

**Minutes of Special Open Meeting  
Westover, Maryland  
February 6, 2013**

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**TIME: 5:00 p.m.**                      **Location: J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center**

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Chairman William Miles, Mr. Sumpter, Ms. Green-Gale and Mr. Kuebler; Superintendent Miles; and Board Secretary Tilghman. Supervisors were also present. Vice Chairman Robert Wells was excused from the meeting.

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

**Adoption of Agenda**

Motion – Ms. Green-Gale and seconded by Mr. Sumpter to adopt the amended agenda. Motion carried 4:1. Vice Chairman Wells was not in attendance to vote.

**Public Participation**

None

**CLOSED MEETING**

5:10 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 10-508 of the **Annotated Code of Maryland**  
Motion: Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Mr. Sumpter; Motion carried 4:0

**DISCUSSED PERSONNEL MATTERS – SECTION 10-508 (a)(1)**

Received and discussed personnel matters and related issues.  
Received and discussed transportation personnel issues.

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Chairman Miles, Mr. Sumpter, Ms. Green-Gale and Mr. Kuebler; Superintendent Miles and Board Secretary Tilghman;. Also present were supervisors.

**Reconvened in Open Special Session at 6:04 p.m.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Financial Action Plans**

Mr. Blye presented a financial report on the current budget and addressed budget deficit concerns. He stated that fringe benefits have increased and the presented report may not be aligned with actual projections. Spending has been frozen and finance has taken several action plans. The Board is requesting the following information:

- Spending freeze – Will it affect student achievement?
- Projected contracted costs
- Category clarification
- Explanation of previous and current financial statements budget numbers

The Board agreed that further discussion was needed and that a presentation requesting the additional information be provided at the February 19, 2013 Open Work Session.

## **Curriculum & Instruction**

### **Student Achievement – Intervention, Remediation, and Enrichment**

Ms. Lisa Hopkins presented a report on Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention, remediation and enrichment. She explained that during Tier 2 intervention, teachers reteach students who do not understand the subject matter. Teachers also use other teachers' strategies to improve student achievement. Students are tracked and if improvements have not been made then the student moves to Tier 3 intervention which provides additional measures to help students that are having trouble comprehending. Ms. Hopkins stated that staff members are seeking measures to address interventions that need improvement.

Mr. Kuebler requests that Ms. Hopkins provide a follow up report after student assessments have been taken.

### **SAT Preparation**

Ms. Hopkins stated that Washington Academy & High School were part of a mini trial SAT Session program. She will be requesting funding for secondary afterschool SAT tutoring. This will cost approximately \$3,200 for a six week session. Mr. Kuebler requested that students be made aware of the free online SAT tutorials.

### **Elementary and Secondary Enrichment**

Engineering and Photography are pullout enrichment programs provided in the elementary schools and STEM classes. Greenthumb and a Reading Club are enrichment classes offered at the secondary schools. High school students can take AP courses, ½ in the classroom and the other ½ online.

### **Grading System**

Mr. Elebash presented the Board with the grading committee's timeline. He stated that the main problem with the current grading system is that grading does not differentiate the type of assignments that are done and that category weights must be adopted. Each school should be consistent with how assignments are graded. Mr. Kuebler stated that consideration should be made in reverting back to percentage grades.

### **Promise Academy Operation Review**

Mr. Sidney Hankerson presented an overview of the operations at the Promise Academy. Disruptive students not achieving in the schools are transitioned to the Promise Academy. Students are placed in smaller class sized settings. Academics are implemented so when students are transitioned back to their home schools they are prepared to take their MSA and HSAs. Mr. Hankerson stated that unlike the High Roads Academy, the Promise Academy is not designed for elementary school students.

### **School Security Update**

Mr. Jefferson informed the Board that the task force security committee will begin on February 7, 2013 at Woodson Elementary School. Security observations could also include schools buses. A report will be provided to the Board once the inspections are complete. Ms. Green-Gale requested that information not be shared with anyone unless approved by the Board.

### **CHS Bats**

The Board was informed that there were no new bat sightings at Crisfield Academy & High School, but there had been alleged reports of bats at Washington Academy & High School. Wildlife Control remains on standby.

### **Athletic Fields**

Mr. Jefferson informed the Board that the community members have offered to help restoration of the athletic fields.

Mr. Kuebler announced that Clint Sterling, teacher and Director of Recreation & Parks, will be replacing him on the Athletic Committee.

## **Special Education**

Dr. Miles presented the Special Education report. Currently there are 423 Special Education students. An advertisement for a Speech Therapist has been placed. Mr. Kuebler questioned the number of staff verses the number of Special Education students at WAHS stating that the numbers are disproportionate. A Special Education staffing report has been requested to be presented at the second meeting in March.

## **Superintendent and Board Member Comments**

The Board members thanked the community for attending and the SCPS staff for providing them with informative data reports.

Dr. Miles invited the Board members to the Teacher of the Year Banquet at UMES Henson Center at UMES on March 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion – Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to adjourn the meeting at **8:55 p.m**; motioned carried 4:0.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Board Secretary