

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, June 20, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday June 20, 2006 at 7:15 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Byrd, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Miles, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board members Britany Dennis and James Daniels were also present.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott at 7:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all five Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board members Britany Dennis and James Daniels were also present.

3. Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Scott declared a quorum to be present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Scott led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the minutes of May 16, 2006.

6. Adoption of Agenda

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

7. Public Participation

Susan Fisher, a parent, gave her condolences regarding the death of Mr. Dean. Ms. Fisher thanked the Board for the Voyager to Excellence program and voiced how well the program was going.

Darlene Taylor also spoke to the Board regarding the "It Takes a Village" group. Ms. Taylor is a Crisfield parent who, along with others from the community, has formed a group to help provide activities for children during the summer. The Board thanked Ms. Taylor for her efforts and gave suggestions of different areas to seek funding to help with this project.

8. Student Board Members Report

Britany Dennis and James Daniels provided a wonderful report and were thanked by Chairman Scott.

9. Ewell School Report

Ms. Evans reported that the Ewell's school year went very well. Ewell school has an active PTA, but they are working on getting more parents involved. Ms. Evans was thanked by the Board for her report.

10. United Way

Mr. Bloodsworth introduced United Way representative, Lynn Huson. Somerset County raised \$7,185 and that \$45,000 has been raised in the past six years. All schools who participated received plaques for their participation.

11. Service Learning

Mr. Turner presented Service Learning Leadership Awards to Megan Barnes and Bethany Ward. Since July 1992, one of the requirements for graduation has been the completion of 75 hours of community service. These Gear Up students were recognized at Turf Valley for Outstanding Service Learning Leadership. Dr. Brofee received a token of appreciation from MSDE.

12. Public Relations Report

Vicki Nelson, Public Relations Specialist, reported on Somerset County's efforts in keeping the public informed. There have been various flyers, brochures, and newsletters designed and distributed throughout the county. Ms. Nelson will launch an email subscription which will provide a communication link with parents to receive and send school information. Ms. Nelson also reported that as of this date, there has been 8300 volunteerism hours recorded. The Board members thanked her for the report.

OLD BUSINESS

13. Instructional Policies #500-11

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Miles moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve the Instructional Policy #500-11 (Gifted and Talented). All Board members agreed.

Attendance Policy #600-7

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve the Attendance Policy #600-7. The vote was unanimous.

Administrative Policies #200 series

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve the #200 series policies (Administrative Policies). The vote was unanimous.

Community-Home Relations Policies

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve Policy #800-12 (Community-Policies-Home Relations Policies). The vote was unanimous.

Cell Phone Policy Administrative Guidelines

The Superintendent provided an update on the Cell Phone Policy, stating that A & S will review at the next meeting to decide what steps to take. The Board had no questions at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

14.

A. Master Plan/Bridge to Excellence Program

Dr. Brofee, along with Nancy Smoker provided summary updates to the Board regarding the Master Plan/Bridge to Excellence. Schools systems are required by MSDE to complete reports and updates. Mrs. Smoker showed a presentation detailing the background of the quarterly tasks and a timeline made to make sure things are done on time. Dr. Brofee also informed the Board of the requirements of MSDE where Thornton funding is concerned. The main focus of MSDE is to see if the Thornton funds are being spent according to the alignment of the Master Plan and if these funds are being used to make improvements within the school system. Dr. Brofee further explained that overall scores have increased and the Special Education category has improved. The main focus of the Master Plan will be on professional development which has been added to the Master Plan.

B. Transportation

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the 2006-2007 sliding scale adjustments. This means that for every \$.06 gas prices go up, bus contractors will get \$.01 more, and for every \$.06 gas prices go down the bus contractors will get \$.01 less. This will be effective September 2006. The vote was unanimous.

C. Facilities

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve Woodson Change Order request #37. This request will require that changes be made to the entrance canopy and columns in various locations in the building. All Board members agreed.

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve Woodson Change Order request #38. This change will allow for the upgrading of a storage room into an office to be occupied by the Special Education Itinerants. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve Woodson's gym floor leveling. Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that the cost will not exceed \$20,000.00.

Approval of grant access to Board of Education Roadway

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Paul seconded to give Dr. Brofee approval to sign documents needed to grant the public access to the new Intermediate School roadway. This means that the county will maintain the road to the Intermediate School.

Approval to sell spare bus #21

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Willing to sell spare bus #21.

Constructional Manager Contract

Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that the SPN contract will cost \$248, 000 for the extended time and increased cost. This was approved in Executive Session.

Policies

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent the Board will take Policy #200-12 (Professional Staffing) for review and study to vote on at the August Board meeting.

Human Resources Report

A motion was made by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve the Human Resources Report presented by Mr. Lawson. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of Negotiating Team

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve the Negotiating Team. All Board members agreed.

Informational Item – Travel

Mr. Lawson informed the Board of various staff members attending out-of-state conferences. The Board thanked Mr. Lawson for the information.

Pension Reform

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Miles to accept the Pension Reform Plan presented by Mr. Lawson.

Finance Report

Category Transfers

Vicki Miller asked the Board to approve the requested \$167,000 budget category transfer. This budget excess amount was due to unused Health Insurance which will enable the Board to hire a Health Program Coordinator and add defibrillators to the schools. A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve the category transfer request made by Vicki Miller. The vote was unanimous.

Finance and Food Service Reports

Ms. Miller gave the Board an update on the Local Budget and the Food Services Budget. Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

15. Approval of 2006-2007 Board Meeting Dates

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve the board meeting dates as presented. The vote was unanimous.

16. Acts of the 2006 Maryland General Assembly

The Superintendent provided the Board members with a copy of the new and revised updated House Bills of the Maryland General Assembly.

17. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

The Superintendent commented on the Groundbreaking and Dedication of the Somerset Intermediate Campus to the Tawes Family. The Superintendent also thanked the Special Education students and staff for their improvements. Karen Linamen was also congratulated for winning the WBOC Barbeque. The Elk's were thanked for its scholarship contributions. They contributed to the CHS sound system, the Jack Cook Fund, North Bay, and PBIS. Upon completion of the Superintendent's Comments, Dr. Brofee expressed great sadness for the loss of Mr. Dean. Mr. Dean will be truly missed.

18. August 2006 Board Meeting

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Miles to cancel the July 18, 2006 Board meeting. The vote was unanimous.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve the August 15, 2006 Board meeting. All Board members agreed.

19. The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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