



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in an open work session at the JM Tawes Career and Technology Center at 5:35 p.m. to discuss construction matters related to the Somerset Intermediate School. The Board met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, March 18, 2008, 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, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Mr. Paul was out due to illness.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board members Alexander Cavins and Chatriece Lawson were not in attendance.

OPEN WORK SESSION

Somerset Intermediate Construction

The Somerset County Board of Education met in an open work session at 5:35 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to go into the open work session. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and recording secretary, Melissa Tilghman.

Mr. Daugherty provided the Board with change order request #82-#98. Dr. Brofee informed the Board that there was over \$390,000 in contingency funds. The legal issue with Steele Construction was mentioned. It was moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Vice Chairman Miles to move the legal issue with Steele Construction into closed session. The vote was unanimous.

The Board discussed the Zimmerman Mechanical Contract. They are suing for change order delays totaling \$225,000. Zimmerman did not start on the project until October and worked for 440 legal days. The delay request wasn't filed until past the deadline. Mr. Daugherty requested a settlement payment be offered in the amount of \$15,000.00. Mr. Catanzaro is confident the amount will be accepted.

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the settlement offer in the amount of \$15,000.00 to Mr. Zimmerman. The vote was unanimous.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that four Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board Members Alexander Cavins and Chatriece Lawson were excused from the meeting to attend school related activities.

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. Miles and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve the minutes of March 18, 2008. The vote was unanimous.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous.

7. Ewell School

Ms. Evans introduced herself and the new staff at Ewell School. The Board was informed that the Food Program was going well. Ewell was visited by Michael Liskey and his trio who performed an oboe symphony concert. The Board members were excited to hear that the French Public Television Broadcast had visited Smith Island and will run the Broadcast worldwide. The 6th and 7th graders will be painting the school for community service. Michelle Davidson, a Professor at George Mason University, bought a house on the Island and once a year she brings her nursing students over to Smith Island to talk to the students about health related issues.

MSA Testing is going well and staff members continue to work with students to do their best. Mrs. Evans thanked Chairman Scott for his years of dedication. Chairman Scott thanked Ms. Evans for her kind words and her report.

8. Student Board Members' Report

Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins were excused from the meeting due to scheduled school activities.

9. NSBA Conference

Dr. Brofee spoke about the NSBA Conference that was held in Florida. Accompanying her were Vice Chairman Miles and Mr. Willing. Dr. Brofee reported that there was great communication between the other school systems. Guest speakers were Sidney Poiter and Sandra Day O'Connor. Vice Chairman Miles stated that it was a wonderful and educational experience. He learned new educational strategies to be used in the school system, but there was no information on how we get the funds to try these new ideas. Mr. Willing added that we were ahead of most Board of Educations in our practices and their suggestions were strategies we already have in place. We are indeed on the right track.

10. Volunteer Participation Comments

Mrs. Scott spoke to the Board regarding the volunteer participation within the schools. Elementary and Secondary schools have a person in place to keep track of the volunteer hours. We are trying to recruit more minorities and male volunteers. The average number of volunteer hours accumulated in a month is equal to about 130 hours. Mrs. Scott thanked Linda Sterling, a retired employee of the county and a dedicated volunteer at Woodson Elementary, for all her help. Ms. Sterling has over has over 1100 volunteer hours to date.

11. Public Participation

Several Deal Island Elementary School parents spoke to the Board regarding the transfer of Mrs. Brandy White to Princess Anne. Ellen Barnes, Erin Greene and Brandi Horner all provided great accolades for Ms. White and expressed the impact she has had on the Deal Island students. They were all thanked by Chairman Scott. Dr. Brofee also thanked the parents and expressed her concerns about their issues. She informed them that all schools are given adequate resources needed to provide purposeful and meaningful education. Dr. Brofee also stated that the move is not to diminish student learning and that staff and the public have the right to voice their opinions on any issues that arise.

OLD BUSINESS

12. Facilities

Change Order Requests

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order requests #82-#98. The vote was unanimous.

Southern Builders, Inc.

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the awarding of the Agricultural Storage Building Bid Award to Southern Builders, Inc. The vote was unanimous with all present Board members in agreement. Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that The Aging Schools Programs will fund \$56,000.00 of the project.

Calendar Adjustment Information

Dr. Bloodsworth updated the Board members on the ending of school for the year. Due to an unused snow day, students last day will be June 09, 2008 and the teachers last day will be June 10, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Finance Report

Monthly Report

Mrs. Miller presented the corrected Budget Report pages. There were no questions from either Board member. Chairman Scott thanked Mrs. Miller for the report.

Food Service Report

Mrs. Miller reported that the Food Service deficit is \$7,000 to date. The exact amount will be known after inventory is taken. Chairman Scott thanked Mrs. Miller for her report.

Budget Approval Date May 27, 2008

Dr. Brofee announced the approval of the delay for the FY2009 School Budget.

Human Resources Report

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the Human Resources report presented by Mr. Lawson. The motion was carried with all four Board members in agreement.

Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson presented a list of staff involved in out of state conferences.

Facilities

Announcement of Somerset Intermediate School Dedication

Mr. Daugherty announced the date of the Somerset Intermediate School Dedication, May 04, 2008. Delegate Page Elmore was invited, but has a prior engagement. He will be providing the audience with a few words from a pre recorded interview.

Pre K-12 Climate Change Commitment MOU

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve the PreK-12 Climate Change Commitment MOU. The vote was unanimous with all four Board members in agreement.

14. Superintendent & Board Member comments

Dr. Brofee announced that the Board of Education is facing a \$285,000 decrease. Dr. Brofee noted that the Commissioners have been very supportive and understand that they are working within their means. There has been several staff changes in which all staff involved will be notified by April 16, 2008. Dr. Brofee also announced the upcoming Teacher of the Year ceremony.

Mr. Pruitt ended the comments by complimenting Deal Island and Crisfield High Schools' staff for keeping the building exceptionally clean.

- 18. May 2008** – It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve May 27, 2008 as the next open regular session. This date is scheduled around ASBO. The open work session will begin at 5:30 p.m., closed session will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the open regular session will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

19. The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Karen-Lee Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary