board members. All the Change Orders were credits.

The Board members discussed Policy #200-18, Student Transportation. Chairman Sumpter began with moving Policy #200-18 from Old Business to New Business. The Board will review and study the revisions to the policy.

Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that Mr. Collins, Route #3 bus contractor has requested to continue his route until the end of the school year.

The Board members reviewed and discussed Policy #600-21, Student Enrollment. The Superintendent provided the Board with a breakdown of the costs charged to parents in other counties. Ms. McLaughlin stated that if students enroll before September 30 Somerset County Public Schools will receive full funding. She will be requesting the Board's approval to a waiver of tuition to children of Somerset County Public School's employees. Chairman Sumpter stated that Mr. Wells should be made aware of this recommendation before the next meeting. Dr. Miles explained that allowing SCPS employees' children to attend SCPS without charging them tuition is a good recruitment tool for teachers. Ms. McLaughlin explained that prior to September 30 SCPS would receive full reimbursement from the local and state as the student would be considered a Somerset County Public Schools student. If the student entered the system after September 30 there would be no reimbursements. The Board was also informed that SCPS will not receive any reimbursements for Out of State students. The Board agreed that tuition will be charged after September 30.

Mr. Daugherty discussed the Wireless Towers Proposal with the Board and provided information obtained from a meeting held by MABE discussing the company, Milestones. Milestones has requested the Board's permission to install wireless towers on several of Somerset

County Public School's properties in the Westover and Marion areas. Mr. Daugherty requested the Board's permission to sign a contract with Milestones, which would generate \$7,000 – \$60,000 in additional funding to Somerset County Public Schools. Dr. Miles explained that the additional monies could be used to fund the expansion of the 1:1 laptop initiative. Dr. Whittington explained that more research would be needed before the Board could make a decision. The Milestones company will contact Steve Marshall and get approval from planning and zoning before any action takes place. Mr. Daugherty stated that it would be a good idea for SCPS to get the contract first and approval later as the company may seek other land. Dr. Miles stated that a meeting will be held on January 4, 2012 where more information will be received on the project.

It was moved Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington passed to adjourn the open work session at 5:40 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sumpter at 7:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that four Board members and the Superintendent were present. Mr. Wells was excused from the meeting.

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 November 15, 2011.

6. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous.

7. Student Board Members' Activities Reports

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

8. Public Participation

Mr. Dan Kuebler addressed the Board regarding discipline issues at Crisfield High School. He stated that there is a lack of discipline at the schools and that disruptive students should be removed from the schools. Mr. Keubler is calling for the Administration to enforce discipline and school safety.

Mr. Bernard Johnson, school bus contractor, addressed the Board with concerns about the transportation department. He stated that the department is being micro managed. He expressed that if individuals are not following their job responsibilities that they should be fired. Mr. Johnson also mentioned that Mr. Collins wanted to include the selling of his bus as part of retiring his bus contract.

9. Introduction of Somerset County Public Schools' Christmas Card Artist

This item was tabled until the January Board meeting.

10. Old Business

A. Facilities and Transportation and

Change Order Requests

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's presented change order requests. The vote was carried unanimously.

Route #3 Bus Contract Waiver

It was moved by Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to allow Daniel Collins to continue his bus route until the end of the year. The Board was informed that Bids will resume at the end of the year.

B. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the tabling of the Learning Support Specialist Job Description until the January Board meeting. The vote was unanimous.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Finance

Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Miller presented the Monthly Finance Report to the Board members. Chairman Sumpter thanked her for the information.

Monthly Food Service Report

Ms. Miller presented the Monthly Food Service Report to the Board members. Chairman Miles questioned the afterschool snack revenue.

B. Policies

Policy #800-11, Title I Parent Involvement Policy

Ms. Holland presented Policy #800-11 to the Board members for their review and study. The Board will vote at the January Board meeting. The vote was unanimous.

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

The Board will review, study, and discuss Policy #600-21, Student Enrollment/Attendance Eligibility/Pupil Assignment. The revision exempts Somerset County employees from paying tuition prior to September 30.

Policy #200-18, Transportation

The Board members will review and study the transportation policy.

C. Human Resources

Job Description

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the Board's review and study of the Data Design Specialist's revised job description. The vote was unanimous.

Human Resources Report

Dr. Miles presented the Human Resources report to the Board.

D. Transportation

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to train Nathan Copes, Sr. as a school bus substitute. The vote was unanimous.

New Hires: Jennifer Berlin, Paul Jefferson

Terminations: Betsy Reich

11. Superintendent and Board Member Comments

Ms. Green-Gale thanked the community for attending the meeting. Vice Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Mason, student Board representative, for presenting such a detailed and informational report. He stated that he was happy to hear that the Promise Academy was doing well and excited about their 1:1 laptop program. Dr. Whittington thanked the parents for attending and congratulated the students for helping the needy families. He also apologized for the extent of time it has taken to adopt a revised Student Transportation policy.

Dr. Miles thanked the community for all their support and will be reporting data from the town meetings to the newspaper. She encouraged support of the Fine Arts Department and asked that the community speak out and make a difference.

Chairman Sumpter ended the meeting by thanking all the community and staff for attending the meeting and wished them all Happy Holidays.

- 12. January 2012** – It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve January 17, 2012 as the next open regular session. An open work session will be held at 5:00 p.m. to discuss facilities and other items, a closed session at 6:00 p.m. and an open regular session at 7:00 p.m. at Greenwood Elementary School. The vote was unanimous.

13. Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary