



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in an open public meeting at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center, Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. to review policies and convened in a closed session at 6:15 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 Willing, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Willing, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Both Student Board members were also present.

POLICY REVIEW SESSION

Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Lawson presented and discussed the revisions made to the 600 and 700 series policies. The Board will review and study these policies in the open session.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Willing at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all five Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board representatives from Crisfield and Washington Academy & High Schools were also present.

3. Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Willing declared a quorum to be present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Willing led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the March 17, 2009 Board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the amended agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Student Activities Report

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

8. Recognition and Congratulations

Dr. Brofee read the proclamation by the Governor honoring April 26 – May 2 as School Psychology Week. It was also announced that April 23, 2009 is Administrative Assistant Day and May 05, 2009 is Teacher Appreciation Day.

9. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

10. J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Report

Mr. Webster presented the J.M. Tawes Career and Technology Report to the Board members. He reported that nine students at ALC had returned to the Why Try Program and thirty percent of the ALC students returned to their home school. There are seven students currently enrolled in the 8th grade Teacher's Academy. Mr. Webster then showed a powerpoint on the Skills USA competitions narrated by Mr. Laird.

11. 2010 Local Revenue Budget Approval

Chairman Willing announced that the 2010 Local Revenue Budget was approved on April 14, 2009.

12 A. Finance

Monthly Finance and Food Service Reports

Ms. Miller provided the monthly finance report to the Board. The Board members thanked Ms. Miller for the information.

Monthly Food Service Report

Ms. Miller provided the food service report. The Board was informed that lunch prices will be increasing for the next school year due to low meal participation.

AARA – Stimulus Update

The Board members were informed that we would not be receiving the 320,000 in extra stimulus funding that was expected; however, Special Education and Title I will be receiving extra funding which should help.

B. Student Services Report

600 Series Policies Revisions

Mrs. McLaughlin presented several policies for the Board to review and study for possible approval at the May Board meeting. The policies are as follows: 600-18, 600-19, 600-24, 600-25, 600-26, 600-27, 600-28, 600-29, 600-30, 600-31, 600-32, 600-33, 600-34, 600-35, 600-37, 600-38, 600-39, 600-40, and 600-41.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve revised Policy 600-36, Student Bullying Harassment, and Intimidation. The vote was carried unanimously.

IOP Program Approval

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the IOP Program. This program is an Intensive Outpatient Therapy & Educational Program through the Hope Creek Youth and Family Center housed at the Marion Sarah Peyton School. Somerset County Public Schools are working with the center by providing transportation to and from the center. The vote was unanimous.

Connect Ed. Update

Ms. Carter provided an update on the Connect Ed. Parent Communication System. This system allows parents to be automatically contacted and kept informed on school happenings, school closings, etc. This system is no additional cost for SCPS as the funds are donated or grant supported for the rest of this year and next year. The Board members thanked Ms. Carter for the information.

New Policy Proposal: 600-42, Administration of Medical Assistance by Students

The Superintendent discussed the need for a policy that prioritizes the health and safety of our students and staff and clarifies the legal responsibilities of our system when administering care to students.

C. Technology Update

Ms. Smoker and Ms. Hopkins provided an update on Technology Education and the implementation of the student laptop program at Somerset Intermediate. The focus is on providing higher content and skill learning through the use of Technology.

Technology Certification Program

Ms. Smoker informed the Board members that teachers are now given the opportunity to obtain the Level III Technology Certification through an online course.

D. HSA & Bridge Report

Mr. Bloodsworth provided a report on the High School Assessments and the Bridge Plan. The students graduating in 2009 must pass the high school assessments. The students who have not passed the HSA's are given projects to do. The number of projects depends on the score a student received on the HSA. There were twenty-eight students doing Bridge projects and twelve of those students have met the requirements. Ms. Carter informed the Board members that the HSA/MSA has no significant impact on the graduation rate. Mr. Bloodsworth added that the counselors and testing coordinators play an important role in assisting students in passing the HSAs and Bridge projects. Dr. Whittington showed concern in regards to the reasons for the decrease in the graduation rate. The Superintendent responded that it is difficult to identify the single reasons for the decrease, circumstances and situations vary from one student to the next but we do everything that we can to keep students in school.

E. Facilities and Transportation

Construction Manager, WHS Limited Renovation

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve Whiting-Turner and the Construction Manager for the Washington Academy and High School renovation. The vote was unanimous.

Proposed Capital Budget

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the submission of the Mr. Daugherty's Proposed Capital Budget to the commissioners. The vote was unanimous.

F. Human Resources Report

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Dr. Whittington to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources Report. The vote was unanimous. The following personnel actions were presented:

Retirees: Patsy Somers, Suzanne Middleton, Sharon Dorman, Ladell Dorman and Janis Sanders; **Resignations:** Ryan Bell and Deborah Nicolle; **Terminations:** John Borden; **New Hires:** Pamela Lauer

700 Series Policies, Human Resources

Mr. Lawson presented policy revisions for the Board's review and study. Vice Chairman Miles requested a development of a policy which sets staff guidelines for teacher and student contact. Revisions within the policies also state that substitutes are not to leave the building.

Out of State Travel

There was no Out of State Travel to present.

13. Superintendent & Board Member comments

The Superintendent thanked Ms. Carter and Ms. McLaughlin for a Job Well Done with the Gear Up Program. There was also an announcement made of the upcoming PAC meeting being held Thursday at 5:00 p.m., the Student Recognition Ceremony is being held Wednesday May 20, 2009, and the State of Schools luncheon is being held Thursday, May 21, 2009.

- 14. May 2009** – It was moved by Chairman Willing, seconded by General Sumpter, and passed to approve May 26, 2009 as the next open regular session. Police review will begin at 5:30 followed by the closed session will begin at 6:15 p.m. and the open regular session will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center. The vote was unanimous. A reception for volunteer will begin at 6:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

It was moved by Chairman Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve the adjournment of the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary