



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in an open public meeting at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center, Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. to review policies and convened in a closed session at 6:15 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 Willing, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:25 p.m. Present were Chairman Willing, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

POLICY REVIEW AND FOOD BUDGET SESSION

Mr. Lawson opened the meeting with a discussion on the 700 series policies. Chairman Willing advised Mr. Lawson to change United States Law to Federal Law. Dr. Brofee asked the Board members if they were interested or knew anyone interested in being a part of and I Interview Process Task Force.

Mr. Daugherty discussed the Food Service Budget listing the various situations causing the budget deficit. Some of those reasons were parents establishing accounts and not paying the bill and the food and preparations costs have gone up.

Ms. Riggins explained that plans have been made to increase lunch revenue for the next school year. New items have been added to the menu; prepackaged sandwiches are going to be made available; white pizza will replace the whole wheat pizza currently being served; they are planning a grab and go lunch; a reduction in the amount of bread given and more traditional lunches will be served. Vice Chairman Miles questioned whether all qualifying students were completing applications and returning them to the school in order to receive free or reduced meals. Vice Chairman Miles also suggested that lunch applications be put into community businesses to be distributed to applicants throughout the community.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the Superintendent's request to write Representative Kratovil of federal reimbursement for free and reduced lunch.

The Superintendent has requested the Board members to nominate two individuals to the ethics panel: Chairman Willing will be responsible for bringing the names forward. The first nominee is Ernest Satchell.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Willing at 7:25 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all five Board members and the Superintendent were present.

3. Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Willing declared a quorum to be present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Willing led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve the minutes of May 26, 2009. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Ewell School Report

Ms. Evans presented Ewell's school report to the Board. The Board viewed a presentation showing the Ewell teachers at work. Ms. Evans thanked SCPS for the new computers and informed the Board that the students have really enjoyed working with them. Mr. Pruitt was thanked for his recent visits to Ewell and all other Board members were invited to visit. Ms. Evans also announced excitedly that a former student of the school had sent an invitation to the school inviting all to attend her graduation at the Naval Academy.

8. Gear Up Report

Darlene Taylor, Gear Up facilitator, provided the Board with an update on the Gear Up program. The program has served approximately 212 students who will be graduating in 2011. Students are given the opportunity to participate in college activities, leadership conferences, and attend college and career fairs. The students were given an opportunity to visit Morgan and Hood Colleges. Students were engaged in college visits to Atlanta. Ms. Taylor plans on taking Gear Up students to Northern Colleges during the next school year. Chairman Willing thanked Ms. Taylor for her report.

9. Public Participation

Toni Overholt spoke to the Board expressing her opinion of Washington Academy and High School's decision to pilot the Dress Code Initiative. Ms. Overholt is concerned that this idea should be well thought out before initiated and that both high schools should participate.

Betty Collier also addressed the Board pertaining to the WAHS Dress Code. Ms. Collier stated that the current dress code should be enforced and that the surveys that were taken did not represent the entire student body nor their parents.

Lisa Muir was another parent addressing the Board on the WAHS dress code initiative. Ms. Muir stated that the uniform policy should be phased in beginning with the elementary schools, middle, and then high schools. Ms. Muir is also concerned that the current dress code is not being enforced and the students in violation of the current dress code should be sent home.

Darlene Taylor addressed the Board with support of the new uniform initiative being brought to the Board. Ms. Taylor feels that all schools should use the program and not just a select few.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Policy Revisions and Reviews

700 Series Policies Approval of Revisions

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the following policies:

- 700-21 Personnel Practices Administrative Associates/School Office Associates
- 700-31 Criminal Background Investigation Statements
- 700-50 Negotiation Goals/Priority Objectives
- 700-51 School Board Negotiating Agents
- 700-52 Duties/Responsibilities of Educational Interpreters
- 700-53 School Resource Officer Program
- 700-54 Tenure for Unit I Employees

The vote was unanimous with all Board members in agreement.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's request to approve the following policies:

- 700-17 Personnel Practices Administrative and/or Supervisory Positions
- 700-18 Employment Practices - Para-professionals
- 700-26 Tuition Reimbursement
- 700-29 Classified Employee - Probationary Period

The policies are now aligned to the Federal and State Regulations. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve revised policy 700-34, Violation of Criminal Laws. The revisions will include federal law mandates. The vote was carried unanimously.

