



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in a closed session 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 Sumpter, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:17 p.m. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board Representatives were excused from the meeting.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Mr. Webster provided an update on costs associated with beginning a football team at Crisfield Academy and High School. The cost would be covered by local funds and school revenue. Chairman Sumpter thanked Mr. Webster for the information.

Dr. Brofee introduced Bill Middleton of the Maryland Association of Board's of Education. Mr. Middleton provided a step by step overview of the Superintendent search process. It will be a four year contract search. The Board also has the authority to elect a chosen individual for the position who must meet state requirements and must have certification.

Mr. Daugherty discussed the Washington High School's Electrical Contractor's status. The current contractor has defaulted. The Bonding company has requested permission to re-advertise for the contractor. Fidelity and Deposit chose Rommel Electric which started on February 24, 2011. All subcontractors have remained. A bonding agency has authority to approve a new contractor.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brofee at 7:17 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all five Board members and the Superintendent were present. Both Student Representatives were excused from the meeting.

3. Declaration of Quorum

It was declared that a quorum was present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Sumpter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called for by Chairman Sumpter, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the minutes of January 25, 2011. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous with all Board members in agreement.

7. Student Board Members' Activities Report

Both Student Board Representatives were excused from the meeting, one was sick and the other had a prior engagement. Dr. Brofee presented the Board with the school reports. Dr. Brofee sought the help of the community and staff to assist with the cost of Somerset Intermediate's North Bay Trip. This will give more students the opportunity to attend.

8. EPA Award – Energy Education Environment Excellence Awards

Mr. Ross Kelly, Energy Education Inc. presented the Board with an energy savings award. SCPS has saved over \$856,000 in energy costs. SCPS and staff were thanked for all their hard work.

9. DAR Essay Contest

Ms. Bloodsworth presented the DAR Essay Contest Winner. This year's essay was on the "2010 Celebration of the 275th Birth of Paul Revere". Students were asked to become Paul Revere and tell about their life story accomplishments. The winner was a student from Crisfield Academy and High School. After reading her story, she was presented with a fifty dollar savings bond and a certificate. The Board commended the student for a job well done.

10. Public Participation

Daniel Powell, Somerset County States Attorney introduced himself to the Board members and the community. Mr. Powell expressed concern about gang prevention and youth recruitment as well as school hazing. He stated that he will use his position in the county to address students when needed and talk to them before they end up on juvenile court. Mr. Powell expressed his concern and awareness of the racial disparities within the county. The Board thanked him for his show of support for the youth in Somerset County.

12. Old Business

A. Facilities

Change Order Requests – Washington Academy & High School Renovation

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's Washington High School change order request #49; to furnish and install Curb Adapters and Additional Ductwork for Phase 4 Roof Top Equipment. The vote was unanimous.

Electrical Contractor Update

Mr. Daugherty provided a brief recap of the discussion in the open work session. The Bonding Company will absorb the additional costs and no delays are anticipated.

B. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

Mr. Lawson provided the Board with an update on the Online Application process. The online tracking system is called "School Recruiter". This system will help gather requested demographic data on local, state, and federal levels. Applications can be generated in fifteen to twenty seconds with an annual cost of \$4,000. Central Office staff will help individuals complete applications if they stop by the office. The new application process will be posted on the Website as well as a briefing in the newspaper.

Job Descriptions

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the following presented revised job descriptions: Instructional Assistant and Reading Coach. The vote was unanimous.

Teacher of the Year 2011 Banquet March 17, 2011

Mr. Lawson provided a brief update on the history of the Teacher of the Year. Since 1987 we have had twenty-four "Teachers of the Year" winners with seven being State finalist, and one Maryland State Teacher of the Year. He also provided the Board with a breakdown of the review/selection panel. The Teacher of the Year Banquet will be held March 17, 2011.

C. 2011-2012 Calendar

Mr. Bloodsworth presented the proposed 2011-2012 School Calendar. Though input on the proposed calendar was slow, it was determined that the majority voted on Calendar two which included the extended Christmas break.

A motion was called for by Chairman Sumpter, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve the recommendation of Calendar 2 as the 2011-2012 School Calendar. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. 2012 Budget: Where We are and Where We are Going

Dr. Brofee showed the Board a presentation on the 2012 budget which listed items for consideration in balancing the budget.

