

Board Minutes
Westover, Maryland
January 17, 2006

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, January 17, 2006, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Miles, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Ms. Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board member Britany Dennis was also present. Vice Chairman Byrd asked to be excused due to illness. Chris Wood also did not attend this 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 except for the Vice Chairman Byrd, who had had asked previously to be excused due to illness. The Superintendent and Britany Dennis, student board member, were also present. Chris Wood did not attend.

3. Reorganizing of Board of Education

This month was the nomination and election of the Board Chairman and the election of the Board Vice Chairman. All board members positions remained the same.

4. Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Scott declared a quorum to be present.

5. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Scott led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Scott asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence to pay tribute to Michael McMullen, former WHS graduate, who was killed in Iraq.

6. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve the minutes of December 13, 2005. All Board members were in agreement.

7. Adoption of Agenda

Upon the request of Dr. Brofee, Mr. Paul moved, Mr. Miles seconded, and a unanimous vote was made to approve the amended agenda. A change order request was added to the agenda.

8. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

9. Student Board Members Report

Student Board member Britany Dennis of Crisfield High School gave a wonderful report about the schools and was thanked by the Board. Chris Wood did not attend the meeting.

10. Crisfield High School

Ms. Josenhans has been doing spiral testing. This testing has allowed students to experience learning other than in textbooks as seniors are not being taught social skills. Student are being taught life skills such as, being interviewed. National Honor Society and SHOPP has raised and donated money to the Tellez Family. The Gospel Family, led by Monique Ward is doing great. Mrs. Ward reported how well the Academy was doing. The Career Day was a success with various schools and universities attending. PLATO has been purchased for 9th graders and the Balanced Literacy Program has helped with 8th graders being involved in programs to increase vocabulary and low level reading. Mrs. Ward ended her report with the announcement that Johns Hopkins University will receive 23 students who did well on their MSA.

11. Gifted and Talented

Vicki Carter gave the board highlights on the Gifted and Talented Program. This program is provided at all schools and all students are eligible to participate. The GT program is made up of a GT committee aimed at identifying GT students. This committee will also discuss and revise the GT process. Ms. Carter informed the Board the NCLB design has helped in the acceleration of the GT program.

12. Old business

Mr. Bloodsworth brought forth the changes to the 500 series policies for approval. Mr. Miles questioned the policy #500-25 regarding the approval of students being allowed to modify their schedules in order to take English IV and go to college and policy #500-31 concerning field trips and chaperones chosen by the principal of the school. The Board felt that security measures should be taken as questioned by MSDE. These two policies will be exempt from approval. Mr. Miles moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approval the revised #500 series policies as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Brofee informed the Board of the Public Works hearing on January 18, 2006 where she and three commissioners will ask for more money. MSDE has awarded additional monies.

13. Old Business

Mrs. McLaughlin brought forth revisions to the #600 series policies. Policies #600-6 and #600-7 have been combined with policy #600-7. The Board will take for review and vote at next month's board meeting.

Mr. Turner presented the new policy #600-3.2, Nutrition in Schools. The Board has taken for consideration and will vote at next month's meeting.

Human Resources

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the amended Human Resources report as discussed in closed session. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Miles and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the Early Declaration of Retirement as presented by Mr. Lawson. The vote was unanimous.

2006 – 2007 School Calendar

Mr. Bloodsworth explained the various school calendar options as discussed by the Advisory Committee. Both calendars have been put on the website to get input from the community parents. Calendars have been taken for consideration.

Informational Item

Mr. Bloodsworth presented the Board with names of teachers who will be traveling out of state for conferences. The Board thanked Mr. Lawson for this information.

Finance Report

Mrs. Miller gave the finance, food service, and audit reports. Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the category transfer request made by Mrs. Miller. The Board was also given a budget calendar for information purposes only.

Change Order Request for Woodson

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order request for Woodson. The vote was unanimous.

14. Superintendent's & Board's Comments

Dr. Brofee thanked the Law Enforcement for their quick response in the bomb threats. Tracy Holland, new Supervisor of Elementary Education, was welcomed. Dr. Brofee informed the Board that the Leadership Team had been chosen for Woodson Elementary. The Principal, Mr.

Curtis, will set a scheduled orientation for parents and community members to visit the school as soon as we get building entry clearance.

The announcement of Mr. Pruitt's retirement was made. He will retire at the end of the school year. Dr. Brofee also addressed her concerns about students stating that we will continue to use resources and guidance to help them.

15. **February 21, 2006** – A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul and approved to meet on February 21, 2006. Closed session will be at 5:30 p.m. and open regular session will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The Board unanimously agreed.

16. Adjournment

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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