



The Somerset County Board of Education met at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday December 11, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. to review the SIS Tawes Construction Project. Upon completion of the SIS Tawes Construction Update the Board met in a closed session meeting at 6:30 p.m.

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 6:06 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 Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins were also in attendance.

OPEN WORK SESSION

Energy Management Proposal

The Somerset County Board of Education met in an open work session at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Dr. Brofee, and recording secretary, Melissa Tilghman. Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Catanzaro were also present at the meeting. Mr. Daugherty presented the Energy Management Proposal. Mr. Daugherty provided a detailed analysis of the proposal. Neighboring counties like Dorchester, Kent, Talbot, Queen Annes, and Allegany School districts are all part of this project. A contract person will work twenty hours a work with the Energy Management project and will be responsible for checking the electricity output. The projected savings will cover the cost of this person, and if no savings are made as projected, the company will reimburse SCPS the difference. This proposal will teach energy efficiency and we anticipate saving \$101,000 within the first year.

All Board members agreed that Allegany School District should be contacted to see what their opinion of the project was. It was the consensus of four Board members to present the proposal on the agenda for approval. Vice Chairman Miles voted against it, leaving the vote 4 to 1.

Change Order Request

Mr. Daugherty also presented change order requests #49 to #57. These changes orders were as follows: #49) installation of Aluminum Break Metal Trim around all Aluminum windows covered by cement board, #50) project delays, dewatering, and additional work needed from excavated areas #51) excavation, removal, and replacement of stone and to haul unsuitable soils to stockpile, #52) installation of and furnishing of Bentonite waterproofing system, #53) placement of 35 additional foot pilings, #54) costs related to site clean up of debris, #55) dirt pile replacement storage, #56) painting of three window panels with PGT Glass coating, and #57) purchase of two 12 X 12" sound system boxes. Mr. Daugherty seeks approval during the open session meeting.

Mr. Catanzaro provided the Board with a brief update on the status of the SIS project. The Board was informed that 68% of the change order requests were due to the architect's design of the building. Move in to the new school will begin on January 16, 2008. The Board members commented on the nice size of the gym. Mr. Paul requests a letter from Mr. Daugherty stating the quality of water

at Tawes in order to justify the need of having to run a waterline down the SIS/Tawes Road.

REGULAR SESSION 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 Members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins were also present.

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 for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the minutes of November 13, 2007. The vote was unanimous.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Vice Chairman Miles to adopt the amended agenda.

7. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

8. Student Board Members' Reports

Student Board members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins provided highlighting reports on both ends of the School District. Chairman Scott thanked them for the informational report.

Annual Christmas Card Design

Ms. Nelson presented the Board with copies of the 2007 Annual Christmas card. This card was designed by Somerset County student Myra Betts. The Board members commented on a job well done.

9. Community Recognition

Miss Carter recognized various businesses that were involved in the “Real Deal” project. This project consisted of students and businesses and was set up as “Real World” experience. Students were provided with a description of real life styles that they were to follow and given an income figure in which they were allowed to spend at various business sites. They had to stay within their budget and could not go over their allotted figure. The business would then explain their role in the “real world”. The students were really involved. Business involved were All State Insurance, Crisfield Police Department, Delmarva Education Foundation, Humane Society, PNC Bank, PNC Potomac Street Branch, Tawes Insurance, Tawes Brothers Incorporation, and the Princess Anne Police Department. The Board members thanked her for her report.

10. Staff Recognition

Dr. Brofee presented Traci Ennis with an award congratulating her on obtaining her National Board Certification. This was the first Somerset County teacher to receive board certification. Ms. Ennis thanked Mrs. Holland, Ms. Welch, and the Board for their support.

11. WHS & Academy Report.

Mrs. Collins provided the Board with a report on Washington High School and Academy. Students are doing environmental experiments, such testing the quality of water and new extra curricular activities have been added. All core area subjects have highly qualified teachers. Teachers are collaborating with each other and continue to work on redefining benchmarks and the curriculum. Mrs. Collins provided a recap of the “Real Deal” project and stated that the students enjoyed the experience.

12. Coalition of Essential Schools

The Board members viewed a presentation provided by Mr. Elebash and Mrs. Holland detailing the meaning of the Coalition of Essential Schools. This means that professional educators are providing authentic and powerful learning allowing students to reach their fullest potential. Students get the experience of learning by engaging in various creativity projects. An example of these activities is the exhibition projects where each student demonstrates and explains what they have learned to teachers, parents, and community visitors. Students, teachers, and parents collaborate together to help students excel in their education. Greenwood and Princess Anne Elementary Schools have reached affirmation. These students have excelled in student achievement, organizational and classroom learning, leadership skills, and community involvement. Chairman Scott attended the National Fall Forum and stated that it was a great learning experience. CES provides access to a network of exemplary practices and a guidance program should be implemented in the high schools.

OLD BUSINESS

13. Facilities

Change Order Requests

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty’s change order requests #49-#57. The vote was unanimous.

Bus Contractors' Fuel Costs

A motion was called for by Mr. Paul, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve the bus contractors' proposed fuel increase which will be \$.01 increase for every \$.07 fuel goes up and will be retroactive based at a rate of @\$2.90 beginning December 01, 2007. The vote was a four to one vote as Mr. Willing did not vote due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Paul requested an administrative fee schedule.

Policy #600-21

Mr. Paul moved, Vice Chairman Miles seconded, and the vote was passed to approve revised policy #600-21, Attendance/Eligibility/Pupil Assignment. The revision states that Somerset County Public School system employees and University of Maryland Eastern Shore employees who live outside of Somerset County and wish to have grandchildren for whom they provide care attend Somerset County Public Schools in the regular program of education, should write a letter to the Superintendent of Schools requesting permission. Permission is contingent upon Board approval. If permission is granted, tuition will be waived. The vote was unanimous.

Physician's Assistant Program

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve the Physician's Assistant Program. The athletic trainer will supervise the assistant. Betsy Thomas will supervise the assistant at Washington High School. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

14. New Business

Facilities

Clean Energy Schools Initiative and Windswept Grant Program

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve Mr. Daugherty's Clean Energy Schools Initiative and Windswept Grant Program. The vote was passed with all Board members in agreement

SIS Transition

Mr. Pruitt moved, Mr. Paul seconded, and it was passed to approve the Superintendent's request to announce and distribute the calendar for the Somerset 6/7 Intermediate's move to the new school. The vote was unanimous. On January 16 & 17 students will be bused to and from the new school. On January 18 teachers and staff will begin moving to the school. Somerset 6/7 Intermediate students will be given an extended vacation beginning January 18, - January 23, 2008. Students will return to school on January 24, 2008 to begin learning in the new Somerset 6/7 Intermediate School. The make up day for the 6th and 7th grade students will be April 18, 2008.

High School Assessment Update

Mr. Bloodsworth provided the Board members with results from the feedback relating to assessment test challenges. The diagnostic tool is not efficient enough. He reported that the ECR's and BCR's will be gradually phased out, but not until 2009. As of now, the 2009 student cohort must pass all

four assessment tests or score a 1602 total in order to graduate. To date, 106 of this cohort have passed the assessments, with about 75 more in need of passing it. Students, parents, and counselors will meet to decide what steps should be taken for students to pass assessments.

Policies

Policy #500-17, Special Education

Mrs. Reich presented revised policy #500-17, Special Education to the Board for their review and study for a vote at the next Board meeting. This policy was rewritten to be aligned with state regulations.

Jason Powell' Senior Year Completion

Mr. Pruitt moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve Dr. Brofee's request to allow Jason Powell to complete his senior year of education at Washington High School. The vote was unanimous.

Policy #700-54, Tenure for Unit I Employees

Mr. Lawson requests that the Board review revised policy #700-54, Tenure for Unit I Employees, for approval at the next Board meeting. The change will require employees to be certificated before they can gain tenure.

Human Resources Report

New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources report. 1) Resignations: Joan Hill-Dashiell, 2) New Hires: Caren French and Vicki Evans, and 3) Reassignments: Karen Bowden and Dawn Evans. The vote was unanimous.

Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson provided the employee Out of State Travel to the Board for informational purposes only.

Finance Report

Independent Audit

Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve Mrs. Miller's request to advertise for a new auditing contract as the contract with Pigg/Krahl & Stern has expired. The vote was passed with a unanimous decision.

Monthly Finance and Food Service Reports

Mrs. Miller provided the Board with the monthly finance and food service reports. The Food Service Report showed negative marks. This was due in part to auditing demands which caused the November reimbursement reports to be delayed. Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

Category Transfers

A motion was called for by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Mrs. Miller's budget transfer request. The vote was unanimous.

15. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

The Superintendent announced that there will be an Adult Education graduation on January 23, 2008. The return of Renee McLaughlin from Iraq was announced followed by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

16. January 2008 – It was moved by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve January 15, 2008 as the next open regular session. The open work session will begin at 5:30 p.m., closed session will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the open regular session will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

17. The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Karen-Lee Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary