

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 7:05 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 Chris Wood was also present. Britany Dennis was not present at the meeting.

MINUTES

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 were present, the Superintendent and Chris Wood, student board member, were also present. Britany Dennis did not attend.

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 January 17, 2006. All Board members were in agreement.

6. Adoption of Agenda

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

7. Public Participation

Zelma Hayward was not present to voice her concerns about the Athletic Policy, but will be at the March 21, 2006 Board meeting.

8. Student Board Members Report

Student Board member Chris Wood gave a wonderful report for Washington High School. Britany Dennis of Crisfield High School did not attend the board meeting.

9. DAR Winners

Jane King enlightened the Board with information about the DAR contest. Ms. King introduced Barbara Bloodsworth who helps organize and distribute information to the schools regarding the contest. The DAR is an active club that organizes promoting patriotism. Ms. Bloodsworth introduced Nick Long, DAR contest winner and his family. Nick enlightened the board by reading his winning "Patriotism" essay about Ben Franklin. After reading his essay Mrs. Bloodsworth presented him with a \$50 savings bond. Mr. Scott along with all Board members thanked Nick for a job well done.

10. Deal Island School

Mr. Forbush gave the Board highlights concerning his school. He passed out a brochure containing school data. Mr. Forbush listed the following reasons his school has been doing so well 1) their 90 minute reading program, 2) the thirty minutes students receive for reading and math intervention 3) the Learning Support Specialist, 4) Reading and Math Clubs, 5) Quarterly and Course incentives and 6) a supportive PTA. Deal Island School's Volunteer program is improving and Math Night was a success. Mr. Scott thanked Mr. Forbush for his school report.

11. Old Business

Policies

Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve the Student Service policies #600 series. Policies #600-5 and #600-7 were tabled as changes will be made at a later date. Policies #600-6 and #600-8 have been combined with policy #600-7. With Mr. Paul complimenting policy 600-3.2 (Nutrition in Schools), the policies were approved with all Board members in agreement.

Proposed 2006-2007 School Calendar

Before the calendar was voted upon, Dr. Brofee asked the Board to think about testing and that it should be considered an issue for starting before Labor Day. Mr. Bloodsworth gave a report containing the votes of teachers and parents with 358 to 562 voting to start After Labor Day and website responses voting 21 to 39 to start After Labor Day. After taking in reviewing teacher community votes, the consensus of the Board was to start the 2006-2007 school year after Labor Day. A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded Mr. Willing to approve the 2006-2007 School Calendar to start After Labor Day.

12. New business

Dr. Brofee presented the #100 series policies to the Board for revision, review and recommended changes. The Board will review and vote at the March 21, 2006 Board meeting.

According to Policy #100-3 (Ethics Panel Nomination), Dr. Brofee requested the Board nominate two members of the Board to serve on the panel. Chairman Scott was nominated for the Northern end of Somerset County and Vice Chairman Byrd was nominated for the Southern end.

Mr. Willing moved and Vice Chairman Byrd seconded to approve Dr. Brofee's request to move the March 31, 2006 inservice to the end the 2005-2006 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Brofee presented a Bridge to Excellence Priorities presentation on the 2007 Budget Obligations discussed at the Steering Team Committee and how the funds were spent.

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Brofee, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Willing seconded to approved the request to ask the commissioners for additional funds to cover reoccurring cost in the amount of \$363,000.00. The vote was unanimous.

Facilities and Transportation

Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that Mr. Matthews had fallen, broken his hip, and is in recovery after surgery. The Food Service program is going well and Mrs. Riggins is doing a great job.

Mr. Daugherty asked the Board for approval of his Change Order Request in the amount of \$31,000.00 to add blue carpet to Woodson's gym floor. After assuring the Board that there was enough money in the budget, Mr. Miles moved and Vice Chairman Byrd seconded to approve his request. The Board was also informed that there had been an additional \$4,750.00 added to Woodson's previous construction cost. Relocatables had to be placed at the schools to house the Pre K and K students originally thought to be attending the Whittington Elementary School with the Shore Up Inc. The Board was also informed that the Woodson sewer lift system will be thousands of dollars and will be given an exact amount when the information is received.

Upon the request of Mr. Daugherty, a motion was called by Mr. Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve Somerset Intermediate's Bid Approval.

Upon Mr. Daugherty's request, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve Somerset Intermediate's Low Voltage Package. Mr. Daugherty also presented the Board with the ESMEC Health and Energy Update.

Mr. Daugherty presented to the Board, the Safety and Security Assessment done by John Reginaldi. Principals will be informed of issues concerning their schools and floor plans will be given to the law enforcement. Chairman Scott thanked Mr. Daugherty for his report.

Human Resources

Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve the Human Resources report presented by Mr. Lawson.

Finance Report

Mrs. Miller informed the Board that the County General will be doing an audit the week of March 6, 2006 and will be auditing MA billing. Mrs. Miller ended by giving the finance and food service reports. Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

14. Superintendent's & Board's Comments

Dr. Brofee informed the Board the State Superintendent had chosen the 6th grade student and teachers of Somerset Intermediate School to attend an Academic five day Learning Conference at Cecil County. Vicki Nelson was thanked for her successful camera club through Project Achieve. Dr. Brofee's closing comments were the announcement of Mrs. Mazie Handy's death and offered her condolences to the family.

- 15. March 21, 2006** – A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul and approved to meet on March 21, 2006. Work session will be at 6:00 p.m. and open regular session will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The executive session will begin immediately after the regular board session. The Board unanimously agreed.

16. Adjournment

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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