



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, June 27, 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 Chairman Scott, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Chairman Miles was not present.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Chairman Miles was absent from the meeting.

OPEN WORK SESSION (5:30 P.M.)

There was not a meeting held for the change order requests.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

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 four Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board Members Alexander Cavins and Chatriece Lawson were not present as they completed their term last month.

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 for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve the May 27, 2008 Board meeting minutes. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

6. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul, and passed to adopt the amended agenda.

7. Student Board Members' Report

The Student Board Members finished their term last month.

8. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

9. Request to Appear and Discuss – Stephanie Kayhan (Gideon Bible Issue)

Stephanie Kayhan spoke to the Board regarding the distribution of the Gideon Bibles in the schools. Dr. Brofee explained the procedure in which we allow the Bibles to be distributed. The Superintendent addressed this parent issue and stated that we will honor the parent's request.

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Willing and passed to approve the termination of the distribution of the Gideon Bible in the schools as requested by Mrs. Stephanie Kayhan. The vote was unanimous.

10. Response to Elementary Division Concerns as presented on 5/27/08

Tracie Holland addressed Ngina Mdouma, a concerned parent, in regards to student discipline and the lack of student textbooks. When addressing the first concern, student discipline, Mrs. Holland explained that teachers are using their judgment to discipline students. Mrs. Mdouma is concerned that every teacher's judgment and logic may not be the same resulting in a different punishment for every student. Mrs. Holland continued to explain that teachers follow the behavior policies enforced by the Board of Education. Mr. Bloodsworth apologized for any miscommunication their may have been between the teachers and the parents. Mr. Bloodsworth also stated that the discipline guidelines should be left up to the schools but parent involvement should continue.

In regards to Ms. Mdouma's second issue, the lack of student Social Studies books, Mrs. Holland informed Mrs. Mdouma that the 2008 textbooks were on backorder and until they arrived teachers were making copies of the books available.

The second parent waiting for a response from the Board was Carla Bailey. Mrs. Bailey was concerned about her daughter's Physical Education Grade. Mrs. Holland informed her that Ms. Gandolfi had followed the grading plan but acknowledged that the grading system needed some improvements.

Mrs. Bailey's request to have her daughter's grade changed was rejected by the Superintendent and the Board. The Board stated that the grade could only be changed if proven to be unfair and biased. Chairman Scott explained the Board's position in the situation and stated that it was not the intentions of the Board to get involved with grade changing of a student. Mr. Willing explained that after investigating the student's grade the Board was convinced that no unfair or biased treatment had occurred. Somerset County Public Schools will continue to look for improvements and any suggestions made on getting parents more involved would be appreciated.

11. MABE Presentation

Sandi Barry and Carl Smith, MABE representatives presented a presentation explaining and defining MABE's role and position in the Board of Education. A report of MABE's funding was presented and a breakdown of the Thornton fund expenditures.

Mr. Smith explained the insurance pools offered by MABE, the Casualty and Property Coverage and Workmen's Compensation. General funds are set aside for unfunded expenses called an investment trust in which \$20 million dollars has been invested so far.

MABE has several of Association Partners which include Performance Matters, PayPal, and Correctional Education. These partnerships are all web-based programs filtered through MABE. Other Partnerships filtered through MABE are the Superintendent's Search, Successful and Community Outreach Program, and State presence of the MABE Board members. The representatives were thanked by Chairman Scott.

12. Somerset County Board of Education Recognition

Dr. Brofee presented a "Thank You" plaque to the Board members from the Bus drivers.

OLD BUSINESS

13. Facilities

Change Orders

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Willing and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order request #100, to have an exterior speaker added to Somerset Intermediate. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul, and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order request #101, the remaining amount due to Baltimore Sound Engineering, Inc. The vote was unanimous.

Out of County Student Attendance

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Paul and approved to except the Out of County Student Attendance Requests for the 2008-2009 School Year. The vote was unanimous.

Technology Report

CyberSafety Curriculum Approval

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and approved to accept Mrs. Smoker's CyberSafety Curriculum. The vote was unanimous.

IT Security, Policy #200-25 Approval

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and approved to accept Mrs. Smoker's IT Security Policy #200-25. The vote was unanimous.

WHS Renovation

Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that Hord, Coplan, Macht, Inc. had received the Bid for the A&E renovation Bid project at Washington High School. Mr. Paul stated that community requests input on the Washington High School Renovation project.

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and approved to accept the Bid by Hord, Coplan, Macht, Inc. The vote was unanimous.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Finance Report

Category Transfers

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve Mrs. Miller's category transfers. Mrs. Miller stated that a July phone poll may be needed as it will include the August closeouts.

Monthly Report

Ms. Miller presented the Monthly Finance and Food Service Report. Mrs. Miller stated that the Food Service report was in the negatives and will be worse next year. Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

Policies

Mr. Bloodsworth presented the Civility Policy, #100-21. The policy was taken into consideration by the Board members for a vote at the next Board meeting.

Special Education Staffing Plan

Mrs. Reich presented the Special Education Staffing Plan for the Board's consideration and approval at the August Board meeting.

Human Resources Report

New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

Mr. Lawson presented the following Human Resources report for the Board's approval;

New Hires: Kari Leiser, Richard Saulitis, Kolby Noble, Janet Wilkins;

Resignations: Melinda Porter, Stephanie Covington, and Christy Collins

Changes: Cortney Monar(WES Vice Principal), Lynette Johnson (PAES Vice Principal), Andrew Todd (SIS Vice Principal), Lilly Welch (WES Principal), Theodore Gibson (WES Vice Principal), Sherema Copes (CAHS Learning Support Specialist), Brandy White (Princess Anne Elementary's Reading Coach)

Retirees: Jean Adams, Mary Bivens, Charles Cotton, June Brumfield, Diane Johnson, Jane King, Billie Dayton, Paul Leimbach, Steve Phillips, Pat Roper, Wendall Turpin

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resource Report. The vote was unanimous.

Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson presented the Board with the Out of County Travel for the month.

Facilities

Fire Drills, Policy #400-26

Mr. Daugherty presented the Fire Drill Policy #400-26 for the Board's consideration and vote at the August Board meeting. Mr. Daugherty stated that a Master Log will be kept where each school's Fire Drill will be noted. The new policy requires that the school's hold a fire drill once per month. Mr. Paul questioned whether or not the Fire Drill inspector had been to observe the Fire Drills. Mr. Paul also suggested that the Emergency crew be given a tour of the building so they will be familiar with its layout.

16. Superintendent & Board Member comments

Dr. Brofee announced the names of the Retirees and thanked everyone for their continued support. Mr. Pruitt stated that it was a pleasure to work with Dr. Brofee and provided appreciative comments to all the Supervisors, Principals, and the county staff.

- 17. August 2008** – It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Miles and passed to approve June 17, 2008 as the next open regular session. The open work session will begin at 5:30 p.m., closed session will begin at 6:00 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.

18. The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Karen-Lee Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary