

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, **Tuesday, December 12, 2006 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 Scott, Vice Chairman Byrd, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Mr. Miles was absent from the meeting.

Prior to the 7:00 Board meeting, a mini reception was held at 6:30 p.m. in honor of Mr. Jack Willing, Board Vice Chairman, Jamie Byrd, and former commissioner, Mr. Charles Fisher.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, **Tuesday December 12, 2006** at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Byrd, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Miles, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board member James Daniels was also present at the meeting. Britany Dennis had asked to be excused prior to the meeting.

REGULAR SESSSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board Member James Daniels was also present. Britany Dennis had asked to be excused prior to the meeting.

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. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the minutes of November 21, 2006.

- **Announcement of Closed Session**

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Miles to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous with all Board members in agreement.

7. Public Participation

Michael Nugent presented the Board with a report highlighting the positive and overall success of the Career Day that was held December 12, 2006 at Washington High School for all 8th – 11th grade students. Mr. Nugent thanked all the businesses involved with a special “Thank You” to the Guidance Staff, Billie Dayton and Mr. Montessor. The Board was informed that Somerset County will not be awarded the “Jack Kent Cook” grant. Mr. Nugent thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of students. Due to the high number of 12th

grade GEAR UP students applying to college, the State Department is under the impression that we no longer need the funding. SAT Prep materials for students were bought with funds from the Initial Teacher Quality Grant.

Julius Thompson took the floor following Mr. Nugent to submit his Charter School Grant to the Superintendent. Mr. Thompson has been working on his application since 2003. With the assistance of UMES in designing the application format, Mr. Thompson was able to submit the application for the Board to review and study.

Ms. Sylvia Smith, former teacher and current substitute, addressed the Board with several concerns. Ms. Smith feels that student discipline problem has gotten out of control and that schools should have mentors and enough guidance staff with whom children can relate and feel comfortable sharing their problems with. There is a concern with the number of African American Administrators not in authoritative positions, thus causing a communication gap with African American students. When problems occur outside the schools, students are bringing these problems to school and without an administrator that students feel comfortable talking with, the situations seem to escalate. This escalation causes students to get out of control. The Superintendent and the Board members agreed that more administrators of various races and ethnicity are needed. In response to Ms. Smith's hiring issue, Mr. Miles assured her that the Board would look into the non-hiring of Qualified African Americans.

8. Student Board Members' Report

Chairman Scott thanked James Daniels for providing a report on the Northern end of schools. J.M. Tawes won the float contest for Princess Anne and Pocomoke and the Basketball teams are doing well. Brittany Dennis was absent and a report was not provided for the Southern end.

9. Washington High School & Academy

Lois Collins presented the report for Washington High School as Mr. O'Neal was needed at the school for the game and the GES concert. Ms. Collins informed the Board that the Midnight Madness activities were a success. Upper class students have become mentors to the younger students. WHS will host a theatre night on January 18, 2006 and January 19, 2006 called "Sorry Wrong Number". Ms. Collins stated that WHS discipline referrals are down over 40% and suspensions are down 11%.

Vicki Nelson presented Washington High School student, Scott Wheatley, with an award for having his drawing selected by the Board to use as our 2006 Christmas cards. Congratulations Scott!

10. Old Business

A. Facilities and Transportation

1. Update on Progress of Somerset Intermediate School

Mr. Catanzaro provided the Board with an update on the status of the construction of the Somerset Intermediate School. Concrete floors, masonry work, and interior colors are beginning in Section B. The contractors are 4 days ahead of schedule.

2. SIS at Tawes Planning Committee

Nancy Smoker and Lisa Hopkins informed the Board members that the SIS Planning Committee is made up of 8 members. The purpose of the Technology Team is to prepare in advance to have decisions made on smart boards, computer groups, and other technology decisions.

B. Policies

1. School Community & Home Relations #800 series policies

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the School Community & Home Relations #800 series policies presented by Mr. Turner. The vote was unanimous.

11. New Business

A. Facilities and Transportation

1. Approval of Proposal for Parking Lot Cameras for WES

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to install digital recording cameras facing the parking lot to reduce the pilfering problem at Woodson Elementary School. The cost for the camera installation is \$4,406.00. The vote was unanimous.

2. Approval of Proposal for a Projector at WES

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to purchase a projector screen for the gym at WES. Students will be allowed to gather in a large group to watch education movies etc., and adequate use will be made of the installed sound system. All Board members agreed.

3. Approval of Proposal for Exterior Cameras on WES Relocatables

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to have exterior cameras installed on Woodson Elementary School's relocatables. Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that police make regular rounds by the school and that the cameras will record on a networking system. The vote was unanimous.

B. Human Resources Report

1. New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul, and passed to approve the Human Resources report presented by Mr. Lawson. Chairman Scott announced the renewal of Dr. Brofee's contract for the next four years. Board and staff members were excited.

C. Policies

1. Student Services Policy #600-36 (Fighting)

Dr. Brofee and Ms. Carter presented revised policy #600-36 for Board's review and study. Ms. Carter reported that more fights have occurred than last year and that changes must be made to the policy to deter students from fighting in school. LMB has added a new position called the Family Navigator. This person will link student and family with the Smart Choices program which will provide alternative ways to deal with various situations. The policy was taken for consideration for a vote at next month's Board meeting.

D. Finance Report

1. Fixed Assets Policy #300-13

Mrs. Miller presented the revised #300-13 policy for the Board to review and study for approval at the January Board meeting.

2. Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Monthly Finance Report and was thanked by the Board.

3. Monthly Food Service Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Food Service Report, but stated that actual figures can not be given until January.

13. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

Chairman Scott thanked Vice Chairman Scott and Mr. Willing for their commitment as Board members and for the pleasure and honor to work with them. Due to the situation with the new elected Board member, Mr. Willing will retain his chair. Dr. Brofee congratulated Princess Anne Elementary School for becoming a coalition school. Somerset Intermediate School has received various donations after performing at the White House and the Washington High School Field Hockey Team held a fundraiser to for Crystal Pines and to help with her medical treatment. Dr. Brofee also informed the Board that the Federal Department has questioned the use of the LEAP Frog Program through the Reading First Grant, but the decision was made to proceed for the benefit of our ELL students and families.

- 14. January 2006 –** It was moved by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Mr. Willing, and passed to approve the January 09, 2007 closed session at 6:00 p.m. and open regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

15. Adjournment