



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in an open work session at 5:10 p.m. to discuss policies and facilities items and a closed session at 6:15 p.m. on March 20, 2012 to discuss personnel matters as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, S10-508(a) of the State Government Article. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Green-Gale, Mr. Miles, Dr. Whittington, Mr. Wells, 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 Green-Gale, Mr. Miles, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Superintendent Dr. Marjorie Miles, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in a closed session meeting on March 8, 2012 to discuss personnel matters as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, S10-508 (a) (1)(i) of the State Government Article at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. All Board members were present.

OPEN WORK SESSION

TRANSPORTATION AND FACILITIES

Design for HVAC Renovation (Greenwood Elementary School)

Chairman Sumpter called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Ms. Tilghman called the roll indicating that all Board members were present. Mr. Daugherty presented his request that the GES HVAC renovation contract be awarded to Gipe Engineering. Chairman Sumpter requested that Mr. Daugherty obtain additional bids for the HVAC contract.

Design for Bus Route #3, #41, and #58

Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that Mr. & Mrs. Collins of Bus Route #3 do not want to continue running the route after this year and requests the Board's permission to advertise for the route. Chairman Sumpter requested that the Board members receive a copy of all correspondence from the previous Route #3 advertisement to review and study before voting on approval to re-advertisement the route.

Motion – Mr. Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and unanimously passed to hold the vote on eliminating bus Route #41 as further discussion is needed.

Mr. Ruthman (Rookie) Dize will be requesting permission to advertise for Route #58 at the next Board meeting.

Michelle Bradshaw has been granted approval to drive the Ewell school van. This does not include authorization to drive a bus.

FOG DELAY COMPLAINT

Mr. Mitchell Sampson addressed the Board with concerns related to the Board not deciding to delay schools on the morning of May 8, 2012. Mr. Daugherty explained that the bus contractors are

authorized to pull over into a Safe Haven if they deem it necessary. Chairman Sumpter followed explaining that the bus contractors are the best individuals to make a decision and inform the Board of hazardous road conditions.

OUT OF COUNTY STUDENT ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Ms. McLaughlin presented the Board members with requested information related to the current number of out of county students attending Somerset County Public Schools.

POLICY #200-14, BIDDING AND PURCHASING

Ms. Miller presented revised Policy #200-14, Bidding and Purchasing for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the April 17, 2012 Board meeting.

POLICY #400-25, DISASTER & EMERGENCY PLANS

Mr. Daugherty presented the revisions to Policy #400-25, Disaster & Emergency Plan. The revisions are change with wording of civil defense to Office of Emergency Management.

POLICY #600-12, UNIFORM EXPANSION INITIATIVE

The Board members discussed the Uniform Expansion Initiative to the secondary schools. Chairman Sumpter questioned the addition of professional dress days.

POLICY #700-13, Work Schedule and Leave for Employees of SCPS

The Board discussed Policy #700-13, Work Schedule. Ms. Beth Whitelock presented the revision to the policy. Annual leave days will no longer be accrued for rehire/retirees. Retirees can be paid for any unused personal days, up to three days. Several counties were converting unused vacation days to sick leave which is no longer allowed. This would affect approximately twenty employees.

POLICY #700-56, PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

Dr. Miles presented the new policy #700-56, Progressive Discipline for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the April 17, 2012 Board meeting.

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

The Board members discussed the possibilities of becoming a member of the Middle States Accreditation Association. Dr. Miles stated that Middle States membership would help improve the entire system and provide students with career readiness. Chairman Sumpter requested that the budget be taken into consideration and expressed concern about impact of membership costs on the budget.

ORDER OF BOARD MEETINGS

It was the consensus of opinion of the Board to rearrange the Board Meetings. Closed meetings will be held first, followed by the open work session, and then the open regular meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved – Ms. Green-Gale and seconded by Dr. Whittington to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sumpter at 7:10 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. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Sumpter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

Moved - Mr. Miles and seconded by Vice Chairman Green-Gale and passed to approve the minutes of January 31, 2012, February 2, 2012, and February 21, 2012.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session on March 8, 2012 at 4:03 p.m., March 20, 2012 at 6:20 p.m and on April 2, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and negotiations as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, S10-508(a)(1)(i)(ii) and (9) of the State Government Article.

