

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, February 15, 2005.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Dick Scott, Mr. Jack Willing, Mr. Jack Paul, Mr. Jamie Byrd, Mr. William Miles and Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee. Student Board member, Jalessa Worthy was in attendance. Student Board member, Jenna Nelson was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dick Scott.

2. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mr. Johnson indicating that five Board members, the Superintendent and one student board member were 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 made by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2005 regular meeting as published. The vote was unanimous.

- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION**

A closed session of the Board was held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to discuss personnel, negotiations, and pending litigation. All members were present.

6. AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul and passed, to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

8. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Miss Jalissa Worthy gave her student board report. Chairman Scott thanked her for her report.

- **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

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Mr. Stan Pruitt, Principal of Whittington Primary School, introduced one of his students, Chase Tyler. Mr. Pruitt detailed the event that Chase was involved in with a friend and how he had helped the friend who had fallen through the ice on his family's pool by having the friend hold onto a garden hose until he could find help.

Mr. Scott presented Chase with a Certificate in Recognition of his heroism.

School Counselor's Week: Dr. Brofee read a proclamation recognizing School Counselor's Week – February 7-11, 2005.

9. SCHOOL REPORT: DEAL ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Mike Forbush, Principal of Deal Island Elementary School, gave a report on the varied programs and activities at Deal Island School. Chairman Scott thanked him for his report.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

Mr. Steve Marshall, Chairman of the Safety Task Force, presented the full Task Force Report. Present were Task Force members, B. J. Johnson, Richard Smith, Danny Thompson, and Diane Daniels. Using a Power Point Presentation, Mr. Marshall outlined the major issues identified and studied by the Task Force. Those four areas were identified as: Transportation; Discipline; Alternative Learning needs; and Communication. Each of these areas was explained in detail by Mr. Marshall.

The motion was made by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to accept the report for study. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Brofee announced that the Task Force Report would be presented to the Master Plan Steering Committee that will meet February 23, 2005.

B. FACILITIES UPDATE

Dr. Brofee updated the Board on the funding situation for the two new school projects, Woodson Elementary School and Somerset Intermediate School. 14.3 million dollars has been requested for FY06, an extra 7.3 million than what has been approved thus far. Dr. Brofee was hopeful that the IAC will announce this funding on Wednesday, and has received support from the Public School Construction Department Executive Director, Mr. David Lever.

Mr. Daugherty gave a detailed report on the projects underway:

Woodson Elementary School – Bids were being advertised – Pre Bid Meeting next week.

Somerset Intermediate School – The project is in the Design Document Stage. An a development for Construction Manager is underway.

Princess Anne Elementary – The HVAC project is ready to go as soon as school close for the summer.

Mr. Danny Thompson thanked Dr. Brofee and the Board for their efforts in bringing WalMart to the county. He acknowledged that Dr. Brofee’s presentation about the school system was instrumental in WalMart’s decision to locate in the county.

- **Seaton Center Waiver**

Dr. Brofee asked the Board to waive the insurance requirements for the Seton Center use of school for isolated after school programs approved by the building principal.

The motion for approval was made by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Willing and carried unanimously.

C. GRANTS RECEIVED

Dr. Brofee thanked the school staffs for their efforts to acquire grant funding for special projects:

STARS Grant – Vicki Carter

Princess Anne Elementary – Pat Davis – Manokin Stream Study - \$500.

Marion Sarah Peyton – Bonnie Bradshaw – Assateague National Park Trip - \$380.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL REPORT

1. Human Resources Report

Upon recommendation of Mr. Lawson, it was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the Human Resources report. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Early Retirement Bonus

Mr. Lawson reported that five teachers had announced their retirement prior to the deadline and will be eligible for the early retirement bonus. They each will receive the \$1,000. bonus.

3. Ad Hoc Salisbury University and ESSA Committee

Dr. Brofee commented on the committee work of the Eastern Shore Superintendent’s Association partnering with Salisbury University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to recommend strategies to get more African American students into teaching. She asked the Board for \$500.00 as Somerset’s share to support this project.

Motion was made by Mr. Byrd, seconded by Mr. Willing to approve the expenditure. The motion was carried unanimously.

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4. Teacher of the Year

Mr. Lawson briefed the Board about the Teacher of the Year Reception at Tawes at 2:00 p.m. on February 9, 2005 and the Teacher of the Year Gala at the Henson Center at 6:00 p.m. on February 10, 2005.

B. Finance Report

1. Monthly Update

Mrs. Miller was ill, Dr. Brofee referred the Board to the monthly report. All questions were deferred until Mrs. Miller could be present.

2. Employee Computer Purchase Program

This item was tabled until next month when Mrs. Miller could be present.

3. Health Carrier Call for Funds

Mr. Daugherty explained that the system had received the request from the Eastern Shore Health Council managed by the Eastern Shore Consortium for a call of \$213,000 to cover health costs because the fund has exceeded its reserve due to unexpected health use. The system had budgeted \$100,000, but must fund \$113,000. Since Mrs. Miller was absent the motion was made by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Miles and carried to approve the budget transfer of \$113,000 to cover the health insurance call.

4. Food Service Quarterly Report

Ms. Wood reported on the quarterly food service report. The year to date figure is much better than last year. The \$41,000 loss will stay about the same with an operating lost of about \$50,000.

C. Transportation Report

Mr. Daugherty asked the Board for permission to train Joseph Asanovich, John Asanovich and Dennett Butler as substitute drivers.

The motion to approve was made by Mr. Paul. And seconded by Mr. Byrd. The motion was carried.

E. Public Relations

Ms. Vicki Nelson briefed the Board on the Public Relations work that she was doing.

F. Master Plan Steering Team

Dr. Brofee briefed the Board that the Master Plan Steering Team would be meeting on February 23, 2005 at UMES.

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G. Out of State Conferences

The Board was informed that the following staff members attended Out of State Conferences.

Tracy Cottman – PBIS Conference

Lisa Hopkins, Terry Drechsler, Tanya Briddell – ASCD Conference

12. Superintendent Comments

Dr. Brofee mentioned President Bush's education budget which cuts technology and media funding and eliminates the Perkins Vocational Funding. Special Education funding will not be enough to offset the number of Special Education Students being identified by revision of IDEA 05. President Bush plans to require high school testing in grades 9-11 and reading program at the high school level. Dr. Brofee noted that she would be attending the DAR Essay Awards on Saturday where two SCPS students are being honored.

Mr. Scott thanked Mr. Marshall and the Safety Task Force for their work and report.

13. March Board Meeting

The March Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m..

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Secretary/Superintendent

Recorded by Clarence Johnson

Prepared by Linda L. Sterling