



## **CALLED BUDGET HEARING**

By unanimous agreement the Somerset County Board of Education met at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday April 08, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. to hold the Public Hearing on the FY2009 Budget. Present at the meeting were Chairman Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Brofee and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

## **AGENDA**

### **FY2009 Budget Hearing**

#### **1. Call to Order**

It was moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to call the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that three Board members and the Superintendent were present. Vice Chairman Miles and Mr. Willing were not present at the meeting. The vote was unanimous.

#### **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. Purpose of the meeting**

The purpose of the meeting was announced. "To receive public input on the 2009 Superintendent's Proposed Budget and to provide guidance to the Superintendent for her work with the County Commissioners."

#### **6. Current Revenue: State, Local, and Federal**

Mrs. Miller presented the current revenue status for State, Local, and Federal Funding. Frugal expenditures and Unexpected Savings of 2006 – 2007 will fund the operations for FY2009.

#### **7. Proposed Expenditures Distribution**

Dr. Brofee provided a slide outlining the proposed expenditures distribution. Distribution was broken down by cents to every dollar spent.

## **8. Review and Budget Modifications**

Dr. Brofee presented a presentation with an explanation of the FY2009 Budget. The Superintendent explained that we will be receiving a 50% reduction in non-recurring cost for Technology funding totaling \$185,000. The total amount requested was \$380,000.00. The State has decreased our funding by \$308,715 and Federal revenue funding has decreased by \$800,000. Somerset is cited by the MGT Audit of the State Educational Revenue as having the least increase in local appropriations per pupil (\$163/pupil in 6 years compared to \$3,299/pupil Worcester). This is a 5.7% increase incurred through decreased enrollment.

Dr. Brofee further explained that in order to function with the Proposed budget there will be several position cuts and a decrease in elementary and secondary instruction expenses. Professional Development, Student Services, Special Education, Human Resources recruiting and signing bonuses, Transportation, and Technology reductions are also in effect. The Bus Contractors' administrative fee will be reduced by 50%.

Several areas will see increased expenditures. They are electricity with a 22.6% increase, the water and sewer charges with an increase of 35%, Mileage reimbursements and fuel costs. Mr. Paul seemed concerned with the water and sewer fee and will discuss this issue at the next commissioner's meeting. Summer School and transportation will continue as it is needed to help students meet the NCLB requirements.

## **9. Absence of Negotiated Contracts for 2008-2009**

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to approve the Superintendent's request of the Board to delay any action on the Proposed Budget until May to provide time to receive accurate revenue figures, complete negotiations, and revise the Proposed Budget as needed. The Budget goes to the commissioners on May 30, 2008 and will have 60 days after that to submit to the State. The vote was unanimous by all three Board members present.

## **10. Public Participation**

There was no public participation

## **11. Board Comments**

Mr. Paul voiced his concerns regarding the 2010 budget. The Board members agreed that the Federal Guidelines are too demanding and do not support education funding. Mr. Paul asked for the Media's assistance in making the public aware of NCLB requirements and its effect on the school system.

Dr. Brofee thanked all the Supervisors for their hard work and attendance to the meeting. Chairman Scott thanked Dr. Brofee and the Administrative Staff for their efforts in maintaining a system with such great demands and limited funding.

## **12. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40**