6. Adoption of Agenda

Moved - Mr. Miles and seconded by Mr. Wells and passed unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

Items added: Recognition to GES and DIS for making AYP,

Items removed: Policy #800-02, Parent Involvement in Education, Responsibilities, Alternative Governance Plan, Superintendent's Budget Priorities and Out of State Travel

7. Student Board Members' Activities Reports

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

8. Public Participation

Mitchell Sampson addressed the Board with his concern that the Promise Academy was being turned into a Charter School. Dr. Miles explained that UMES has partnered with Somerset

County Public Schools to provide mentoring and tutoring for the students attending the Promise Academy.

9. Eastern Shore Counselor’s Conference Art Contest Winner

Dr. Miles and Ms. McLaughlin announced the second place winner of the Eastern Shore Counselor’s Conference Art Contest Winner, a student at Washington Academy & High School.

10. MABE Presentation

Dr. Bauer and Carl Smith of the Maryland Association of Board of Education showed a presentation to the Board on the services that MABE provides.

11. State AYP Recognition

Dr. Miles presented awards to GES and WES for receiving recognition from the State for making AYP.

12. Old Business

A. Policies

Uniform Expansion Initiative

McLaughlin provided the Board with an update of information in regards to the uniform expansion initiative to the high schools. Lieutenant Plunkard of the Maryland State Department of Education stated that dressing in uniforms have impacted and helped law enforcement officers. He expressed that wearing uniforms would help identify criminals within the schools, would be cost effective, and that students’ relationships with each other would be better because students would not be judging others students on how they are dressed.

Dr. Whittington stated that Ms. McLaughlin should talk with students and prepare students on how to dress for professional days and well as getting the input on wearing uniforms.

POLICY #600-43

Moved - Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Wells and unanimously passed to approve revised Policy #600-43, Gang Activity or Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior.

POLICY #800-2

Policy, #800-2, Parent/Guardian Involvement in Education Responsibilities was removed from the agenda.

B. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

Moved – Mr. Miles, Seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and unanimously passed to approve the revised job descriptions for Computer Technician and Secondary Math Science STEM Supervisor.

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Finance

Monthly and Food Service Finance Report

Ms. Miller presented the Monthly Finance and Food Service Reports to the Board members. The Board members thanked her for the information.

MSDE Audit of State Aid Programs

The Board members questioned Ms. Miller on several issues listed in the MSDE State Audit. Ms. Miller and Ms. Whitelock informed the Board that the concerns brought up from the Audit have been identified, addressed and corrected.

Policy #200-14, Bidding and Purchasing

Ms. Miller presented the revised Policy #200-14, Bidding and Purchasing for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the April Board meeting.

Category Transfer

Moved - Mr. Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve Ms. Miller's category transfer request. The vote was unanimous.

B. Alternative Governance Plan

Item removed from agenda.

C. Superintendent's Budget Priorities

Item Removed from agenda.

D. Policies

Policy #400-25, Disaster & Emergency Plans

Mr. Daugherty presented Policy #400-25, Disaster & Emergency Plans for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the April Board meeting.

Policy #700-56, Progressive Discipline

Ms. Whitelock presented Policy #700-56, Progressive Discipline for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the April Board meeting.

E. Facilities and Transportation

Design for GES HVAC Renovation

It was the consensus of the opinion of the Board that Mr. Daugherty hold open bidding for the contract for the HVAC Renovation of Greenwood Elementary School.

F. Human Resources

Human Resources Report

Moved – Mr. Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and unanimously passed to approve Ms. Whitelock's Human Resources report.

New Hires: Michele McGoogan

Retirements: Tara Ward, Marshall Becoat, Rodger Daugherty

Resignations: Joseph Cordier, Vicki Miller, Barbara Kirkland-Elsey, Kelly Taylor
Ruthman Dize

Job Descriptions

Ms. Whitelock presented the revised job descriptions for the Media Specialist and the Executive Assistant to the Board for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the April Board meeting.

Out of State Travel

Removed

14. April 17, 2012 Board Meeting

Moved – Vice Chairman Green-Gale, seconded Mr. Miles and passed to move the Board April 17, 2012 Board meeting from Ewell School to J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center. This change was made to accommodate the community in attending the presentation of the budget.

15. Superintendent and Board Member Comments

The Board thanked the Student Board members for their report. Dr. Miles announced that Vicki Miller will be resigning and will be going to work for the commissioners.

Chairman Sumpter thanked the parents, the community and MABE for their attendance.

16. April 2012 – Moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve April 17, 2012 as the next Board meeting. A closed session will be held at 5:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, S10-508(a) of the State Government Article. A work session will follow at 6:00 p.m. and an open regular session at 7:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

17. Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Board Secretary