

**Minutes of Special Work Session Open Meeting
Westover, Maryland
May 14, 2013**

TIME: 9:34 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 Marjorie Miles; Board Secretary Melissa Tilghman and Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers. Supervisors were also present.

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

Tracie Holland, Supervisor of Elementary Education and Chairman of the Somerset Early Learning Advisory Council (SELAC), introduced herself. SELAC is a committee developed four months ago and its focus is on developing plans to make early childhood learning a priority to ensure kindergarteners are ready for school. The committee has partnered with various local agencies throughout the community; such as, the Lower Shore Resource Center, the Department of Social Services, UMES, Delmarva Healthy Families, etc.

Ms. Lily Welch, Woodson Elementary School Principal, requested the Board's consideration in the expansion of the High Roads Academy to those students at the elementary level that are more challenging to teach than others. A breakdown of Woodson Elementary School's discipline data was presented. Ms. Welch stated that intensive intervention resources are needed to help struggling students achieve. She stated that teachers are struggling trying to balance instruction within the classroom.

Ms. Cheryl O'Neal, Greenwood Elementary School Principal, stated that schools have phenomenal support services, but these services have not helped the students requiring additional labor and assistance from staff. She stated that most of the students that would benefit from the expansion of the High Road Academy are very bright, but do not function well within the regular classroom setting. Ms. O'Neal added that in order for the High Roads Academy to be successful, referred students would have to attend for years and that secondary schools have more support and alternatives than the elementary schools. Mr. Kuebler added that 1% of students are causing a lapse in Student Achievement

Chairman Miles questioned the principals' concern of student behavior problems verses academics and stated that Student Services should work with additional organizations to address student emotional issues that may be the cause of students' disruption in their academic success.

Mr. Sumpter thanked the principals for their presentation. He stated that attendance at the High Roads Academy can be an incentive to correct behavioral problems and can be an opportunity to help at risk students.

Ms. Renee McLaughlin, Student Services Supervisor, noted that trained staff are needed to handle challenging students in need of additional assistance and that parents need to be more involved.

Dr. Lynette Johnson, Special Education Supervisor, provided the guidelines for High Roads acceptance and stated that only Special Education students can attend the High Roads Academy based on the provisions of the grant. She noted that MSDE is willing to provide professional development to all teachers to train them in providing instruction to Special Education and those students identified as “challenging” but not considered Special Education students.

Ms. Elizabeth Marshall, Princess Anne Elementary School’s Vice Principal, informed the Board that high challenging students affect the learning climate in the classrooms. She stated that referral numbers are from repetitive discipline problems from the same students.

Ms. Brandy Brady, Deal Island Elementary School Principal, reported that DIS currently has no potential High Roads students.

Dr. Miles informed the Board of the development of an in-school High Roads Academy at Princess Anne Elementary School. Ms. Marshall stated that due to the amount of manpower needed to facilitate the onsite High Roads classroom, the principal has decided not to continue this program next year.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that the elementary schools could develop several viable options to help challenging students. Ms. McLaughlin, along with the elementary principals, will look into the budget for funding of the presented options and present to the Board by 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Whitelock testified that principal input and recommendations were considered when developing the 2013-2014 budget. She stated that the focus should be on providing professional development to assist teachers in handling discipline issues within the classroom. Ms. Whitelock asked that the Board be made aware that if the elementary principals add line items to the budget, they will also have to be willing to accept the reduction or removal of other requested items within the budget.

Mr. Sumpter stated that elementary school interventions are needed for student achievement. He addressed the impact of substitute staffing costs and funding for intervention programs.

Mr. Kuebler stated that the commissioners appointed him to serve on the SELAC committee, that principals seem to be passionate about change in the elementary schools and that intervention should begin by the 3rd grade at a minimum.

The work session was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

TIME: 10:48 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 Marjorie Miles; Board Secretary Melissa Tilghman and Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers. Supervisors, community members and the media were also present.

Chairman Miles declared a quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Adoption of Agenda

Motion – Vice Chairman Wells and seconded by Mr. Sumpter to adopt the agenda; Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED MEETING

10:51 a.m. – Pursuant to Section 10-508 of the **Annotated Code of Maryland**

Motion: Mr. Sumpter and seconded by Vice Chairman Wells; Motion carried unanimously

DISCUSSED PERSONNEL MATTERS – SECTION 10-508 (a)(1)

Received, discussed and approved personnel matters and related issues.

PERFORMED ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS – SECTION 10-503

Reviewed and discussed Board Administrative issues

CONSULTED WITH COUNSEL TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE

Received legal advice from Board Attorney

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 Secretary Melissa Tilghman and Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers; Ms. Beth Whitelock was present for a portion of the meeting.

Reconvened in Open Special Session at 12:35 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance – FY2013-2014 School Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Kuebler and passed to approve the addition of two interim assistant superintendents and an Instructional Technology Coordinator in the budget. There will be an assistant superintendent of administration and an assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction; Motion carried unanimously.

Elementary Principals

The elementary school principals presented the Board with viable options of intervention solutions which would allow them to include the addition of the eight slots at the Promise Academy. The principals requested that the budget be amended to include the reduction or removal of the following line items:

- Postponement of the Promethean Board Initiative - \$35,000
- Deletion of Number Cases for Origo - \$12, 852
- Reduction in Office Supply money - \$9,000
- New WES Special Education assistant transferred to the Somerset Promise Academy

A motion was made by Mr. Kuebler, seconded by Mr. Sumpter and passed to approve Mr. Kuebler's request to have his Board stipend used by the elementary principals to help with the implementation of the eight additional slots in the High Roads Academy for K-5 students.

Human Resources Report

New Hire, Retires and Resignations

A motion was made by Mr. Sumpter, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve Ms. Whitelock's Human Resources report; unanimously carried.

Public Comments

None

Superintendent & Board Member Comments

Mr. Sumpter reported on the meeting that was held at the Maryland State Department of Education regarding revisions in discipline regulations.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion – Mr. Sumpter and seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to adjourn the meeting at **1:15 p.m.**; motioned carried unanimously.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Board Secretary