



The Somerset County Board of Education met in an open called session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, February 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Willing, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Ms. Tilghman. Mr. Miles arrived towards the end of the meeting.

### **CALLED OPEN SESSION AGENDA**

**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 five Board members were present.

**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. Out of County Trip**

Dr. Brofee requested the Board's approval for the Washington Academy and High School's baseball team to stay overnight in Kent County in order to play a scrimmage game in Baltimore by 10:00 am. It was the consensus of the Board to hold approval until additional information on the trip was received by all Board members.

**6. 2010 Budget Development Limitations**

Dr. Brofee presented a presentation outlining the shortfall of over one million dollars in Somerset County Public Schools' 2010 School Budget. The county is not relying on the Federal Stimulus Package and the awards may come with stipulations. The Superintendent has asked the community and the principals to work together in coming up with solutions in making the budget work for Somerset County students.

Dr. Brofee and Ms. Smoker continued with the presentation highlighting the importance of technology to the students. Student Connections is a way that students communicate using blogs. Delegate Elmore also stated on the presentation that it is important to all teachers to learn the various ways to communicate.

## **7. Call for Input**

Chairman Willing requested public input. There was little public input which may be due to the fact that principals have met with parents at their prospective schools to discuss the funding situation and has already forwarded the information to the Superintendent.

Mr. Henry Ward, President of the School Bus Contractors, spoke to the Board members regarding vehicle allotment, the sliding scale, hourly wages, and the addition of administrative fees. Mr. Ward asked that the Board members not reduce bus contractors in the 2010 budget and expressed that the contractors would like the option to negotiate. Chairman Willing expressed his understanding of the bus contractors' concerns and their importance within the budget.

Dr. Whittington questioned whether we were comparing bus contractors with other surrounding counties. He also expressed the importance of contacting the supervisors of a department when issues are being brought before the Board. Dr. Whittington requested a breakdown of administrative fees.

Mr. Willing stated that due to the 1.5 million budget shortfall, layoffs were unavoidable. Mr. Ward was thanked by all Board members.

## **8. Board Comments**

Chairman Willing announced the next Board meeting, February 17, 2009. The Board commented on the lack of public attendance and input regarding the budget and would like to see more done in capturing the attention of the community. It was determined that the meeting was advertised and parents and teachers were just waiting for the outcome of the budget deficit.

## **9. Adjournment**

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary