



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education 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, Vice Chairman 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 Miles, Vice Chairman Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

Tribute to Jack Willing, Jr.

The Board meeting began with a tribute to Jack A. Willing, Jr. who departed this world on July 01, 2009. Mr. Willing's parents were invited to this tribute. Several individuals spoke very kind words in honor of his memory. An oak tree will be planted at the Deal Island School as a reminder of Mr. Willing's contributions to the success of Somerset County Public Schools' students.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all four Board members and the Superintendent were present.

3. Affirmation of Chairman

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve Mr. Miles as the Board of Education Chairman. The vote was unanimous.

4. Nomination and Election of Vice Chairman

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the nomination and election of Mr. Pruitt as the new Vice Chairman. The vote was unanimous.

5. Declaration of Quorum

It was declared that a quorum be present.

6. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Miles led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

7. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt and passed to approve the minutes of June 16, 2009. The motion was carried unanimously.

8. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt and passed to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Introduction of Student Board Members

Mr. Elebash introduced the new student board members to the Board. Student Board member Mr. Taylor, Washington Academy and High School's representative, is an athlete, loves poetry, and is a member of the band. Student Board member, Mr. Cavins, Crisfield Academy and High School representative, is also a senior. He enjoys soccer and reading. Both students are doing well in their academics with high GPAs.

10. Graduate Recognitions

Ms. Carter presented diplomas to two graduating seniors who completed their graduation requirements this summer. Those students were congratulated by the Board members.

11. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

12. OLD BUSINESS

A. Policy Revisions and Reviews

700 Series Policies Approval of Revisions

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve policy #700-05, Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Pruitt, seconded by General Sumpter, and passed to approve Policy #700-13, Work Schedule and Leave for Employees of Somerset County Public Schools. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve policy #700-35, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The motion was carried unanimously.

B. HSA (High School Assessments) and Bridge Report

Mr. Bloodsworth provided the Board with an update on the HSAs. The Board was informed that in the 2009 Cohort there were 160 graduates of which 90 passed the exams, 48 received the total HSA score and 22 were doing Bridge Projects. In the 2010 Cohort, there are 27 students that need to pass HSA's. The Board thanked Mr. Bloodsworth for the information.

C. Summer Program

Mr. Turner introduced Milton Morris, Workforce Investment Coordinator. Mr. Morris spoke to the Board regarding the success of our Summer Youth Employment students. There were over 80 students employed this summer. The Board and Mr. Turner were thanked for a job well done. General Sumpter added that he had a great student and commended the program.

Mr. Turner provided an update on Summer school. All teachers were dedicated and the summer school program was a success. Mr. Hankerson was commended for a job well. Mr. Turner expressed an interest in being able to offer computerized classes.

D. Elementary Summer School

Ms. Forbush provided an overview of the Elementary Summer School program to the Board members. There were over 300 students who participated in the program and received community service hours. There was a migrant student who enrolled in the program with a 2nd grade education. With tutoring and assistance, that student will begin the 2009-2010 school year in the 6th grade. The Board commended Ms. Forbush and her summer staff for a job well done.,

13. New Business

A. Finance

Category Transfer Request

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Ms. Miller's category transfer requests.

Monthly Finance

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

Monthly Food Service Report

The Board requests projected assumptions of this year's food budget. The information will be brought back at the September 15, 2009 Board meeting.

Legislative Audit

A formal report on the legislative audit will be given after the audit is complete.

B. Ethics Panel Board Appointment

It was moved by Vice Chairman Pruitt, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve the nominations of Carol Burke-Fields and Dennis Williams to the Ethics Panel. John Phoebus has also been nominated for a 3rd seat on the panel. The vote was carried unanimously.

C. Technology Update

Ms. Smoker showed a presentation on Technology's role in the advancement of education. A breakdown of how many computers, laptops and other technology equipment was given to the Board. We are the top 5% in technology compared to other counties. It is our 21st century goals. There are three levels of Technology Ed. Certification available to teachers. Level three is an online course. Teachers' have increased their technology skills with continuing professional development. Teachers and administrators were assessed this year by MSDE. We have 100% of our administrators proficient in technology and 91% of teachers were proficient in technology. All were above MSDE's average score. Students ranked 50% and were 11th in the state for schools.

The 5th grade classes are now considered "High Tech Classrooms". We have 88% of 5th graders that have home computers. It is our responsibility as educators to prepare students for life in the technology world by educating them and increasing their technology skills. Our 7th graders have 92% with students having home computers.

It has not been determined if technology use has had an impact on discipline or grades

D. Out of County Student Approval

It was moved by Vice Chairman Pruitt, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve the out of county parent requests. The vote was unanimous.

E. Request for Survey Approval

A motion was called for by Vice Chairman Pruitt, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve the Math MSA Data Survey. The vote was unanimous. General Sumpter has requested a copy of the report when it has been completed.

F. Facilities and Transportation

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to train Phillip Cotton as a new bus driver substitute.

Capital Improvement and Comprehensive Maintenance Plans

Mr. Daugherty requests that the Board review and study the Capital Improvement Plan and the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for a vote at the September Board meeting.

Mr. Daugherty also introduced Johnson Controls and Charles Cavanaugh to the Board members.

G. Human Resources Report

New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

It was moved by Vice Chairman Pruitt, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources Report. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of Revised Job Descriptions

Mr. Lawson has requested that the Board review and study the following policies for a vote at the September Board meeting:

- ▶ Secondary Literacy Coach,
- ▶ Computer Aided Drafting Teacher,
- ▶ Elementary Computer Lab Teacher

These revised job descriptions were based on the county's particular need.

Out of State Travel

There was no out of state travel to report.

15. Superintendent's and Board Members Comments

The Superintendent announced that truancy court is going well. Dr. Whittington complimented the dress of the student Board members. He also stated that there should be a dress code in place for teachers. Dr. Whittington also expressed his concern for the lack of public attendance to the Board meetings. General Sumpter commented on how well the NAACP/ACLU taskforce meeting was and thanked Mr. Lawson for attending.

- 16. September 2009** – A motion was called for by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt and passed to approve September 15, 2009 as the next open regular session. 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.

17. Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt, and passed to approve the adjournment of the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary