

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, **Tuesday, January 09, 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 Mr. Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Mr. Miles was absent from the meeting.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, **Tuesday January 09, 2007** at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mr. Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Mr. Miles was absent. Student Board member James Daniels was also present at the meeting. Britany Dennis had 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. Swearing in of Board of Education

Mr. Ted Phoebus, Clerk of Court, was present to swear in the new Board member, Stan Pruitt and returning Board member Jack Willing. A nomination was made re-electing Mr. Scott for Chairman and Mr. Miles for Vice Chairman. Mr. Scott excepted the nomination. Separate votes were held for each position. Mr. Miles was not present. The votes were unanimous, Dr. Brofee turned the meeting over to Chairman Scott.

3. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that four of the five Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board Member James Daniels was also present. Britany Dennis had asked to be excused prior to the meeting.

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.

6. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve the minutes of December 12, 2006.

- **Announcement of Closed Session**

7. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous with all four Board members in agreement.

8. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

9. Student Board Members' Report

James Daniels reported that HSA's are starting this week; WHS is having Theatre Night; SIS Band and Chorus concerts went well. Chairman Scott thanked James Daniels for providing such an informative report on the Northern end of schools. Britany Dennis was absent and a report was not provided for the Southern end. At the close of the school report Dr. Brofee informed Mr. Daniels and everyone present that HSA scores were important and needed to graduate, since Mr. Daniels had expressed why HSA's mattered.

10. Greenwood Elementary School

Mrs. O'Neal informed the Board that she had applied for a Community Foundation Grant in the amount of \$3,500.00. Leap Frog programs were purchased and ELL Students will be allowed to take them home in order to allow for practice for both the student and the parent. April 13th - 14th students will be taking a trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the Cherry Blossom Parade. Mrs. O'Neal also stated that a training will be held to help parents gain knowledge in students work to enable them to help students with their homework. Finally GES will be holding a Dinner Theatre titled "Beach Boys". Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

11. The Live It Program Implemented

Mr. Turner and Mr. Brady presented a report explaining the LIVE IT Program, sponsored by Coca Cola. The main focus of the program is to increase students' awareness of long term physical and nutritional activity, making healthy choices and encouragement in eating nutritional snacks, fruits, and vegetables.

Students are encouraged to record consumption of calories during the day, use stepameter to compare steps taken on PE days and the amount taken on non PE days. Students were given certificates for participating in the program. Mr. Paul questioned the significance of the program and stated that the only way this program would work was if students were tracked and data was provided on those students. Mr. Turner stated that the staff has been very supportive and that it has been received very well by the students.

12. Fine Arts Department – WHS Photography Display

Washington High School Photography Display

The Washington Academy/High School Photography display was set up in the Board meeting room for all to view. This photography class is an elective for grades 9-12. Mr. Bloodsworth is seeking art from all schools to showcase throughout the year as well as at the annual art show.

13. 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. The gym floor should be completed by the second week of January, 80% of the kitchen area is complete. Mr. Paul questioned the materials. Mr. Catanzaro stated that they are running two weeks behind schedule because the block is on backorder.

B. Policies

1. Student Services Policy #600-36 (Fighting)

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the revised Fighting Policy #600-36. The vote was unanimous. Fighting will not be tolerated in schools, the consequences are clear.

2. Fixed Assets Policy #300-13

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the Fixed Assets Policy #300-13 presented by Mrs. Miller.

14. New Business

A. Facilities and Transportation

1. Waiver and Payment for Mitigation @ CHS (Coast Guard Property)

Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve the Waiver and Payment request for Mitigation @ CHS. All Board members were in agreements. Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that the cost will come from funds already received.

2. Approval to Purchase a New Bus

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to give Hurshel Milbourne permission to purchase a New Bus. The vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of Food Service Purchasing Contract

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve the One Year Food Service Purchasing Contract.

