



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center, Tuesday, December 16, 2008 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, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Willing, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Vice Chairman was excused from the meeting due to illness.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Willing, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Vice Chairman Miles was excused from the meeting due to illness. Student Board members Joshua Lundgren and Michelle Malinger were also present at the meeting.

REGULAR SESSION RECEPTION

The Somerset County Board of Education gathered with the public and held a farewell reception to recognize and extend best wishes to Mr. Scott and Mr. Paul as they concluded their service to Somerset County Public Schools as members of the Board.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that four Board members and the Superintendent were present. Vice Chairman Miles was excused from the meeting due to illness. Student Board members Joshua Lundgren and Michelle Malinger 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 November 18, 2008 Board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to approve the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous.

7. Student Board Members' Report

Student Board member Joshua Lundgren provided his schools' reports. The Skills USA team won first place and Crisfield won 1st place in the parade, Woodson Elementary School's referrals are down and the Crisfield Academy and High School's basketball team is doing well. Math Tutoring is provided for all students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Student mediation is also provided for CHAS students. The Key Club's blood drive was successful with over 30 blood donors. Dr. Brofee provided a presentation of the CAHS's Band Performance on DVD.

Michelle Malinger provided her report indicating that \$1,200 had been raised from the school clubs, the bazaar was a success, the K-5 concert was successful as well as the silent auction.

8. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

9. Deal Island Report

Mrs. Linamen began her school report by informing the Board that Deal Island raised over 1,000 pounds of food for the food bank, fifty-seven hats were knitted for local infants, and Jump Rope for Heart was successful. Administrators had a hands-on lesson with technology assignments. Students were taken on a field trip to see the nutcracker suite and the Billy Goat's Gruff. Deal Island was named Character School of the Year. Mrs. Linamen reported that professional development collaboration was occurring and has been successful. Deal Island also received a \$1500 Excellence Award from the Community Foundation. Mrs. Linamen explained how Deal Island offers students the opportunity to improve their grades by giving them a second chance to revise homework and get a better grade.

10. Student Recognition

The Board recognized Ashley Long, Somerset Intermediate School student, for having her drawing selected for use as Somerset County Public Schools' 2008 Christmas card.

11. Old Business

A. Facilities

Energy Report

Mr. Daugherty introduced Bill Todd and Paul Hammond to provide a six month energy program audit report. Mr. Todd and Mr. Hammond reported that energy costs can be affected by building changes and school activities. To date SCPS has saved over \$120 thousand with a 30 percent savings recorded for October. They were both thanked by the Board.

Policies

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve the 800 series policies: School, Community, and Home Relations. The vote was unanimous.

300 series policies, Fiscal Management

Mrs. Miller provided clarification and changes to the 300 series policies with the request that the Board review and study the policies. The Board members will vote on approval of the policies at the January Board meeting.

Community Parent Advisory Report

The Superintendent announced the posting of PAC information and notes on our website. The PAC Group aides the county in decision making on items and issues impacting students. The information posted on our site will be monitored by the Technology Supervisor.

12. A. Monthly Finance Report

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve Mrs. Miller's audit proposal. The vote was unanimous.

Audit Update – A133 and Financial Negotiating Statement

Mrs. Miller presented the Board with written responses to recommendations made from the Audit.

Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller provided the monthly finance and food service reports to the Board. Mr. Paul questioned the transportation category. Mrs. Miller explained that due to the bus drivers' sliding scale, mileage expenditures were down. She also explained that the Food Service budget was still in the red.

Unfunded mandates

Dr. Brofee relayed information from a Legislative meeting she attended. She will be writing a letter to Senator Stolfus asking for consideration in denying any legislation that includes unfunded mandates.

B. Policies

500 Series, Policies of Instruction

Mr. Bloodsworth presented a list of policies for the Board's review and public input. Mr. Bloodsworth explained that emphasis was being placed on policy 500-23 in regards to promotion and retention. Extensive work will be done on the updates and revisions to these policies.

Policy 500-14, Acceptable Use Policy

Mrs. Smoker requested that the Board review revised policy #500-14, Acceptable Use Policy. All Technology related devices are protected by this policy. Mrs. Smoker explained the changes of this policy to the Board members informing them that weekly network supervision, monitoring, and audits are being done on students and staff. Cybersafety lessons are presented which teach students the pros and cons of the internet. Students are now asked to return the permission slips only if parents do not want them to have access to the internet. Mr. Pruitt questioned the consequences if parents do not give their child permission to access the internet. He also questioned the punishment of staff members illegally using the internet.

Policy #200-21, Guidelines for Releasing School Information and Individual School Information

Mrs. Smoker submitted revised policy #200-21 for the Board's review and study. She also discussed the legality of posting individual pictures and names of students. Schools have the right to be videotaped, but can only be used for school related purposes. Any other such uses are illegal. The Board will vote at the January Board meeting.

C. New Bus Contractor Approval

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Paul, and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to train Amanda Brimer as a new bus substitute. The vote was unanimous.

D. Human Resources Progress Report

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve the following personnel actions: New Hires: Kavin Kersey, Jason Bivens, & Ruth Ann Laird-Smith; Resignations: Vivian Tyler; Maternity Leave: Julie Laird and Kirston Gibson. The vote was unanimous.

Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson presented the Out of State Travel to the Board members.

Confidential Employees-Board's Negotiating Team

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's Confidential Negotiating Team. The vote was unanimous.

Job Description Revisions

Mr. Lawson submitted a revised copy of the custodial job descriptions for the Board's review and study for a vote at the next Board meeting.

E. Instruction

Mr. Elebash requests that the Board review and study the new course submitted. The Advanced Placement College Board offers AP Statistics which is already being used at Crisfield Academy and High School, and AP Studio Art, and AP English/Language and Composition, and an American Musical Theatre course. The Board will review the course materials for consideration.

13. Superintendent & Board Member comments

Dr. Brofee informed the public that schools will remain open on January 20, 2009, Inauguration Day. Our administrators felt strongly that on this historic day our children should be in school where they can be learning. Any student attending the inauguration will be given an excused absence with a note from his/her parent about their attendance. The Board members did not want to change the calendar. Congratulations to Crisfield Academy and Washington Academy and High Schools for receiving the Bronze Award. The Bronze is awarded for commendable performance on the state tests and exceeding predicted expectations of performance based upon composition of schools including poverty and disadvantaged groups. Dr. Brofee announced that a community meeting is being held on January 21, 2009. This group will meet to discuss mentoring programs, increased student activities, and other ways to help youth in the community. The new Board members have not been names. Dr. Brofee thanked the retiring Board members for all their years of dedicated service to Somerset County Public Schools. Mr.

Pruitt thanked them also and expressed gratitude having the opportunity to work with the Mr. Scott and Mr. Paul. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Willing thanked the Board members for the opportunity to work with them since 2000. Mr. Paul thanked the Ashley Lang for her work on the Christmas Cards. Mr. Scott commended Dr. Brofee on all the hard work she has put into the system.

Finalizing the Superintendent's comments Mr. Pruitt asked everyone to keep Vice Chairman Miles in their prayers. Mr. Miles has been ill and couldn't make it to the meeting.

14. **January 2009** – It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Willing, and passed to approve January 20, 2009 as the next open regular session. The closed session will begin at 6:00 p.m., the open regular session will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center. The vote was unanimous.

15. **Adjournment**

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

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent
Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary