

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal matters as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, S10-508(a)(9) of the State Government Article. Present were Chairman Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Mr. Miles was out due to death in the family.

The Somerset County Board of Education met at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday March 20, 2007 at 6:53 p.m. to review the SIS Tawes Construction Project. Upon completion of the SIS Tawes Construction Update the regular open session meeting began. Present were Chairman Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Britany Dennis and James Daniels were also present.

OPEN WORK SESSION

The Somerset County Board of Education met in an open work session at 6:53 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Brofee and Mrs. Miller. Mr. Miles was out due to death in the family.

Mr. Catanzaro informed the Board that the completion of the SIS project had been delayed. A meeting will be held on April 24, 2007 for further discussion.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott at 7:10 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all four Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board Members James Daniels and Brittany Dennis were also present. Vice Chairman Miles was out due to death in the family.

3. Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Scott declared a quorum to be present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Scott led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve the minutes of March 20, 2007. The vote was unanimous

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve the minutes of the called Board meeting on April 12, 2007.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Willing to adopt the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous with all four of the present Board members in agreement.

7. Public Participation

Several Ewell parents signed up for public participation regarding the grade configuration. Tina Corbin, Sharon Marshall, Michelle Bradshaw, Robin Bradshaw, Duke Marshall, Anita Kitching and Rick Edmund all spoke to the Board regarding their concerns with the 6th and 7th grade students leaving the Island to travel to the mainland to attend Somerset Intermediate. Parents felt that the time, distance, and safety of the 6th and 7th graders should be considered before making this decision. Parents asked that the change not be mandatory. Chairman Scott thanked the parents and informed them that the Board will consider their concerns when making their decisions. Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, and Mr. Pruitt stated that the choice should be given to the parents and not be made mandatory, but should they choose to send their child to Somerset Intermediate the option is always there. Dr. Brofee explained the children's benefits of attending Somerset Intermediate.

Ewell Discussion:

Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Willing seconded to move 12C, Ewell Discussion, after public participation. This would allow the Ewell group in attendance time to express their concerns and catch the boat back at a decent time. The vote was unanimous.

8. Student Board Members' Report

James Daniels and Brittany Dennis provided the Board with an informative report on the schools and were thanked by Chairman Scott.

9. Renewable Power Hybrid Presentation

Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to do a feasibility study on Renewable Power Hybrid at Washington High School. A proposal will be presented to the Board upon completion of the study. The vote was unanimous.

10. JM Tawes Technology and Career Center

Mr. Webster was excited to announce that CTE programs were given first priority in the 2008 School Budget and continued to provide an informative report highlighting several CTE events. Fifteen students qualified for the State Skills competition with one student making 3rd place. The Teacher Academy is doing well. A new Fire and Rescue course will be offered and advertisement for the class is being publicized. African American students seem to be excelling in Technical Skills.

In ALC, Mr. Webster reported that the ALC Program is going well with four out of eleven students returning back to regular schools. Students are placed in a "Why Try Program" where the teachers send portfolios to schools with the student to ensure they receive adequate help. The "Why Try Program" it encourages students to make better choices and succeed in regular school.

11. Old Business

A. Facilities and Transportation

1. Change Order Approvals for Somerset Intermediate School

Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order requests 1-6 and requests 8&9. The vote was unanimous.

B. Policies

1. Upon recommendation by the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve policy #800-13, Surveys and Questionnaires. The vote was unanimous.
2. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve policy #500-25, Guidelines for Alternative Routes to High School Graduation. The vote was unanimous.

C. SAFE: Somerset County's Board of Education's Charter School Decision

The Board announced the denial of the Charter School Application.

12. New Business

A. Facilities and Transportation

1. Bus Driver Substitute

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to train Peggy Sue Minner as a Substitute Bus Driver. The vote was unanimous.

B. Human Resources Report

1. New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources Report as presented. The vote was unanimous.

2. Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson provided an informational summary of SCPS staff traveling out of state to conferences and was thanked by Chairman Scott.

C. Instruction

1. 2007-2008 School Calendar Change

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Mr. Bloodsworth's request to revise the 2007-2008 school calendar. Schools will be closed on February 12, 2008 instead of March 04, 2008 due to the change in the primary election date.

D. Finance Report

1. Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Monthly Finance Report and was thanked by the Board

2. Monthly Food Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Monthly Food Service report and budget seems to be making a profit.

3. Approval of the FY2008 Budget

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve the FY2008 Budget. Upon approval Dr. Brofee informed the Board that 10 positions were cut due to the salary demands by the administration.

GASB

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Willing seconded to approve the Health Care study being done by Mrs. Miller and the County Commissioners.

13. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

The Superintendent reported to the Board that Mike Nugent and Diane Johnson will be visiting San Francisco to do a presentation on the Gear Up Program. An invitation was extended to the Board members to attend the TOY Banquet. Dr. Brofee extended sympathy to the families of Mr. Miles and Jackie Wheatley who have had death in their families. Mr. Charles Massey, County Administrator, is retiring and finally the MGT Interviews went well and we received positive feedback.

14. April 2007 – It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the April 17, 2007 open regular session at 6:45 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

15. Adjournment