



**Board Minutes
Westover, Maryland
February 21, 2012**

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in an open work session at 5:15 p.m., and a closed session at 6:15 p.m. on February 21, 2012 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 Green-Gale, Mr. Miles, Dr. Whittington, Mr. Wells, Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

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

OPEN WORK SESSION

Chairman Sumpter called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Ms. Tilghman called the roll indicating that all Board members were present. Ms. Miller addressed the Board with the discussion of Policy #100-03, the Ethics Policy. The State has made revisions and added more detail. Under the new revisions, the Board will have to select an Ethics panel which will be liable under the Human Resources Department. Revisions were made by the State requiring all Board members, running candidates, and selected staff to complete the forms. The forms must be completed by April 30, 2012. Ms. Miller will check to see if the forms are available online.

Ms. Miller requested the Board's approval to amend the budget for an additional \$116,000. This request is due to the additional cost of Sunguard's training portion of the program. Ms. Miller stated that the request must be forwarded to the county commissioners for approval. The trained Central Office staff will train other county staff on the use of the program. Mr. Miles stated that the new Sunguard will prove to be very cost effective in the future.

The Superintendent discussed the expansion of the Uniform Initiative. She stated that when conducting the town hall meetings it was concluded that uniforms impact behavior. Uniforms help identify gangs and help with safety issues. Mr. Miles stated that discipline begins with administration.

The Superintendent requested that the Board review and study Policy # 800-02, Parental Involvement. A Parent Feedback form was added to the policy. Dr. Miles stated that parents must be educated as to what is going on in the classrooms.

It was the consensus of opinion of the Board to agree to approve the Gideon's request to set up tables for Bible distribution.

The Superintendent discussed House Bill 335 with the Board members. The revised House Bill 335 states that Somerset County will be responsible for paying State and Federal costs associated with a student from Somerset that attends a school in the Worcester County School District.

It was moved by Mr. Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to adjourn the open work session at 6:05 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Miles at 7:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all five Board members 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 Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells, and passed to approve the minutes of January 4, 2012, January 12, 2012, and January 24, 2012. The vote was unanimous.

6. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the amended agenda. Item #9 was removed from the 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. John Phoebus addressed the Board questioning the steps that had been taken to identify schools in improvement. He expressed his opinion that efforts are not being made to involve parents and the community in working together to develop a plan to increase the AYP. Mr. Phoebus also expressed that he was concerned about the closed and open work sessions stating that they were evasive when being advertised.

Mr. Dan Kuebler questioned the necessity of a closed session every month. He expressed his opinion that the Board answers to the public and must be responsible and held accountable. Mr. Kuebler also commented on the agenda topics expressing concern that there was not a topic on increasing student achievement and improved learning and that Crisfield Academy and High School has a corrective action plan but the plan has never been enforced by the administrators or the Board.

9. Eastern Shore Counselor’s Conference Art Contest Winner

This item was postponed until March Board meeting.

10. Old Business

A. Human Resources

Teacher of the Year 2012 Banquet March

Mr. Bloodsworth extended an invitation to the Board members to attend the Teacher of the Year Banquet on March 28, 2012. The judging dates will be held on March 15, 2012 and March 16, 2012.

B. Instruction

2012 – 2013 Calendar Approval

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Miles and passed to approve the revised 2012-2013 school calendar. The vote was unanimous.

C. Out of County Field Trip Requests

Mr. Bloodsworth informed the Board that Crisfield Academy and High School had rescinded their request for the seniors to attend an overnight out of county senior field trip.

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 Sumpter thanked Ms. Miller for the information.

Policy #100-03, Ethics Policy

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve the revised Policy #100-03. Ethics Policy. The vote passed unanimously.

FY2012 Budget Amendment

It was moved by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve Ms. Miller's budget amendment request. The amendment will transfer funding to cover Sunguard training. The vote was unanimous.

B. Facilities and Transportation

Substitute Bus Driver's Training

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to train Willie Rodgers and Michelle Bradshaw as substitute bus drivers.

C. Student Services

Uniform Initiative Expansion

Ms. McLaughlin presented an update on the Uniform Expansion Initiative. Mr. Miles requested data showing the impact of student uniforms on increased student achievement and discipline. Ms. McLaughlin stated that current data has shown a decrease in discipline. Dr. Whittington questioned whether the uniforms or strong leadership been a part of the discipline in schools. Mr. Wells suggested that all schools have the same casual days. Chairman Sumpter stated that high schools should implement dressing for success days to prepare students on how to dress in the business world.

Policy #600-43, Gang Prevention

Ms. Mclaughlin requested that that the Board review and study Policy #400-43, Gang Prevention. The revision included requirements of MSDE, the removal of the Gang Validation Worksheet from the Administrative Procedures and the alignment with Policy #600-15, Student Alcohol and Drug Use.

D. Human Resources

Human Resources Report

Ms. Whitelock presented the Human Resources report to the Board.

Job Descriptions

Ms. Whitelock presented the revised job descriptions for the Computer Technician and Secondary Math Science STEM Supervisor for the Board's review and study. Ms. Whitelock also stated that when positions are available they are put on the website and sent to the newspapers.

12. Out of County Student Request

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Miles and passed to approve the out of county request for a student to attend Greenwood Elementary School. The Board requested

that the schools do a poll to find out how many other students in the school system are out of county transfers.

13. Superintendent and Board Member Comments

Dr. Whittington asked that the community keep Mr. Lawson in their prayers. He also asked that that public participation time be kept into consideration. Dr. Whittington thanked the community for attending but stated that Board meetings should not be made political and positive statements should be made about the county and addressed Mr. Phoebus' concern that the Board is in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Dr. Miles congratulated Crisfield Academy and High school for their PBIS improvement.

Chairman Sumpter thanked the community for their attendance. He addressed Mr. Kuebler's concern with the arrangement of the agenda stating that the Board would look into changing the order of the meetings. Chairman Sumpter also stated he is not aware of anyone intentionally going against the open meetings act.

- 14. March 2012** – It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve March 20, 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 Princess Anne Elementary School. The vote was unanimous.

15. Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary