



**Board Minutes  
Westover, Maryland  
July 19, 2011**

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By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in an open work session at 5:00 p.m., closed session on July 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal matters as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, §10-508(a)(9) of the State Government Article. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 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**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. All Board members were present. General Sumpter began with the discussion of the Transportation policy, #200-18. Vice Chairman Miles questioned the revision of the substitute point system and how those changes were effect bus route #3. He also questioned the previous driver approval recommendation.

Dr. Whittington was not in agreement with Vice Chairman Miles and questioned the hiring of Nick Moon. Dr. Whittington requested the names and scores for bus #28 route. This route which has been eliminated was previously awarded to Mike Greko whose contract was rescinded. Dr. Whittington also requested the results of the bus #28 contract compared to route #3 and expressed concern that interviews and evaluation scores are not consistent and that the committee was not fair. Mr. Daugherty requested that Mr. Lawson get this information to forward to the Board members. Mr. Wells questioned the June 2010 notes and review of Policy #200-18, Transportation stating that the policy was not reviewed at that time. Chairman Sumpter recommends that the revision of the policy be made with input from the bus contractors. He also stated that contract #3 was awarded under the old policy and that SCPS would have to have a good reason to deny the request. Vice Chairman Miles questioned the legality of the denial of the request to hire Nick Moon and the effective date of a new policy. Dr. Whittington expressed that he is not in favor of the current procedures and feels that we must follow rules under the current policy. Mr. Daugherty stated that when the policy was brought forward that no one suggested or requested any revisions. Chairman Sumpter added that he was not aware that bus contractors did not have to negotiate contracts and expressed that a vote on the transportation policy will be needed by August 22, 2011. Dr. Whittington was asked if he would be willing to vote on the policy. Dr. Whittington is seeking fairness for everyone and is not in favor of the point system. The scores are not consistent, the same people applied for bus #28 with the same committee and scores seemed inflated for contract #3. Dr. Whittington requested Mr. Daugherty's confidentially in relation to future meetings. He also made the statement to Mr. Daugherty that "if you had handled this matter under me you wouldn't have a job". Mr. Daugherty's response was "I'll turn in my resignation tomorrow". The Board members continued with the discussion of the Transportation policy. Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that copies of the proposed changes to Policy #200-18, Transportation was mailed to all the contractors.

Vice Chairman Miles questioned the statement of John Asanovich “without the point system advantage for substitutes, SCPS will lose good substitute drivers who will leave the county to go elsewhere for permanent employment. Mr. Daugherty stated that the questions were geared toward the experience of the driver. General Sumpter stated that a meeting is needed with the contractors and a work session is needed before August 16, 2011 to gain input from the contractors on the revisions to the policy. Chairman Sumpter expressed how important it was to gain the input from the bus contractors and that the policy will remain open until the Board votes. Chairman Sumpter announced that there will be an open work session on August 2, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. to meet with the bus contractors at the J.M. Tawes Career and Technology Center.

Dr. Whittington stated that previous letter should have gone out to the contractors instead of the bus contractors’ substitutes. Ms. Miller stated that one the changes “Removal of Somerset County Resident” from Policy, 200-18, Pupil Transportation was recommended by the auditors.

It was moved by Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to adjourn the open work session meeting.

### **REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sumpter at 5:00 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all five Board members and the Superintendent 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 Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the minutes of June 30, 2011. The vote was unanimous.

**6. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was called to approve the agenda as presented. It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous.

**7. Public Participation**

Several Bus Contractors addressed the Board regarding the Transportation Policy, #200-18.

John Murray addressed the Board stating that it would be helpful if consideration would be made.

Nick Moon, a Somerset County resident applied for a bus contract for route #3. He asked the Board for consideration of his application and to keep the current policy.

Bernard Johnson addressed the Board. He stated that he has been driving for thirty years and that the awarding of the contract for bus route #3 was illegal and unfair. He agreed with the policy that Somerset residents get preference, but does not agree with substitutes getting priority. The policy committee should present revisions to the Board. Mr. Johnson questioned why some individuals did not think the Board members who are substitute bus drivers not vote. He stated that the Transportation Supervisor has a problem with certain contractors and that people took advantage of the illegal substitute preference. Mr. Johnson is concerned that eight contracts have been awarded and he has not been given one.

Jimmy Charles addressed the Board and questions the change in the policy. He questioned why substitutes should have to compete against current contractors.

John Asanovich stated that the transportation issue was not handled correctly, but that the interview decision should stay the same.

Joseph Asanovich expressed his concern on the legality of changing the current transportation policy after a contract has already been approved.

**8. A. Transportation and Facilities**

**Change Order Requests**

There were no change orders to report.

## **Transportation Policy, 200-18**

The item was removed from the agenda.

### **B. Policies**

#### **Policy 600-19, Student Assignment, Policy 600-21, Student Enrollment/Attendance Eligibility, Pupil Assignment**

These policies were presented for review and study and a vote at the next Board meeting. The Board stated that students should be enrolled during the beginning of the year.

## **10. New Business**

### **A. Finance**

#### **Monthly Finance Report**

Ms. Miller presented the monthly finance report and was thanked by the Board. Chairman Miles questioned the shortfall in State Revenue. Ms. Miller informed him that the state took back \$650,000 in unrestricted funds.

#### **Food Service Report**

Ms. Miller presented the Food Service report. Chairman Miles questioned why lunch expenses had not gone down. Ms. Miller will research. Chairman Sumpter requested that Ms. Riggins gather the food sales costs of items.

#### **Category Transfer Requests**

Ms. Miller presented the category transfer request. Vice Chairman Miles expressed concern regarding the category transfer amounts. Ms. Miller stated that SCPS had under budgeted insurance costs but future changes are expected to increase health insurance deficit.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve Ms. Miller's category transfer request with the stipulation that if any categories are in the negatives, Ms. Miller will conduct a phone poll. The vote was unanimous.

## **B. Human Resources**

### **Policies**

Policies #700-12, Sick Leave, #700-26, Tuition Reimbursement, and #700-35, Family and Medical Leave Act were presented to the Board for their review and study. Vice Chairman Miles stated that Policy 700-26, Tuition Reimbursement should include a clause that states “contingent upon continuous county employment”. He also stated that Mr. Lawson check on the grading practices of National Certification. Is a “C” to low? Dr. Miles explained that National Certification is a voluntary action of the teacher. Mr. Lawson assured Dr. Whittington that all teachers are given the information if they are interested in getting National Board Certification.

## **C. Student Services**

Policies #500-21, Extra Curricular Activities Eligibility, #600-15, Student Alcohol and Drug Abuse, #600-17, Standards of Social Behavior, #600-34, Student Bullying Harassment, Intimidation, and #600-36, Fighting were presented for the Board’s review and study and a vote at the August Board meeting. Vice Chairman Miles questioned the amount of days a student would be suspended and that the issue of fairness may arise. Dr. Miles stated that judgment calls must be made during student discipline and would depend on the severity of the incident. Ms. Carter will make suggested changes of the policies and present to the Board at the August Board meeting.

## **D. Out of County Student Transfer**

It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to table the Out of County Student Transfer Request. The vote was unanimous with all Board members in agreement.

## **E. Human Resources**

### **Job Descriptions**

Mr. Lawson presented revised job descriptions for a Media Specialist, a Technology Education Teacher, and a Teacher in Charge for the Board’s review and study.

### **Human Resources Report**

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve Mr. Lawson’s Human Resources Report. The vote was unanimous.

## **10. Superintendent and Board Member Comments**

Mr. Wells thanked the public for attending and welcomed Dr. Miles to Somerset County Public Schools. Dr. Whittington thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He explained to the public the reasons the Board has not voted on the Route #3 bus contract. Dr. Whittington stated that he is not an ally of the bus contractors, but is just looking for fairness for all parties involved, that current bus contractors should not be on the interview panel, and that the revised policy was never reviewed by the Board. The Route #3 bus contract will be delayed until the current transportation issues are resolved.

Chairman Sumpter thanked the public for attending and that the students are the most important.

- 11. August 2011** – A motion was called for by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve August 16, 2011 as the next open regular session. An open work session will be held at 4:00 p.m. to discuss facilities items, a closed session at 6:00 p.m. and an open regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous. There will be an open called special work session on August 2, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center.

## **14. Adjournment**

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Marjorie Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary