

**Minutes of Open Regular Session Meeting
J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center
June 5, 2013**

OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 4:03 p.m. Location: J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairman William Miles, Vice Chairman Robert Wells, Mr. Warner Sumpter, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, and Mr. Dan Kuebler; Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles; Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers; and Board Secretary Ms. Melissa Tilghman. Supervisors, Media and community members were also present.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion – Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Vice Chairman Wells and passed to approve amended agenda; motion carried unanimously

CLOSED MEETING:

4:09 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 10-508 of the **Annotated Code of Maryland**
Motion: Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Vice Chairman Wells and passed to approve the vote to enter into a closed meeting; motion carried unanimously

Approval of minutes

The approval of minutes was tabled.

Performed Administrative Functions – Section 10-503

Received and discussed administrative items

Discussed Personnel Matters (New Hires, Retires, Resignations)–Section 10-508(a) (1)

Received, reviewed and discussed personnel matters

Consulted with Attorney to Obtain Legal Advice – Section 10-508 (a)(7)

Received advice from the Board Attorney

Discussed Contracted Agreements – Section 10-508 (a)(14)

Received and discussed information received from Mr. Jefferson

PRESENT: Board Members: Vice Chairperson Robert Wells, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, Mr. Warner Sumpter, Mr. Dan Kuebler, and Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers; Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles; and Board Secretary Melissa Tilghman. Ms. Beth Whitelock (Human Resources Supervisor, Ms. Lisa Hopkins (Director of

Curriculum & Instruction) and Mr. Paul Jefferson Chief Operations Officer) were present for a portion of the meeting.

The Board convened in an Open Regular Meeting at - 6:14 p.m.

Public Participation

William Benson

Mr. Benson addressed the Board commenting on remarks about the school system and what must happen to make it more successful. He stated that a school system functions as a business and its product is education. In order to be successful, students are expected to lead productive and meaningful lives. Mr. Benson responded to the statements made by Washington High School students. He stated that those students supported Mr. Johnson and appreciated that Mr. Johnson supported the basketball team, but the focus should not be on sports, and statistically very few students will become professional sports players.

The following community members addressed the Board regarding their dissatisfaction with the performance of Somerset County School Board of Education members:

Zelma Hayward

Ms. Hayward testified to the Board regarding a letter presented to the Board requesting a legal hearing with the Board and the Concerned Citizens for the Advancement of Somerset County. The organization's letter addressed issues relating to improprieties, ethical issues, conflict of interest incidents, and policy violations of members of the Board. She stated that Vice Chairman Wells and Mr. Kuebler should recuse themselves from voting on any decisions made regarding Washington High School because of the prejudice that has been exhibited. Ms. Hayward expressed concern that if Vice Chairman Wells and Mr. Kuebler did vote on any issues concerning Washington High School, their decision would be biased. She also questioned the need in adding two assistant superintendent's to the budget.

Beatrice Wright and Shawn Barnes presented the following questions and comments:

- It is a violation of Board policies for Board members to post personnel matters on social media websites.
- It is the Chairman's responsibility to hold incompetent Board members accountable.
- Does the Board have substantial evidence to support the alleged claims of Mr. Johnson and has consideration been given that some reports may have been done out of malice?
- The Board should address the misconduct and gross behavior of school board members.
- Mr. Johnson is a credentialed, qualified and effective principal and deserves to retain his position.
- The parents and students support of Mr. Johnson are not being considered.

- The request of documented justification for considering moving Mr. Johnson from Washington Academy & High School
- The request that Board members be unbiased and investigate all complaints and allegations against Mr. Johnson

Cathy Landon

Ms. Cathy Landon, a substitute for bus #70, stated that Mr. Robert Hess, the bus contractor, is currently self-funding the cost of a bus aide. Ms. Landon requested the Board's consideration to fund the placement of bus aides on buses with discipline issues.

Chairman Miles thanked the community for their public comments.

Open Regular Session Minutes

The minutes were tabled until the June 18, 2013 Board meeting.

Announcement of Closed Meetings:

Chairman Miles announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in Closed Sessions on the following dates pursuant to Section 10-508(a) and Section 10-503 of the *Maryland Annotated Code* for the reasons listed below:

- May 14, 2013
- May 22, 2013
- May 23, 2013
- May 29, 2013
- June 05, 2013

NEW BUSINESS

Student Services

Attendance Policy, #600-07

Ms. Renee McLaughlin, Supervisor of Elementary Education, presented revisions to the Attendance Policy. Mr. Kuebler stated that Somerset County Public Schools should have higher attendance goals than the Maryland State Department of Education requires. Mr. Kuebler also requested to have family field trips included in the ten days that students are allowed to miss with a parent note. Ms. McLaughlin will provide the Board with an overall percentage of SCPS student attendance.

Mr. Kuebler requested that SCPS develop a matrix of student discipline issues and accompanying consequences.

Ms. Vicki Carter, Supervisor of Secondary Education, informed the Board that the Student Council committee at Washington and Crisfield High Schools are sponsoring the “Dare Not to Swear Project”. Mr. Kuebler asked that this project be expanded to Somerset Intermediate School.

Elementary School Classroom Expansion – The Promise Academy

Ms. McLaughlin provided the Board with an update on the expansion of the elementary classroom at Marion Sarah Peyton. She stated that two computers and laptops will be needed, four large coaster breakfast bags, and student desks with cubicles. Chairman Miles responded that while he is in favor of the classrooms being equipped for the additional students, he is concerned about the funding source. Mr. Kuebler requested that Ms. McLaughlin discuss her plan with the interim assistant superintendents and suggested that the funding be taken from the technology budget. Dr. Miles suggested that the Board wait until the new Interim Superintendent is in place and take time to plan for the additional students at the High Roads Academy.

Facilities and Transportation

Bus #55 Contract

A motion was called upon by Vice Chairman Wells, seconded by Mr. Sumpter and passed to approve Mr. Jefferson’s request to transfer the late Betty Reese’s, contract #55 to her son Mr. James Reese, Jr.; motion carried unanimously

Bus #2 Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Sumpter, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve Mr. Jefferson’s request to advertise for bus contract #2; motion carried unanimously.

Education Facilities Master Plan Approval

Mr. Jefferson presented the Facilities Master Plan to the Board for their review and study. He will revise and present at the June 18, 2013 Board meeting.

Human Resources Report

New Hires, Retirees, Resignations

A motion was called upon by Mr. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Kuebler and passed to approve the Revised Human Resources Report: motion carried unanimously.

New Hires: Crystal Cudnik, Raleigh Meddings, Gavin Parker, Caitlin Canoles, Sarah Lazzeri, and Michele Messick

Transfers: Shari Aigner, Heather Travis, Kirsten Gibson, Steve Millard, Rebecca Pratt, Delia Young, Jonathon Dolesh, and Kamesha Miller

Separations: Josh Coughran

A motion was called upon by Vice Chairman Wells, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve Part II of the Human Resources report; motion carried unanimously.

New Hires: Wendy Brady

Separations: Lisa Hopkins

Transfers: Zanae Allen-Ari

A motion was called upon by Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Mr. Warner Sumpter and passed to approve the hiring of the New Interim Superintendent, Mr. John Gaddis; motion carried unanimously.

Job Descriptions

Ms. Whitelock presented the Instructional Technology Coordinator's job description for the Board's review and study. Mr. Kuebler requested additional information on the description before final review.

Athletic Committee Update

Mr. Kuebler stated that the Athletic Committee should be led by the Assistant Superintendent. He requested that the committee look into purchasing new athletic uniforms.

Policy #500-32, Promotion/Retention

Ms. Holland presented SELAC's requested revisions to Policy #500-32, Promotion/Retention, for the Board's review and study.

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Miles introduced Dr. John Gaddis, new Interim Superintendent. Dr. Gaddis stated that his focus is on student achievement and the success of students. He is looking forward to beginning on July 1, 2013, and is requesting parent and community support.

The Board thanked Dr. Miles for her services for the students of Somerset County Public Schools, bringing common core into SCPS and wished her well. The community was thanked for attending.

Dr. Miles stated that Dr. Gaddis was a great fit for Somerset County and requested that the community and staff support him. She thanked her supporters and staff for their support while working for the Somerset County Public School System.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Miles announced that the Board will hold a Special Work Session on Monday, June 10, 2013 to review the Educational Facilities Master Plan and hold an open regular session on Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

Moved – Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Mr. Sumpter and passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent
Chairman William E. Miles,

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Board Secretary