4. Commendation and Recognition

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board granted Mr. Daugherty permission to send "Thank You" letters to Mr. Brian Laird for his efforts to secure capital improvement for the WHS Baseball field, the Ruritan Club and Mr. Hall for the donation of an irrigation system and a 4 inch well. Both men have shown dedication and have

provided a lot of hard work to help the SCPS system.

5. MD Dept of Planning Rotated Capacity (SRC) Calculation

Mr. Daugherty presented the Board with a MD Department of Planning Rotated Capacity (SRC) Calculation chart for Deal Island School for informational purposes only.

B. Human Resources Report

1. New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources Report. New Hire: David Marquis, Science Teacher at Washington Academy/High School; Retirement: Sharon Daniels, SIS Guidance Counselor; 2006-2007 Changes Blancia Gordy to Instructional Assistant in Early Childhood at PAES; Darlene Garber to Instructional Assistant (Special Education Resource) at Washington Academy/High School. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lawson also invited the Board Members to the TOY Board Room Reception on March 26, 2007 and the TOY Banquet on March 27, 2007.

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.

C. Instructional Report

1. 2007-2008 School Calendar

Mr. Bloodsworth provided the Board with the results from surveys collected and informed the Board members that the majority of votes were to start school before Labor Day which is aligned with all other Maryland counties except Worcester. This would help students by allowing more instruction time to possibly increase scores. Mr. Paul questioned this idea as June seems to be the most difficult instruction period. The Board members will review and study the calendar, but may possibly select to start after Labor Day.

2. 2006 MSA Achievement Awards

Mr. Bloodsworth presented awards to Greenwood and Woodson Elementary Schools for having the subgroup improvement scores. Both Title I schools will be receiving cash awards.

D. CTE Fire Fighting Proposal

Upon recommendation of Dr. Brofee, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve the CTE Fire Fighting Proposal presented by Mr. Webster. The vote was unanimous.

E. Status of Immunization Requirements

Ms. Carter and Ms. Thomas provided the Board with the status of the immunization requirements. There were around 400 students failing to meet requirements before January. After January 2, 2007 students had to show proof that they had the needed shots or provide Doctor's appointment data as to when these shots would be given. As of today, there are only 8 students who had remained not in compliance. DSS has been involved along with the Truancy court and the parents of these students may be charged with negligence. Dr. Brofee thanked Ms. Carter and Ms. Thomas for all their hard work and for doing such a great job.

F. Master Plan

Dr. Brofee, Mr. Bloodsworth, and Mrs. Smoker presented the highlights on Somerset County for the MGT State Master Plan Audit Part I. The presentation provided a breakdown of state, local, and government funding. Also presented were the results of students' MSA test scores, which have increased, and the alignment of SCPS instructional curriculum to the Master Plan. We still have work to do and will hold a Steering Team Committee meeting on January 30, 2007. Parents are invited to attend.

D. Finance Report

1. Negotiation Teams

Mrs. Miller presented the Negotiation Team members to the Board. Unit I and Unit II Teams are Leo Lawson, Vicki Miller, Doug Bloodsworth, and Stacy Wright. The Unit III Team members are Leo Lawson, Vicki Miller, Rodger Daugherty, Stacy Wright, and Jim Webster.

2. Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Monthly Finance Report and was thanked by the Board.

3. Monthly Food Service Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Food Service Report, but stated that actual figures can not be given until February as Mrs. Brown, Food Service Administrative Assistant, is out sick.

15. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

Dr. Brofee commented on the Christmas concerts held at the various schools and the wonderful performance of the students. Karen Milliken, parents of Gear Up Student, wanted to thank the system for allowing her child to be a participant in the program, with extra Thanks to Dianne Johnson. Vicki Nelson was also thanked for keeping her updated with school activities etc. and Betsy Thomas was also thanked.

Dr. Brofee also responded to the Charter School Application. Overall she is pleased with the various aspects and presence of the application. A recommendation will be made around April in accordance with the 120 day review process.

16. February 2007 – It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve

the February 20, 2007 closed session at 6:00 p.m. and open regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

17. Adjournment