

**Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
Westover, Maryland
September 18, 2012**

TIME: 3:45 p.m. **Location: Carter G. Woodson Elementary School**

PRESENT: Board Members: Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, Mr. Miles, Mr. Wells, and Dr. Whittington; Superintendent Miles; and Board Secretary Tilghman. Also present were supervisors, public observers, and media representatives. Chairman Sumpter arrived at 4:55 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Adoption of Agenda

Motion – Mr. Miles and seconded by Mr. Wells to adopt the amended agenda; unanimously carried

Approval of Minutes:

June 19, 2012
June 26, 2012
June 28, 2012
July 17, 2012
July 31, 201
August 8, 2012
August 16, 2012
August 21, 2012

Motion – Mr. Miles and seconded Mr. Wells; unanimously carried

Announcement of Closed Meeting

Vice Chairperson Green-Gale announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in Closed Session on September 13, 2012 from 2:03 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. pursuant to Section 10-508 of the *Maryland Annotated Code* for the reasons listed below:

- Reviewed and approved closed meeting minutes
- Discussed personnel matters – Section 10-508(a)(1)
- Performed administrative functions – Section 10-503

Legal Counsel did not attend.

Student Board Members' Activities Reports

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

Public Participation

Heard Public Comments from:

Jennifer Landon expressed concern regarding uniform issues. She is concerned about the different shades of blues that are allowed. Some schools are allowing students to wear black polo shirts which are not in the school handbook. Ms. Landon also commented on the new logo. She stated that she had researched the symbol and discovered that local gangs use the pyramid symbol and that she had verified her concern with the Crisfield police department.

Mitch Simpson expressed his concern about not being able to speak during Board meetings. He stated that the Board will not allow the public to have input and will not provide responses to individual questions and requested that work session be held before Board meetings. Mr. Simpson also questioned the status of the Wind Turbine Project and requested that working sessions be held before the regular board meetings. Mr. Simpson also expressed concern about minutes not being approved and posted to the website.

Paula Todd, CHS parent and Athletic Booster Coordinator, addressed the Board requesting financial support of the Board for athletics. She stated that funding has not be distributed equally among the two high schools, CHS is in need of outside lights, fields need to be graded and seeded, need for bleachers, players are getting hurt and tripping in field holes, non-working score board for indoor and outdoor sports, and the two year old softball field needs improvement. She stated that the Board should take Crisfield High School's needs into consideration and that CHS is the corner stone of the community.

OLD BUSINESS

Policies

#200-21, Guidelines for Releasing School System & Individual School Information

Moved – Dr. Whittington and seconded by Mr. Miles; unanimously approved

#300-11, Vendor Relations

Moved – Dr. Whittington and seconded by Mr. Miles; unanimously approved

#500-27, Home Instruction

Moved – Dr. Whittington and seconded by Mr. Miles; unanimously carried

#600-42, Use of Video Cameras for Security

Moved – Dr. Whittington and seconded by Mr. Wells; unanimously carried

#800-09, Public Information and Communications

Moved – Dr. Whittington and seconded by Mr. Wells; unanimously carried

NEW BUSINESS

Monthly Finance and Food Service Reports

These items were removed from the agenda.

Curriculum & Instruction

State Assessment Data Presentation

Ms. Hopkins presented Curriculum and Instruction report on the new teacher evaluation module that SCPS will be piloting this year. The new state model focuses on student achievement and instruction. RTTT funding requires the county to pilot the new state teacher evaluation module as a practice run for the first year. Evaluations will be based on 50% observation and 50% student achievement measures. Non tenure teachers will be evaluated four times a year and tenured teachers will be evaluated twice a year.

Out of County Field Trip Request

Motion – Mr. Miles and seconded by Mr. Wells; unanimously carried to approve the presented Out of County Field Trip Requests.

Policies

Policy #700-26, Tuition Reimbursement

Ms. Whitelock presented Policy #700-26, Tuition Reimbursement for the Board’s review. If approved, tuition reimbursement is contingent upon the grade of a “B”.

TRANSPORTATION

School Bus Discipline Guidelines

The School Bus Discipline Guidelines presented to the Board was taken for review.

Substitute Bus Driver Training

Moved – Mr. Miles and seconded by Mr. Wells to approve the presented names of potential Bus Substitute Driver Trainees.

HUMAN RESOURCES – NEW HIRE, RETIREES, RESIGNATIONS

Moved – Mr. Miles and seconded by Chairman Sumpter; unanimously carried

Separation/Resignation

Cynthia Anderson, Willie Rogers, Trudy Johannig, Henry Brown, William Cotton

Rehires

Janise Bell, Kim Swann

Transfers

Verna Corbin, Tony Hayward

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Sumpter announced that the next regular Board meeting will be held on October 16, 2012 at Washington Academy & High School.

Mr. Miles responded to Ms. Todd's concern regarding the conditions of the field at CHS causing injury to an athlete. He stated that school officials should have inspected the fields before any athletic activities were allowed. Dr. Whittington encouraged Ms. Todd to contact the school's administrator in regards to the condition of the field. He stated that all policies are on the internet and that if the community would like a response at a Board meeting, written communication should be sent to the Board prior to the meeting.

Ms. Todd clarified her statement about the conditions of the fields and stated that she was not suggesting that the school was negligent and the fields are insufficient, but they could use some improvements.

Chairman Sumpter explained the difference between public participation and a request to appear before the Board. He apologized for being late, but he was in attendance to a funeral.

Mr. Wells thanked everyone for attending and asked that the community and Board keep Hershel Milbourne's family in their prayers.

Dr. Miles addressed the parents concern of school uniform colors. The parent should address her concern to the principal. WHS principal looked at the policy and decided on the various colors. Administrative policy allows the principals to choose what colors are allowed in their school. She stated that individuals should acknowledge the administrators and principals and the good job they are doing. There were a lot of good things going on in the schools. Deal Island is a blue ribbon school and student achievement has increased. Dr. Miles encouraged the community to acknowledge the positives instead of emphasizing on the bad. Ms. Landon stated that she is very much in favor of the uniform policy, but all schools should have clarity of the various colors. Dr. Miles will ask Ms. West-Smith and Lisa Hopkins to talk to the principals and come to a resolution. Ms. Carter advised Dr. Miles that the issue was already being addressed.

Dr. Miles expressed her position with the logo change. The logo will not be changed. There are too many other projects going on to take on the battle of the logo. Ms. Landon thanked Dr. Miles for not changing the Logo. Dr. Miles responded to Mr. Simpson's question of the status of the Wind Turbines. The planning and zoning must be vetted with the county commissioners before the Board can do anything.

Dr. Miles agreed with Mr. Simpson that there should be an open work session, a closed session, and an open regular session.

Dr. Miles informed the community that she, a couple of administrators and Mr. Darryl Webster inspected the WHS athletic field. They will be inspecting the CHS fields in the next couple of days.

Chairman Sumpter explained that work session were not held because of the moving around of central office staff. He stated that once the organization of central office is complete and everyone becomes familiar with the position , the work sessions will increase. Chairman Sumpter also addressed the posting of the minutes. He explained that the Board is following a process which involves having the Board Attorney review the minutes and the agenda for accuracy, compliance, and detail.

Chairman Sumpter stated that the Board is not able to make any decisions on Wind Energy until it is vetted by the commissioners.

Billy Jo requested the status of a policy being developed to protect logo and mascots. Chairman Sumpter stated that there is a process that must be followed with the development and presentation of new policies.

Mr. Kuebler requested that community comments be fully detailed in all future minutes.

Vice Chairperson Green-Gale thanked the community for their comments and input. She stated that she had received a report informing her that suspensions are down 50-65% in the high schools.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Mr. Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Marjorie E. Miles, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Board Secretary