

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, **Tuesday, February 20, 2007** 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. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Vice Chairman Miles arrived during the meeting.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, **Tuesday February 20, 2007** at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Britany Dennis and James Daniels asked to be excused prior to the meeting.

REGULAR SESSSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all five Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board Members James Daniels asked to be excused for personal reasons and Britany Dennis was excused due to illness.

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. Pruitt to approve the minutes of February 20, 2007.

- **Announcement of Closed Session**

6. Adoption of Agenda

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

7. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

8. Student Board Members' Report

James Daniels was out due to personal reasons and Britany Dennis was out sick so a report was not given for either school.

9. Parents Science Night

Pat Benner, Jennifer Follensbee, and Pat Carson sponsored a Parent Science Family Night with the Eastern Shore Science Academy. A workshop was held for Science Teachers in collaboration in Salisbury University. There were 30 parents and students that attended. Mr. Elebash, Mr. Bloodsworth, and Ms. Hopkins were thanked for their help. The night consisted of students and parents going to different stations learning how to do various projects. The Science Academy made this event possible, but will not fund next year. The group would like the Board to sponsor the event next year.

10. Princess Anne Elementary School

Lilly Welch, Princess Anne Elementary Principal, spoke to the Board concerning the Family/Teacher Collaboration Night. Its purpose was to bring families together to discuss skills that will be coming up during the year. Parents were provided the opportunity to learn the skills their children are learning and for those who needed transportation, transportation was provided. Parents also requested to have a parent network where parents could call each other with various questions they may have concerning their child's homework. This event was only for the 4th grade students, but seems to be successful and will be expanded to all grades next year. PAES will also be structuring a parent resource center which will offer helpful adult materials as well as student materials. Mrs. Welch was thanked by Chairman Scott for providing such wonderful highlights about the school.

11. DAR Essay Contest Winners

Mrs. Bloodsworth and other DAR Officers presented awards to Leah Marshall, Katie O'Neal, and Courtney Marie Massey for their outstanding DAR essays. Each student delighted the Board members and audience by reading their essays. Their essays revolved around living in the Jamestown Colony.

12. 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. Progress continues to go well.

2. Change Order Request

Mr. Catanzaro explained to the Board the process and steps in their change order requests. SPN works for the owner of the project and change orders are sent to the

engineer responsible for the task. HSW responds to the change order request. We have saved approximately \$62,000.00

Upon completion of Mr. Catanzaro's explanation of his change order request, Dr. Brofee announced that beginning the next Board meeting this information will be presented at 6:45 p.m., before the open session is scheduled to begin.

B. Approval of 07-08 School Calendar

Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve the 2007-2008 School Calendar, which begins on August 27, 2007. The vote was unanimous.

13. New Business

A. Facilities and Transportation

1. Request for Board Agreement to Rezone

Dr. Brofee presented to the Board a letter from Mr. Riffin, housing investor, requesting the Board to change the Rezoning category of Woodson Elementary School's property. Board agreed not to get involved and that would be left up to the Planning Commission.

B. Policies

1. 600-41 Sexual Offenders Entering School Property

Ms. Carter presented policy 600-41 to the Board to review and study for approval at next month's Board meeting. Mr. Paul would like item four to be revised stating that offenders must be chaperoned around the building and item nine to state that failure to follow procedures will result in possible criminal prosecution.

SCPS will continue to get written notices and updates of sexual offenders list. Ms. Carter also provided the offenders website address to the public. This website will also be provided to the parents.

2. Grading and Reporting Guidelines

Mrs. Holland explained the elementary grading and reporting guidelines to the Board members. Schools are making sure grades are kept up to date. Some assignments have a greater impact on students' grades because they offer more points.

Mr. Elebash explained the grading guidelines for the secondary schools. A Professional Development workshop was provided this summer. More assessments are provided which will give students greater chances of reaching requirements. Teachers are also being informed that homework should be a review and not for doing something new. Mr. Elebash stated that getting students to achievement levels will be a long process, but if teachers follow guidelines and differentiated instructional variables, students will hopefully achieve more.

Mr. Paul questioned how the state compares the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades scores. Dr. Brofee will research and get back with the results of whether 8th grade is compared to

the middle or high school grade level.

Vice Chairman Miles questioned our ability to provide High Quality Math Teachers and would like to know the student-teacher ratio. Dr. Brofee will get this information to the Board when received.

C. Human Resources Report

1. New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources Report as presented. The vote was unanimous. Resignations: Robert Collasisus, Anna Ball, Anthony Waters and Kelly Bromley; Retirees: Ruth Jones, Alice Evans, Bonnie Bradshaw, Joan Larue, Larry Sterling; New Hires: Linda Veins-PAES Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, Alexander McRae – Tech. Ed. Teacher for Washington Academy and High School; Ileen Yearick – Countywide Speech and Language Pathologist; Babara Hicks – Instructional Assistant (PAES), Karen Bowden – School Nurse (Washington Academy/High School)

2. Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson provided an informational summary of SCPS staff traveling out of state to conferences and was thanked by Chairman Scott.

D. Preliminary Budget 2008 Presentation

Projected Revenue

Dr. Brofee and Mrs. Smoker presented the projected revenue budget for the next fiscal year.

Dr. Brofee and Mrs. Smoker showed a presentation on the Priorities listed at the January 30, 2007 Steering Team Committee meeting.

E. Finance Report

1. Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Monthly Finance Report and was thanked by the Board. We anticipate a reimbursement from the State but part of expenditures will not be deducted until the end of the year.

2. Monthly Food Service Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Food Service Report which shows projected profit with expenditures being under budget and we anticipate an ending year profit.

3. A-133 Audit (Pigg, Krahl, & Stern)

Mrs. Miller presented the Audit report from Pigg, Krahl, & Stern. They were overall pleased with the audit, but noted that student invoices should not contain students' names or directly connect students to the invoice. This issue is being taken care of.

14. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

Dr. Brofee announced that the TOY Banquet will be held on April 23, 2007 and that the Student Recognition Program will be held on May 23, 2007. All Board members were invited to attend. Dr. Brofee reported that Dick Goodall, State Board Member, will be visiting March 07, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Brofee informed the Board of her visit with E.C.I. and announced that 6th and 7th graders will soon be taking trips to the Institute for tours of the prison and GEAR UP had a parent weekend at the Ramada Inn which went well.

Mr. Pruitt ended the comments by commending GES for its Reading Program and how well it is going. WES and PAES also seem to be doing quite well with kudos given to Ms. Dean and Mrs. Welch.

16. March 2007 – It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the March 20, 2007 open session budget meeting at 5:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. to discuss the SIS Tawes Construction Project, and open regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

17. Adjournment