



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in an open work session at 5:30 p.m., and a closed session at 5:44 p.m. on January 17, 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 Miles, Dr. Whittington, Mr. Wells Ms. Green-Gale, 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 Miles, Mr. Wells, 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 5:30 p.m. Mr. Daugherty presented Change Order #70 (Credit for Electrical Testing) for the Washington Academy & High School renovation project to the Board members.

The Board discussed the revisions to Policy #200-18, Student Transportation. Dr. Whittington stated that he would not vote on the policy as he is not in favor of hiring Out of County residents.

The Board discussed Policy #600-21, Student Attendance. Vice Chairman Miles requested that the age limit be changed from age 5 to age 4 for students entering Pre Kindergarten.

It was moved Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to adjourn the open work session at 5:44 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Miles at 5:44 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. Reorganization of the Board

It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the

nomination of General Warner Sumpter as Board Chairman. General Sumpter accepted and the vote was carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the nomination of Ms. Green-Gale as the Vice Chairman of the Board. Ms. Green-Gale accepted and the vote was carried unanimously.

5. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Sumpter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve the minutes of December 13, 2011. The vote was unanimous.

7. Adoption of Agenda

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

8. Student Board Members' Activities Reports

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

9. Public Participation

Mr. Dan Kuebler addressed the Board expressing his concerns of Crisfield Academy and High School's AYP status. He stated if schools were consolidated the student teacher ratio would increase. Restructuring should not be an option and that it would not make sense to redesign the intermediate school. Mr. Kuebler expressed that Central Office does not need any additional staff and that a plan must be developed to improve student achievement.

Mr. Garland Hayward, town commissioner, expressed to the Board that the town meetings that had been held by the Superintendent had been very informative and questioned why parents are taking their children to other counties for education. He stated that the commissioners had discussed realignment to help improve student achievement.

Mr. Kirkland Hall, NAACP President, addressed the Board expressing that he was in favor of school reconstruction. He stated that the Board's decisions would impact the students' future careers and technology.

Mayor Purnell of Crisfield, addressed the Board stating that he is seeking a convincing answer as to why the schools should be combined. He stated that the parking lot is not big enough for the students that drive to school and that elected officials should do what the community

wants.

Ms. Zelma Hayward addressed the Board questioning Somerset's accreditation status. Ms. Hayward stated that it is difficult to predict that consolidation will not work and that SCPS should start from Administration down to teachers in restructuring.

Mr. John Phoebus, local attorney, addressed the Board stating the public had little input and the communities did not want their high schools closed.

Chairman Sumpter thanked everyone for their comments.

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

Vicki Nelson announced that the Christmas Club artist was a student from Washington High School. The student was unable to attend but will be presented with a Barnes & Noble gift certificate at a later date.

12. Economic Impact of Schools

Mr. Memo Direker, Director of BEACON, showed a presentation outlining the economic impact of schools to the community. He stated that education is an investment to the county and student success and achievement is important. The Board requested hard copies of the presentation.

13. Old Business

A. Facilities and Transportation and

Change Order Request

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

B. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

It was moved by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the revised job descriptions of the Learning Support Specialist and the Data Design Specialist. The vote was unanimous.

C. Policies

Policy 800-11, Title I Parent Involvement

It was moved by Mr. Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington to and passed to approve revised Policy 800-11, Title I Parent Involvement. The vote was unanimous.

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

It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve revised Policy 600-12, Student Enrollment/Attendance Eligibility/Pupil Assignment. The vote was unanimous. Ms. McLaughlin addressed Mr. Miles request to lower the Pre K enrollment age to age four stating the COMAR requires a child must be five years of age before attending Pre K.

Policy #200-18, Transportation

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Wells to approve the removal of the Somerset County requirement from the policy. The motion was carried with opposition from Mr. Miles and Chairman Sumpter.

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve Policy #200-18, Student Transportation. The vote was unanimously.

14. 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.

B. Instruction

2012 -2013 School Calendar

Mr. Bloodsworth presented the 2012-2013 School Calendar. Mr. Wells asked that Mr. Bloodsworth add Washington and Crisfield Academy and Schools commencement date to the calendar before the Board could vote.

Out of County Field Trip Requests

It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the SGA's request to attend the yearly conference in Ocean City, MD. With the stipulation that each school have a male and female chaperone. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Bloodsworth presented Crisfield High School's senior field trips requests. The Board requested additional information before a vote could be made.

C. Human Resources

Human Resources Report

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

15. Superintendent and Board Member Comments

Vice Chairman Green-Gale and Mr. Wells thanked the student Board members for their reports and thanked the community for the attendance and input.

Dr. Whittington thanked the community and the economic development for their presentation. He stated that there is a short timeline to initiate all the recommended changes and encouraged parental involvement. Dr. Whittington expressed that this is a difficult decision to make and that the community should provide other alternatives.

Dr. Miles thanked the community and Mr. Derikir for the presentation.

- 16. 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.

17. 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