



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in an open public hearing to discuss change order requests and policies at 5:10 p.m. and convened in a closed session 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 Miles, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Mr. Wells, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Vice Chairman Pruitt was out due to illness.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:15 p.m. Present were, Chairman Miles, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Mr. Wells Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Both Student Board Representatives were also present.

CHANGE ORDER REQUEST AND POLICY REVIEW

Chairman Miles called the meeting to order. Mr. Daugherty presented a change order request on the Washington High School Renovation. This request consists of installing a Neptune compound water meter which will more accurately display the flow of water. The change orders requests made so far have been small compared to the size of the renovation. Mr. Daugherty did show concern about the completion of the project in regards to the shortened summer break. Dr. Brofee added that she was impressed with the clean up of Washington High School for Louis White's funeral and will send a thank you note to the school.

Mr. Daugherty presented and reviewed the Transportation Policy, to the Board members. The Board members questioned the "Sale of Equipment" with Board approval line item in the policy. The Board agreed to the addition of the following items to the policy: a beginning and end date be specified when approval is granted for a contractor to hire substitutes to drive for them and proof of bus purchase is required (per the auditors request). Dr. Whittington announced the passing of Retired bus contractor, Elton Maddox and voiced concern of the lack of minority bus contractors. Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that he will be requesting approval of new bus purchases for Raymond Ward and Hank Ward. Mr. Ward has agreed to waive the difference of the PVA for a new bus for one year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brofee at 7:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that four Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board Representatives were also present. Vice Chairman was excused due to illness.

3. Declaration of Quorum

It was declared that a quorum was present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Miles led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Mr. Wells and seconded by General Sumpter to approve the minutes of March 16, 2010. The motion was carried unanimously. The minutes for March 30, 2010 and April 13, 2010 will be approved at the next Board meeting.

6. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by General Sumpter, and passed to adopt the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous.

7. Student Board Members' Activities Report

Student Board members presented their reports and were thanked by the Board. Mr. Cavins was congratulated by the Board for his acceptance to West Point Military School.

8. Deal Island School

Ms. Linamen presented the Deal Island School report to the Board. There were several American Legion Essay winners. The first place winner was the daughter of Board member, Robert Wells. She was allowed to read her poem and was thanked by the rest of the Board for a job well done. Ms. Linamen also announced that DIS had received a \$2,200 community grant. The students are doing well and to add a little more encouragement in helping student achieve, students are awarded with quarterly incentives.

9. Maryland History Project Report – Aimee Kaniper

Mr. Kaniper introduced the students involved in the completion of the Maryland History Project. Students did research at home and at school. Several students spoke to the board regarding their projects. Three groups of students are advancing to the State competition. The student were thanked by the Board members.

10. Skills USA Finalist

Mr. Webster introduced Carpentry instructor, William Laird. Mr. Laird had a student elected to the State Parliamentarian of the Maryland USA Skills Club. The student was thanked by the Board members for all her hard work.

11. Volunteer Recognition

Ms. Scott and Ms. Nelson presented several volunteers with awards to thank them for all their help within the schools. Each principal presented the volunteers with their award and gift. Those volunteers recognized were Debra Pratte, Jackie Preston, Paula Todd, and Wayne Muir. The Board thanked them for all their energy and time spent in helping the students of Somerset County.

12. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

A. Policies

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve Policy 500-28, Home and Hospital Instruction. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the tabling of Policy #500-20, Athletic Policy. The vote was carried unanimously.

B. Human Resources

Approval of Job Descriptions

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the revised School Nurse I, Administrative Office Associate I – Student Services, and the External Diploma Coordinator job descriptions. The vote was unanimous.

C. Facilities

Change Order Requests

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by General Sumpter, and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to install Neptune compound water meter which will more accurately display the flow of water. The cost of this change order is \$4,017.10. The vote is unanimous.

D. FY2011 Proposed Budget Update

Dr. Brofee presented the Board with an update of the FY2011 Budget. There has been a \$591,000 savings on electricity in which she would like to address the various requests by the schools. General Sumpter made a motion to wait on making any decisions on recommended considerations. All Board members agreed. The Board also agreed to wait on stabilization funding before making any considerations for cultural and diversity provision funding.

E. Board Retreat: Mission and Norms

All five Board members participated in the Board Retreat. It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve Dr. Brofee request to adopt the Mission and Norms Policy as long as it is aligned with the existing goals and policy of the central office. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the listing of the Mission and Norms policy in various communications, school policies, and parent distributions. The vote was unanimous.

13. New Business

A. Finance

Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Miller presented the Monthly Finance report to Board. The Board members thanked her for the report. The Board also questioned the textbook funding balance and requested that another category be added to the budget report to distinguish the textbook balance.

Food Service Report

Ms. Miller presented the Food Service report to the Board. The Board expressed concern about the current deficit. Mr. Wells requested a breakdown per school of the budget. Ms. Miller informed the Board that the deficit of the food service budget will likely increase by the next Board meeting. Chairman Miles questioned the vendor bidding practices.

B. Instruction

HSA Report

Mr. Bloodsworth presented an update on the HSA Bridge Projects. To date 16 students have to complete projects before they can graduate. Four have three or more projects to complete and twelve students have less than three projects to complete. The number of projects that need to be completed depends how the student's HSA score. General Sumpter requested a complete report on the HSA projects.

Race to Top Participation

Dr. Brofee requested the Board's approval to sign the "Race to Top" MOU. The Superintendent informed the Board that Nancy Grasmick's 3rd level reform includes the stipulation contained in the Race to Top Participation. The grant will require that teachers and principals be held accountable for student achievement, making sure teachers are highly qualified and that those highly qualified teachers get tenure, revision of evaluation tools, use data to keep track of student performance. If we do not participate in "Race to Top" we will not get any funding from the Federal Government, but will have to comply with the new State standards.

It was moved by Genera Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the signing of the MOU for “Race to Top Participation” per Dr. Grasmick.

C. Student Services Presentation

Ms. McLaughlin introduced Counselor, Emily Kirshner and Learning Support Specialist, Adrienne Jenkins. There are currently 2,888 students in Somerset County Public Schools of which 51% are male and 49% are female. Free and reduced meals have increased this year and the discipline referral rate has improved. Programs available through Student Services are Truancy and Juvenile Drug Court, Group Counseling, Comprehensive Career Planning, LST Teams and PBIS that work together on getting students out of the Red Zone and into the Green Zone, Homeless Programs, and Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment.

Ms. Cottman provided the Board with highlights of the Safe School/Healthy Students Grant. Through this grant we were able to hire Learning Support Specialists, offer PBIS incentive programs, increase professional development, Early Childhood development, Leadership Development, a Mentoring Program, a safe school environment, childcare and parenting and collaborative efforts with outside agencies to aide in student success.

Ms. Carter stated that challenges of the student achievement involved those students in the Red Zone. Those are the students who need extra help in order to be successful. Ms. Carter voiced concern that students within the school system that have anger management programs can not get to the helping facilities. Dr. Whittington suggested that she check with local church organizations to provide transportation for students to these facilities.

D. Uniform Initiative Update

Ms. McLaughlin provided the Board with an update of the Uniform Initiative and its expansion to Princess Anne Elementary, Woodson Elementary, and Somerset Intermediate Schools. Also modifications have been made and will include yellow tops and white sweaters. Dr. Whittington expressed the need to make sure all parents are informed of the uniform expansion.

E. Transportation

Bus Driver Training Approval

It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty’s Bus Driver Training request of James Charles. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of New Bus Purchase

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the new bus purchase of Raymond Ward and Hank Ward. This approval is based on the request that this bus

purchase will not cost SCPS any additional fees.

F. Human Resources

Review and Study of Revised Job Descriptions

Mr. Lawson presented the Food Service Manager's revised job description for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the May Board meeting.

New Hire, Retires, and Resignations

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Wells, and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources report as discussed in executive session. The vote was unanimous.

Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson presented the Out of State Travel to the Board members for informational purposes only.

14. Superintendent and Board Member Comments

The Superintendent announced that the State Board has given student board members the right to vote at Board meetings and that Administrative Day is on April 21, 2010. Mr. Wells read a letter on behalf of Mr. John Barnett thanking Ms. Hopkins for the use of Somerset Intermediate for training for Emergency Services.

- 15. May 2010** – A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Dr. Whittington, and seconded by General Sumpter to approve May 18, 2010 as the next open regular session. An opened called session will be held at 5:00 p.m. to discuss policies and facilities, an executive session will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by the open regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center. The motion was carried unanimously.

16. Adjournment

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary