



The Somerset County Board of Education met at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday January 15, 2008 at 5:35 p.m. to review the SIS Tawes Construction Project. Upon completion of the SIS Tawes Construction Update the Board met in a closed session meeting at 6:00 p.m.

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, January 15, 2008 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. Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mr. Scott, Mr. Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins were also in attendance.

OPEN WORK SESSION

SIS Construction

The Somerset County Board of Education met in an open work session at 5:35 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, and seconded by Mr. Pruitt. Present were Mr. Scott, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and recording secretary, Melissa Tilghman. Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Catanzaro were also present at the meeting. Mr. Miles arrived ten minutes into the meeting.

Mr. Daugherty provided the Board with the inspection report. The Somerset County Health Department will need to recheck the kitchen and the Fire Marshall will need to recheck the building before the permit is granted. The SPN's agenda was distributed to the Board members outlining demonstrations of various sections of the Somerset 6/7 Intermediate School. The demonstrations will educate staff on certain aspects of the building and its operation. Mr. Miles questioned the readiness of the building and the projected opening on January 24, 2008. Mr. Catanzaro assured Mr. Miles and the other Board members that the construction project would be complete.

Change Order Request

Mr. Catanzaro presented Mr. Daugherty's change order requests #49-#57 for approval at the open session meeting. The Board was informed that an expectant refund was likely for steel materials and from the steel contractor's extended services. Mr. Catanzaro stated that the contractor was given permission to begin in August, but documents show he didn't begin until 10/02/07. Mr. Catanzaro will continue to make sure additional costs are not imposed

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brofee at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board Members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins were also present.

3. Reorganizing of Board of Education

A nomination was made re-electing Mr. Scott for Chairman and Mr. Miles for Vice Chairman. Mr. Scott excepted the nomination. Mr. Paul moved, Mr. Willing seconded, and it was passed for Mr. Scott to continue his role as Chairman of the Board. The vote was unanimous.

A separate vote was held for the role of Vice Chairman with a nomination being made for Mr. Miles to be re-elected as the Vice Chairman of the Board. Mr. Miles excepted the nomination. It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Scott, and passed for Mr. Miles to continue his role as Vice Chairman of the Board of Education. The vote was unanimous. Dr. Brofee turned the meeting over to Chairman Scott.

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 for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Vice Chairman Miles to approve the minutes of December 11, 2007. The vote was unanimous.

7. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Vice Chairman Miles seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous.

8. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

9. Student Board Members' Reports

Student Board members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins provided highlighting reports on both ends of the School District. Chairman Scott thanked them for the informational report.

10. Technology Level III Recognition

Mrs. Smoker presented several teachers with Technology Level III completion certificates.

11. Woodson Elementary School Report

Ms. Dean was thanked for the informational report given to the Board members regarding happenings at the school and was thanked by the Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

13. Facilities

Change Order Requests

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order requests #49-#57. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Catanzaro, SPN Project Manager, was thanked for his help and hard work in savings incurred by the Board.

Opening of Somerset Intermediate

Mr. Daugherty announced the opening date of the Somerset Intermediate School, January 24, 2008. The Board members and the community were all invited to attend the walkthrough of the building on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Over 90% of the building is complete. There remains to be a lot of cleaning up to do, but the construction has come together. Upon the completion of the new school, Somerset Intermediate will be considered one of the top schools in the state.

Policies

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Mrs. Reich request to approve revised policy #500-17, Special Education. The policy was rewritten to follow the alignment of the 2004 CoMar Guidelines. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul, and passed to approve Policy #700-54, Tenure for Unit I Employees. The vote was unanimous.

Master Plan Steering Team Meeting

Dr. Brofee announced that the annual Steering Team Meeting being held on January 28, 2008. These meetings are held to gather information on the educational program and to establish priorities in a time of funding challenges.

13. New Business

Instructional Report

Mr. Bloodsworth provided the Board with three calendars to consider for the 2008-2009 school year. The Board requested additional drafts of calendars showing school starting after Labor Day. This documentation will be mailed to the Board members for their review and possible vote at the next Board meeting.

Policies

Policy #700-03, Conflict of Interest and #100-03, Ethics Regulations

Dr. Brofee presented policies #700-03, Conflict of Interest and Policy #100-03, Ethics Regulations to the Board for their review and consideration for a vote at the February Board Meeting. The following paragraph was added to both policies.

Nothing contained in this policy or policy 100-3 shall prohibit a Board of Education employee from hiring or engaging the services of a company or business (sole proprietorship or otherwise) owned or operated by another Board of Education employee independently from the Board of Education to provide goods and/or services in the normal course of business in an arms length transaction.

Human Resources Report

New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources report presented by Mrs. Miller. 1) Resignations: Racquel Ruffin-Shrieves, Kenny Bond, Paul Leimbach, Karen Milligan and Monica Lake 2) New Hires: Karyn Marsh, Cristina Rubio, Catherine Long, Nicki Wilson, Cathy Cox, and Megan Meyers 3) Reassignments: Karen Bowden and Ruby Riggin. The vote was unanimous.

Out of State Travel

Mrs. Miller provided the employee Out of State Travel to the Board for informational purposes only.

Finance Report

Monthly Finance and Food Service Reports

Mrs. Miller provided the Board with the monthly finance and food service reports. Mrs. Miller informed the Board that she was waiting on projections for the year. Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

Category Transfers

A motion was called for by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Mrs. Miller's budget transfer request. The vote was unanimous.

15. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

The Superintendent announced the opening of the Somerset Intermediate School, the reduction of the 2009 budget, and the Steering Team meeting. She also announced that six staff members will be attending a CES luncheon in Baltimore in which SCPS accomplishments with CES would be highlighted. Mr. Pruitt congratulated Alexander Cavins for receiving a second nomination to attend the Military academy.

- 16. February 2008**– It was moved by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve February 19, 2008 as the next open regular session. The open work session will begin at 5:30 p.m., closed session will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the open regular session will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

- 17. The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

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