



**Board Minutes  
Westover, Maryland  
February 17, 2009**

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By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center, Tuesday, February 17, 2009 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 Willing, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Willing, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Washington Academy & High School's student representative was excused from the meeting. Crisfield Academy & High School's student representative was present at the meeting.

**REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brofee at 7:15 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 representative from Washington High School was also present. Crisfield student Board representative was excused from the meeting.

**3. Declaration of Quorum**

Chairman Willing declared a quorum to be present.

**4. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Willing led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the January 20, 2009 Board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

**7. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve the amended agenda. The vote was carried unanimously.

**8. Public Participation**

Mr. Kirk Simpkins addressed the Board with his along with parent concerns relating to the GPA standards for athletic eligibility. Mr. Simpkins is concerned that eligible athletes are missing out on the opportunity to play sports because the GPA standards are too high. Mr. Simpkins feels that we would be able to catch the lower achieving students before it's too late. By lowering the GPA, Mr. Simpkins feels that we would be able to catch the attention of students that are not doing well, draw them into sports, and encourage them to do better in order to continue to play sports. Dr. Whittington stated academics were far better for a student than sports.

It was the consensus of the Board to review the Athletic Policy and take such concerns into consideration.

**9. Student Board Members' Report**

WHS Student Representative was excused from the meeting, but sent her report to the Superintendent to report. The CHS representative provided a detailed and informational report on the southern schools and was thanked by the Board.

**10. "Be There" Campaign**

Ms. Nelson and Ms. Scott are hosting a "Be There Campaign" encouraging parents to be there for their children. A banner was painted by Danny McCloud. A picture was taken of the banner and a PSA will be posted on WBOC. The members thanked them for the information.

**11. DAR Essay Contest**

A Crisfield Academy & High School student was the winner of the DAR Essay Contest. This year's topic was "What message did the Ghettysburg address of 1863 send and what message can be obtained from it today." The student did a wonderful job presenting his essay to the Board members and was thanked by all. A \$50 savings bond was given as an award.

**12. Old Business**

**A. Policies**

**Approval of the 500 Series Policies, Policies of Instruction (Format Revisions)**

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve the following format revisions of the following #500 series policies: Policy 500-01 to 500-7, 500-9 to 500-11, 500-21 to 500-22, 500-24 to 500-25, 500-29 to 500-30, 500-32 to 500-33, and 500-36. The vote was carried unanimously.

**Approval of Policy 500 series (Substantial Revisions)**

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve revised Policy 500-8, Curriculum Programs. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve revised Policy 500-13, Semester Examinations for High School Students. The motion was carried with all Board members in agreement.

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve revised Policy 500-18, 504 Student Guidelines. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve revised Policy 500-19, Instructional Goals and Learning Outcomes. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve revised Policy 500-21, Extra Curricular Activities Eligibility. The motion was carried with all Board members in agreement.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve revised Policy #500-23, Secondary Promotion and Class Ranking. The motion was carried with all Board members in agreement.

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve revised Policy 500-26, Cooperative Work Experience. A motion was carried with all Board members in agreement.

A motion was called for by Vice Chairman Miles, moved by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve revised Policy 500-28, Home and Hospital. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve revised Policy 500-37, Benchmarks and Common Assessments. The vote was unanimous.

#### **600 series policies, Student Services**

Ms. Carter presented the revised 600 series policies for the Board's review and study.

#### **B. Instructional Report (2009-2010 School Calendar)**

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve the 2009-2010 School Calendar. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **C. Field Trip Approval**

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the request for the baseball team to spend the night at a Kent Island Hotel in order to be at a Baltimore scrimmage the following morning at 10:00 a.m. The vote was four to one. Vice Chairman Miles opposed the request.

#### **D. Human Resources – Custodial Job Descriptions**

Dr. Brofee presented the revised Custodial Job Descriptions. It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve the revisions. The vote was unanimous.

### **13. A. Monthly Finance Report**

#### **Monthly Finance Report**

Ms. Miller provided the monthly finance and food service reports to the Board. The Board members thanked Ms. Miller for the information.

#### **2010 Budget Update**

Dr. Brofee presented an update on the 2010 School Budget. The presentation detailed a breakdown of area budget cuts, staff to student ratios, our rankings and comparisons to our 24 surrounding

counties. We are well staffed and retaining HQ educators, we have upgraded to a recruitment incentives, and are integrating technology into the classrooms. With the loss of over one million dollars it will be a significant challenge in maintaining our accomplishments. Vice Chairman Miles stated that he was pleased to see how funds are being spent in our county.

**B. Facilities and Transportation**

**Construction Management – WAHS**

Mr. Daugherty presented a presentation explaining the advantages and disadvantages of choosing an At-risk Company and Agency for the WAHS project. It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Agency as the Construction Management Company for WAHS. The vote was unanimous.

**C. 2007 Maryland Adolescent Survey**

It was the consensus of the Board to table the Maryland Adolescent Survey until the March 17, 2009 Board meeting.

**D. Policies**

**700 Series, Human Resources Student Services**

The Superintendent presented the 700 series policies to the Board members for their input and upcoming revisions.

**E. Out of County School Request**

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve an out of county parent's request for permission for their child to attend Greenwood Elementary Schools. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve an out of county request of a parent to allow their child permission to attend Washington Academy and High School. The vote was unanimous.

**F. Human Resources Progress Report**

The following personnel actions were presented: Retires: Keith Good; Resignations: Cynthia Sterling; Terminations: John Borden

**Out of State Travel**

Out of State Travel was presented to the Board for informational purposes only.

**Leave of Absence Approval**

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve Dia Liggon's

request to take a leave of absence May 08 – May 26 to accompany her team to Ghana. Ms. Liggons is working on her Doctorate and has been given the opportunity to travel to Ghana.

### **New Bus Driver Training**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the training of George Barnes III. The vote was unanimous.

### **14. Superintendent & Board Member comments**

There were no comments following this meeting.

- 15. March 2009** – It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve March 17, 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.

### **16. Adjournment**

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the adjournment the Board meeting at 9:45 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary