



PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2011 BUDGET

By unanimous agreement the Somerset County Board of Education met at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, April 26, 2011 to hold the Public Hearing on the FY2012 Budget. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Miles, Dr. Whittington, Dr. Whittington, Mr. Wells, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Vice Chairman Pruitt asked to be excused due to illness. Mr. Wells was also not in attendance.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sumpter at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Declaration of Quorum

It was declared that a quorum was present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Sumpter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Summary of 2012 Proposed Budget

The Superintendent presented a detailed breakdown of the FY2012 Budget. She discussed position eliminations and comparisons from the previous years. She explained that several positions have been cut. Deal Island Elementary will lose a core teacher and the counselor will also teach Science. Crisfield Academy & High School's English/Tutor position will be combined. Woodson Elementary will see a realignment of teachers and their Reading Intervention Specialist will not be replaced after this year. Greenwood Elementary lost a Math Aide and an Intervention Specialist. Summer Programs have been cut as well as summer stipends for professional development and extra duty pay. Mr. Wells requested clarification of RTTT funding.

6. Public Comments

Several Deal Island Elementary School parents addressed the Board with their concerns of the combining of grades Pre K thru K and the transfer of their core teacher and asked that the budget be reexamined. The parents urged the Board to research other options and considerations before finalizing their decision.

They expressed concern that combining grade levels will not be beneficial to students and could lower teacher moral as teachers are already stretched to the limit. The Board agreed that further discussion is needed on the this proposal and will meet with the PTA and parents on May 9, 2011 and urged them to attend the Public input meeting on May 17, 2011. Chairman Sumpter thanked all the parents for attending and expressing their concerns.

7. Board Comments

Dr. Whittington addressed the parents explaining that the Board’s purpose is to support the entire school system and to make decisions that are reasonable to all SCPS students. He stated that communication efforts does need improvement and understands that every decision the Board makes will not be agreed upon by all parents, teachers, community, etc. The parents were assured that their concerns will not be taken lightly and that the budget is still in the proposal state. Chairman Sumpter thanked the community members and the Deal Island Elementary School parents for the attendance and concern for their children.

Vice Chairman Miles requested additional information on the elimination of Bus #75.

8. Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve the adjournment of the April 26, 2011 Proposed Budget Meeting at 7:35 p.m. The vote was unanimous.