



OPEN WORK SESSION

By unanimous agreement the Somerset County Board of Education met at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 5:08 p.m. to hold the Called Open Work Session. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Green-Gale, Mr. Miles, Dr. Whittington, Mr. Wells, Superintendent Dr. Marjorie E. Miles and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sumpter at 5:08 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The Roll was called by Ms. Tilghman indicating that all five Board members were present.

3. Board Business

Planning and Zoning

Mr. Mark Konapelsky, Crisfield Planning and Zoning Councilman, began the Board meeting with a description of the zoning and critical areas of Somerset 6/7 Intermediate School area. He stated that before a decision to merge the high schools and students transported to the Somerset Intermediate school, the proposal to merge must be brought before the Planning and Zoning Commission for approval to revise the 2006 original site plan. He addressed the concerns that parking space would be limited for teachers and high schools students as non-titled wetlands can not be bothered, a bigger septic pump system would have to be installed which would add additional costs to the county. Mr. Konapelsky presented a diagram outlining the critical areas surrounding Somerset Intermediate School and the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center.

Tower Company

Dr. Miles questioned Mr. Konapelsky in regards to the proposal to add Technology Towers. She stated that the towers would bring additional revenue to the school system and that schools could use the signal. Chairman Sumpter presented the Cell Tower Proposal. The proposal would allow the Milestones Tower Company permission put technology towers on SCPS property and would pay up to \$7,000 per month for the use of our property. The Company will complete all the research needed before the towers can be placed. Mr. Konapelsky stated that the contract agreement would have to be taken to Annapolis for review.

4. Presentation

Dr. Miles presented a new plan of action to the Board. The new plan will not merge the high schools, but will be implemented at both high schools. An Alternative Governance Team will be chosen and will include two parents from each high school and two community members. Staff reduction may be considered and will be based on tenure. The Board agreed that the plan must be reviewed before making a decision.

5. Board Comments

Chairman Sumpter expressed that there are long-term issues that the Board must consider before a decision can be made. He stated that Teachers' pension are expected to be paid by the county which would be an obligated \$70,000 - \$90,000, property tax assessments are gone down, student population has been reduced by fifty, and counties are expected to make Maintenance of Effort funding. Chairman Sumpter explained that the focus of any decisions made will be made as to what is best for the students and providing the students with a quality education. Teachers will be provided Corrective Action skills to help improve student performance. He requested that the Superintendent gain more committee and community input on the presented plan.

Mr. Miles stated that there are more questions to be answered and that the Governance Team should be a group of at least twenty diverse individuals. He also stated staff restructuring is going to be difficult as Administrators have not completed full length evaluations on teachers. Mr. Miles stated that not enough children are being successful and steps must be taken to increase student achievement and success.

6. Adjournment

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues.

Dr. Marjorie Miles, Superintendent

Melissa Tilghman, Board Secretary