Item 1 – Program Goals (Master Plan and Race to the Top)

We must follow the guidelines in the Master Plan which is to increase student achievement through engaged students and family and community involvement; increase effective instruction through Highly Qualified Staff and continuous learning and improvement; and to provide a safe & secure learning environment through attentive and supportive student services through consistent and effective discipline. The Board has made a commitment to focus on decision-making on student achievement, student well-being, and system moral by thinking of the system as a whole, not as separate schools.

Item 2 – Bridge to Excellence Report

The NCLB requires student achievement of high standards in Reading and Mathematics, ELL student achievement, highly qualified teaching staff for all students, a safe drug free learning environment and a successful graduation rate. We have achieved at 97.7% of Highly Qualified Staff and Maryland has been ranked 2nd in the nation. ARRA assurances require teacher effectiveness and equitable placement, Pre K through College Career and Data system, college and career ready standards and assessments, and targeted intensive intervention and support.

Item 3 - What is Our Projected Revenue?

ARRA positions were decreased by \$400,000 during 2010-2011. The Governor's budget shows a decrease of \$251,220. Maryland took an overall 94 million dollar decrease.

Item 4 – What are the requests for 2012?

The Superintendent provided a list of staff requests. Mr. Wells questioned Princess Anne's large additional staff request. All except two schools had a request to maintain the ARRA positions. Staff also requested an increase in materials and services.

Item 5 – Some Options to Balance the Budget

The Superintendent listed several options that would help balance the budget and save positions. She recommended that furlough days be put on the negotiating tables, set clear class sizes, current positions be distributed according to enrollment, approach all positions and items according to impact and efficiency, and seek non-recurring cost support from the commissioners. She also suggested that we begin informing persons in positions that will not be sustained by early March and recommended we seek external or grant funding for the expansion of the technology program.

Item 6 – Budget Development Calendar

- ▶ The Superintendent will meet with the commissioners on March 01, 2011
- ▶ A Budget Work Session will be held on March 08, 2011
- ▶ Regular Board Meeting/Public and Staff Input on March 15, 2011
- ▶ Public Hearing on April 26, 2011
- ▶ Budget Approval on May 17, 2011

12. New Business

A. Finance

Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Miller presented the monthly finance report to the Board.

Food Service Report

Ms. Miller presented the food service report to the Board members. The Board members thanked Ms. Miller for the information.

B. Facilities and Transportation

Approval of School Bus Purchase

The request of Charles Fisher to purchase a new bus was tabled until the March meeting. Dr. Whittington expressed concern about voting on this issue until current issues are resolved.

Field Trip Approval

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the Student Government Association's request to attend an overnight leadership workshop at the State Convention in Ocean City. The vote was unanimous with the stipulation that a male and female chaperone attend. Mr. Bloodsworth will inquire on Crisfield High School's SGA's participation in the workshop.

C. Uniform Initiative Expansion

Dr. Brofee informed the Board that Ms. McLaughlin will be gathering feedback on the current student uniform initiative. She will be talking to secondary schools and will come forward in the future with the results.

D. Human Resources

Whistle Blower Hotline Recommendation

Dr. Brofee requested the Board's direction in developing a Whistle Blowing Policy. This policy would allow other employees to inform Supervisor's of Employees wasteful work. The cons are that it could mean additional cost to the county and send a wrong message to staff.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to move the Whistle Blower Hotline Recommendation to next month's meeting.

New Hire, Retires, and Resignations

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources. The vote was unanimous.

Retirees: Mable Collins, Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee

New Hires: Robert “Eddie” Daniels, William “Buddy” Evans, Lee Anne Simpkins, Mechell Purnell

Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson presented the Out of State travel to the Board for informational purposes only.

14. Superintendent and Board Member Comments

Chairman Sumpter announced the retirement of Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, current Superintendent of Somerset County Public Schools. The Board is looking for community and staff support. Information will be shared at each Board meeting as we move forward in the Superintendent search process. Chairman Sumpter informed the community and CHS students that the football request is still being reviewed and a commendation will be given at the March Board meeting.

The Superintendent provided highlights of some of the schools. Somerset Intermediate thanked the Central Office for their contribution to the Angel Tree. She also expressed her regrets on her decision to resign. Ms. Green-Gale requested a list of activity dates of the various schools. Chairman Sumpter thanked Daniel Powell, Craig Mathias and all who attended for their attendance and show of support for the school system.

- 15. March 15, 2011** – A motion was called for by General Sumpter, moved by Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to hold an open work session at 5:00 p.m., an executive session at 6:00 p.m., and an open regular session meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center on March 15, 2011.

16. Adjournment

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary