

**Minutes of Open Regular Session Meeting
J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center
May 22, 2013**

OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 4:00 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 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 – Mr. Sumpter and seconded by Ms. Green-Gale to approve the amended agenda; motion carried unanimously

CLOSED MEETING:

4:09 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 10-508 of the **Annotated Code of Maryland**
Motion: Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Mr. Sumpter; motion carried unanimously

Performed Administrative Functions – Section 10-503

Received and discussed administrative items

Approved the waiver of teachers' missed days due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy

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

Received, reviewed, discussed and approved personnel matters

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

Received advice from the Board Attorney

Discussed Negotiated Agreements – Section 10-508 (a)(9)

Discussed negotiated agreements

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

The Board convened in an Open Regular Session - 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Miles announced the Board's decision to waive the three days staff missed due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

Public Participation

Several members of the community addressed the Board with their questions and concerns.

Mr. William Cain testified that the Board has only one employee, and that is the Superintendent. He stated that the request to remove Mr. William Johnson from the principal position at Washington Academy & High School is not related to the color of his skin, and in the past, ineffective principals have been removed.

Ms. Zelma Hayward testified that the Board comments made by Vice Chairman Wells and Mr. Kuebler indicating that Washington Academy & High School is "out of control" are unfounded. She stated that Crisfield Academy & High School should be labeled "Out of Control" as well. Ms. Hayward questioned the Board as to who called the Police to the April 16, 2013 Board meeting at Somerset Intermediate School.

Ms. Jeania Lankford testified that school administrators could be more effective.

Mr. Matt Lankford testified that the Somerset County Public School's staff and transportation supervisor, Mr. Jefferson were incompetent. Mr. Lankford was upset that the Board members and the County Commissioners had not been invited to attend the tour of the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center and Crisfield Academy & High School. The tour included Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Lankford and Dr. David Lever, Executive Director of the Public School Construction Program. Mr. Lankford also questioned the vote made at the April 16, 2013 Board meeting in which he stated that the Board approved the expansion of the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center.

Mr. Kirkland Hall thanked Mr. Lawson and staff for their assistance during the Student NAACP Recognition Awards. Mr. Hall addressed the Board's decision in the hiring of two assistant superintendents and if any community input was involved when these changes were made to the budget.

Ms. Bonnie Wells testified that the Spring Formal was awesome and thanked Mr. Kirkwood Cottman for his assistance at the formal. She questioned why the community is in support of Mr. Johnson, but, did not support Ms. Monique Ward when she was transferred from Crisfield High School as principal to Somerset Intermediate School as vice principal.

Mr. Garland Hayward, Town Commissioner, requested that two way communications be made between the community and the Board members. He asked that the Board meet with the Concerned Citizens for the Advancement of Somerset County. Mr. Kuebler requested that the

community's requests be sent in writing.

United Way Presentation

Mr. Leo Lawson and Vicki Nelson introduced Pam Gregory, United Way representative. Ms. Gregory thanked the schools for their assistance and commitment to helping the United Way foundation and distributed participation awards to each school principal.

Outstanding Volunteer Recognition

Mr. Lawson introduced the following school volunteers and thanked them for their dedicated commitment and assistance in helping the students.

Carter G. Woodson: Mark Labo, Jennifer Clayton, Rose Tilghman, Eddie McCready, Julie Payne, Lorie Bishop, Kirston Brown, Audrey Waters, Pete Dashiell, Arlene Avery, Willie Smullen, Jeanette Christman, Amanda Ford

Deal Island: Barbara Jennings and Katie Kelly

Greenwood Elementary: Benita Rashaw

Princess Anne Elementary: Dino Ravizza and Paula Todd

Parent Involvement Matters Award Winners (PIMA)

Mr. Lawson presented awards to Muno Elobaid, Tammy Zink and Chris Parkes for being named the Parent Involvement Matters Award winners. Ms. Martinez Aurelio was the 2012-2013 overall winner.

ROTC Cadet College Credits

Major Kennemuth requested the Board's approval to allow the ROTC program to collaborate with Adams State University in providing college credits for completing a 120 hour course a semester. Each student will have to maintain a B+ average for the credit. The Board requested additional information about the credit courses.

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
 - Reviewed and approved closed meeting minutes
 - Discussed Personnel Matters – Section 10-508 (a)(1)

- New Hires, Retires, Resignations
- Performed Administrative Functions – Section 10-503
- Received Advice from Legal Counsel – Section 10-508 (a) (7)
- Discussed matters related to Negotiated Agreements – Section 10-508 (a) (9)
- May 22, 2013
 - Reviewed and approved closed meeting minutes
 - Discussed Personnel Matters – Section 10-508 (a)(1)
 - New Hires, Retires, Resignations
 - Performed Administrative Functions – Section 10-503
 - Received Advice from Legal Counsel – Section 10-508(a)(7)
 - Discussed Negotiated Matters – Section 10-508 (a)(9)

Approval of Open Regular Session Minutes

The Board unanimously agreed to table the approval of minutes.

Student Board Members' Activities Reports

The student Board representatives presented their school reports. The Board thanked the students and congratulated them on their future journeys.

NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum & Instruction

Life Skills Course Development

Ms. Hopkins informed the Board that a Life Skills Course is being developed and will be implemented into the curriculum. She will cross check with what Somerset County Public Schools offers and what other states offer in their curriculum.

Math Transition Common Core Review Plan

Ms. Michelle McGoogan and Ms. Tracie Schnieder showed a presentation on the Math Transition Common Core Review plan. Ms. McGoogan stated that Common Core subjects will be more vigorous. The outlay of the current curriculum is geared towards helping students gain more fluency in math. Mr. Kuebler requested an update in August, after teacher professional development and workshops are held.

Summer Camp

Ms. Holland presented the Board with the summer camp schedule for the elementary school students. The program will begin on July 1, 2013 and run until July 18, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Transportation will be provided.

Mr. Elebash provided a tentative schedule for secondary summer school which will begin July 22, 2013 and run through August 8, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Math and Reading interventions will be provided for grades 6-8, credit recovery courses will be for grades 9-12, and enrichment sessions will be provided for grades 6 – 12.

Washington High School Update

Mr. William Johnson, Washington High School principal, introduced himself. He responded to several Board members negative statements about him at Board meetings, to the community and in the media. Mr. Johnson testified that he has taken every effort to become part of the community and is appalled by the negative comments from the Board members, especially Mr. Kuebler, whom he has never personally met or had any type of dialogue with. Mr. Johnson presented discipline data and referrals and stated that there has been a 51.3% decrease in discipline infractions from the 2010-2011 school year.

Strategic Plan

Dr. Miles informed the Board that the Master Plan can be used for Strategic Planning and stated that the Board must set goals for the superintendent. The Board requested a sample copy of the Middle States strategic plan.

Financial Updates

Budget Category Transfers

A motion was called upon by Mr. Kuebler, seconded by Vice Chairman Wells, and passed to approve Ms. Smoker's category transfer request. Mr. Kuebler requested that Ms. Smoker send out a "Thank You" letter to the commissioners and include information describing the Somerset County Public Schools "buyout" clause.

Finance and Food Service Report

Mr. Kuebler questioned comp-time payouts impact on the budget. Ms. Smoker informed the Board that the food service budget is currently in the positive by \$16,025.00

Facilities and Transportation

Mr. Jefferson apologized for not informing the Board and commissioners about Dr. Lever's visit. He also expressed his dissatisfaction with Mr. Lankford calling him incompetent. Mr. Jefferson explained that the Capital Improvement plan was flawed before he was hired into the Facilities and Transportation position. He requested the same value and worth be put into the operations department as in other departments in regards to the budget. Mr. Jefferson has received a \$10,000 school security grant and informed the Board that he

would be receiving over \$400,000 in Washington Academy & High School renovation reimbursements.

Mr. Jefferson informed the Board that revisions are needed in the Transportation Policy, #200-18. Mr. Kuebler requested that the committee include input from the business sector.

Mr. Jefferson informed the Board that he was looking into the school crossing concerns of the community. Mr. Sumpter testified that he has noticed the problem and the entrance to Washington Academy & High School from Route 113 is a safety concern.

Vice Chairman Wells requested that the Board review the priorities of the School Safety report.

The Board was informed that the Crisfield Academy & High School's athletic fields were nearly complete and that the irrigation system had been repaired. Mr. Kuebler requested that the bleachers be repaired for Washington High School's first football game. He also requested a schedule of tasks and timeline of facility improvements for each school. Mr. Sumpter added that the bid proposals must include all repairs listed in previous bids.

Mr. Kuebler asked Mr. Jefferson to update the Board on the status of food quality improvement within the schools. Mr. Jefferson noted that five food service staff would be attending a culinary boot camp this summer. Those staff will then bring information back to the other food service staff on food quality improvement.

Human Resources

New Hires, Retires, and Resignations

A motion was called upon by Mr. Kuebler, seconded by Mr. Sumpter and passed to approve the Human Resources report presented by Ms. Beth Whitelock; motion carried unanimously. *(A copy of the report is attached to the formal minutes)*

Job Descriptions

A motion was called upon by Mr. Kuebler, seconded by Mr. Sumpter and passed to accept the draft job descriptions of the Interim Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and the Interim Assistant Superintendent of Administration presented by Ms. Whitelock; motion carried unanimously

Superintendent and Board Member Comments

The Board thanked the community for attending. Ms. Green-Gale and Chairman Miles added that the Board is listening to the community requests and concerns but need time to discuss before replying. Mr. Kuebler stated that it's all about student achievement.

Chairman Miles announced that the Somerset County Board of Education will hold a Special Open meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2013 at the UMES Henson Center at 8:45 a.m. to immediately vote to convene in a closed meeting to perform personnel matters (Section 10-508 (a)(1) of the Maryland Annotated Code).

The Board reconvened in a closed meeting at 9:59 p.m.

Present at this closed meeting were Board Members: Chairman William Miles, Vice Chairman Robert Wells, Mr. Warner Sumpter, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, and Mr. Dan Kuebler; Mr. Paul Jefferson, Mr. David Elebash, Ms. Beth Whitelock, and Ms. Nancy Smoker were also present.

Vice Chairman Wells requested that Ms. Tilghman not attend this portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent
William M. Miles, Board of Education Chairman

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Board Secretary