

OPEN WORK SESSION

TIME: 7:10 a.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; and Board Secretary Melissa Tilghman. Supervisors were also present.

Chairman Miles called the meeting to order.

Motion – Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Mr. Sumpter to amend the Open Work Session agenda; motion carried unanimously

FACILITIES UPDATE

School Security

Mr. Jefferson informed the Board that the School Security Task Force has continued to check the schools for security threats and a report will be provided to the Board when checks are completed.

Athletic Fields/Public School Construction

Mr. Jefferson provided the Board with an update on the Athletic Fields and the Pole Building Construction.

HALF DAY SCHOOL SESSIONS

Dr. Miles explained to the Board that half day schools sessions count as a whole day for students and also allows teachers to obtain professional development during the rest of the school day. Elementary teachers have expressed that these days are successful. The secondary teachers do not agree.

POLICIES

Policy #700-58, Professional Duties and Responsibilities/Whistle Blower Policy

Dr. Miles presented the Whistle Blower Policy to the Board for their review and study.

Policy #100-13, School Board Meetings

Dr. Miles provided the Board with a summary of the School Board Meetings policy input meetings held on March 12, 2013, March 13, 2013 and March 21, 2013.

ACTION ITEM TOOL

Dr. Miles requested to add the criteria for the Retiree Recognition Program to the action item tool.

Motion – Mr. Sumpter and seconded by Mr. Kuebler to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and the Board convened in the open regular session at 7:10 p.m.

**Minutes of Open Regular Session Meeting
J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center
March 19, 2013**

OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 4:05 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; and Board Secretary Melissa Tilghman. Supervisors were also present. Vice Chairman Wells arrived at 4:10 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Ms. Green-Gale and seconded by Mr. Sumpter to adopt the amended agenda; motion carried unanimously.

The Board unanimously agreed that a Special Meeting would be held on April 3, 2013.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. William Robinson, UMES Public Relations Officer commended the Somerset County Public Schools students who participated in the UMES Spelling Bee. The activity went well and was well received.

CLOSED MEETING:

4:30 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 10-508 of the **Annotated Code of Maryland**
Motion: Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Mr. Wells; motion carried unanimously

Approval of minutes

Motion – Mr. Sumpter and seconded by Ms. Green-Gale to approve the revised minutes of January 15, 2013, January 22, 2013, and January 30, 2013; unanimously carried.

Performed Administrative Functions – Section 10-503

Board Governance was tabled until the April 3, 2013 Board Meeting.

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

PRESENT: Board Members: Vice Chairperson Robert Wells, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, Mr. Warner Sumpter, Mr. Dan Kuebler, and Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers; Superintendent Miles; and Board Secretary Tilghman. Human Resource Supervisor, Beth Whitelock was also present.

The Board reconvened in Open Regular Session - 7:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Open Regular Session Minutes

Motion – Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Mr. Wells to approve the minutes of January 15, 2013, January 22, 2013, January 30, 2013 and March 4, 2013. The Board unanimously agreed to defer the approval of minutes until the March Board meeting.

Announcement of Closed Meetings:

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

- March 4, 2013 (10:00 a.m. – 2:23 p.m.)
 - Performed Administrative Functions – Section 10-503
 - Board Governance

- March 4, 2013 (4:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
 - Approved minutes of February 6, 2013, February 19, 2013, and March 4, 2013
 - Performed Administrative Functions – Section 10-503
 - Discussed Personnel Matters – Section 10-508(a)
 - Received Advice from Legal Counsel – Section 10-508(a)(7)
 - Considered Matters that are related to negotiations – Section 10-508 (a)(9)

- March 19, 2013 (4:30 p.m. – 7:03 p.m.)
 - Approved minutes of January 15, 2013, January 22, 2013 and January 30, 2013
 - Performed Administrative Functions – Section 10-503
 - Discussed Personnel Matters – Section 10-508(a)
 - Discussed Matters not related to public business – Section 10-508(a)(2)
 - Received advice from Legal Counsel – Section 10-508(a)(7)

Public Participation

Mr. Matt Lankford voiced his concern for the children of Somerset County Public Schools. He stated that Worcester County has pre-engineer 12 credit program and made a recommendation to the Board to invest in a new Career & Technology Center. He also expressed his concern about the quality of school lunches and challenged the Board to purchase lunch from the schools.

Vice Chairman Wells expressed his concerns about the Washington High School issues. He was followed by Mrs. Wells adding that the WAHS principal threatens the 8th graders, sends out too many connect ed. calls, UMES dancers at the Pep rally were inappropriate and that the bad kids in the school should go.

Student Board Members' Activities Reports

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

OLD BUSINESS

HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Description

Motion – Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Vice Chairman Wells to approve the revised job descriptions of the Maintenance Courier and Custodial Trainer, Local Accountability Coordinator, Student Information Specialist, Paraprofessional, and Paraprofessional – Special Education Instructional Assistant; unanimously carried.

Policies

Motion – Mr. Kuebler and seconded Vice Chairman Wells to approve the revised policy #700-57, Employee Use of Social Media; unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum & Instruction

Ms. Hopkins presented an update on the common core curriculum and instructional plans. Mr. Kuebler requested the following:

- # of students in need of Summer remediation
- Summer Camp remediation update
- STEM Education Report
- # of students taking SAT's
- Summer camp development for teachers and students

The Board questioned how close teachers were in being ready for the common core transition change.

Finance – Monthly Finance and Food Service Reports

The board discussed the presented finance reports. Ms. Smoker informed the Board that the staff corrected a glitch in the E-finance system in Fixed Charges which has increased the budget. Ms. Smoker informed the Board that she was hoping to be done restructuring the e-finance system by July 1, 2013.

Ms. Smoker informed the Board that the food service budget has a balance of \$3,105 and that Ms. Riggins, Mr. Blye, and Mr. Jefferson were working diligently to reduce product and food service fees. Mr. Kuebler requested a line item detailing where the money is going that the food service department pays for utility costs.

Mr. Blye informed the Board that the auditors are scheduled to be at the SCPS Board office and that finance is trying to get into compliance. Mr. Sumpter explained that if the legislative audit reports the same issues three or more times, they will report to MSDE who could then decrease funding from the SCPS budget. Mr. Blye assured the Board that the system would be in better shape by July.

STUDENT SERVICES

School-based Health Care Center

Ms. Carter presented the Student Services report to the Board members. Phase I of a school-based health center to be housed at Washington Academy & High Schools is underway once it is approved. The schools nurse will triage students before sending them to the health care center. Insurance companies will be billed for payment of services.

Attendance

Ms. Carter presented student attendance data to the Board. The Board expressed concern about the attendance of the 8th and 9th graders. Ms. Carter stated that she is hoping mediation with parents on student truancy and behavior issues will help increase attendance. Mr. Kuebler expressed his concern of the bad language in Washington Academy & High School. He suggested that a “Dare not to Swear” program be implemented.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Ms. Johnson provided an update on the Special Education Program. She will be attending an upcoming meeting with the High Road Program Director. Ms. Johnson is also looking

to change staff around for Special Education. She informed the Board that the comprehensive classes are requesting additional assistance and that the classrooms are in need of technology upgrades. Dr. Miles added that Special Education is looking to hire Speech Pathologists. The current part-time pathologists will become a full-time position.

Ms. Johnson was pleased to announce that, in addition to the Culinary Arts Program at Wor Wic Tech, a Forklift Program has been added to the Comprehensive classroom curriculum.

FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

Bus Driver Training Requests

Motion- Mr. Sumpter and seconded by Ms. Green-Gale to approve Mr. Jefferson's substitute bus driver training requests; unanimously approved.

POLICIES

Policy #700-58, Whistle Blower Policy

Dr. Miles presented the Whistle Blower Policy for the Board's review and study. Suggested revisions were given to the Superintendent.

Human Resources

New Hire, Retires, Resignations

Motion: Mr. Wells and seconded by Ms. Green-Gale to approve the Human Resources report; motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OF EDUCATION'S SELF EVALUATION REPORT

This item was tabled.

EWELL FIELD TRIP REQUEST

Motion: Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Vice Chairman Wells to approve Ewell School's Field trip request to Philadelphia; unanimously carried

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The Board thanked the staff for their reports and the community for attending. Vice Chairman Wells asked that the Board consider school activities when scheduling meetings. Dr. Miles thanked the student Board members for their reports.

Chairman Miles thanked everyone for the presentation of student achievement strategies and welcomed any funding suggestions.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved – Vice Chairman Wells and seconded by Ms. Green-Gale to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.; unanimously carried

The Board reconvened in closed session at 9:50 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:31 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Wells expressed concern about the climate at Washington Academy & High School. Mr. Kuebler expressed his concern that discipline issues at WAHS were being covered up.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion – Ms. Green-Gale and seconded by Mr. Sumpter to approve the adjournment of the meeting at 10:50 p.m.; unanimously carried.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Board Secretary