B. HSA (High School Assessments) and Bridge Report

Mr. Bloodsworth provided the Board with an update on the HSAs. The Board was informed that 100% of students met HSA requirements and that low HSA scores were not a factor in prohibiting a student from graduating.

It as the consensus of the Board that Mr. Bloodsworth continue to provide HSA Update Reports. Mr. Pruitt thanked all the teachers who put forth the extra time to help students pass HSA's.

C. Facilities

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Dr. Whittington, and seconded by Vice Chairman Miles to approve Mr. Daugherty's Educational Facilities Master Plan. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve Ms.

Reich's Special Education Staffing Plan. The vote was carried unanimously.

New Business

11. A. Finance

Monthly Finance

Ms. Miller provided the monthly finance report to the Board. The Board members thanked Ms. Miller for the information. The Board was informed that the Legislative Auditor's will be here until August 2009.

Monthly Food Service Report

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Ms. Miller's request to increase school lunch by \$.25 and milk by \$.05. Elementary schools' lunch will now be \$2.00 and the secondary schools will be \$2.25. The motion was carried unanimously. The increase is less than several other adjoining counties. We are aligned with Dorchester County.

General Sumpter thanked Ms. Miller and the Food Service Manager for all their hard work in trying to get the Food Service Budget back down. The Food Service deficit to date is \$11,620.00.

B. Instructional Report

Summer Professional Development

Mr. Bloodsworth provided the Board with the Summer Professional Development schedule. There will be various workshops and student programs going on throughout the summer. The Board members thanked him for the information.

2009-2010 School Calendar Revisions

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve Mr. Bloodsworth's request to amend the 2009-2010 School Calendar. Two additional early dismissals have been added to the calendar for elementary schools to allow for teacher professional development. The vote was carried unanimously.

Adult Education and Work Study Report

Mr. Turner and Teresa West provided the Board with an update on the Adult Education and Work Study Programs. Ms. West explained how the GED/EDP programs operate. The Adult Ed. Programs have been very successful, but have seen a decline in participants due to lack of transportation and the economy. The Adult Education programs have partnered with the library to house ESOL students. The Board members thanked them for the information.

Mr. Turner provided a report on the Cooperative Vocational Program (Work Study). There are forty-one students currently on work study. Twenty-five of those students are from Crisfield High School and sixteen are from Washington High School. This is a decrease from last year which is due to the number of businesses employing students. The purpose of the Cooperative Vocational Program is to prepare students for the business world.

C. Human Resources Report

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources Report. The vote was unanimous. The changes are as follows:

Retirees: Michelle Grangier-Webb, **Resignations:** Nicole Trader and Pat Miller; **New Hires:** Zachary Cravitz, William Knopf, Joseph Cordier

Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson presented the Out of State travel list to the Board.

D. Parents Transfer Requests Approval

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the UMES employee's request for their child to attend SCPS. The vote was unanimous.

E. Facilities and Transportation

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Austin Cox Mechanical to replace the Princess Anne Elementary Boiler. The vote was unanimous.

F. Proposed WHS Initiatives

Mr. O'Neal and Ms. Collins presented their initiatives to the Board members. The first was the introduction of the one hour lunch program. Students will be able to study benchmarks, get remediation, and get tutoring. The purpose of this program is to get students motivated academically and socially and teach them responsibility. School will begin at 7:30 a.m.. Eighth grade students will not be involved in this program. Chairman Willing expressed the Board's approval and support of this idea.

The second initiative was the idea of adopting school uniforms. The Bullying and Harassment group discussed that school uniforms would bring about pride and professionalism into the school, several parents agreed. Over 500 students were surveyed, but there was very low parent and community input.

Ms. Collins informed the Board that she was still in the process of gathering information and will bring that information back to the Board in the fall. Dr. Whittington also added that before coming before the Board again, a well thought out plan should be developed.

Chairman Willing thanked all who came to the Board members with concerns.

G. Policies, Revisions, & Reviews

Mr. Lawson presented policies 700-5 (Drug & Alcohol Free Workplace), 700-13 (Work Schedule and Leave for Employees of Somerset County Public Schools), and 700-35 (Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for the Board's review and study.

12. Superintendent's and Board Members Comments

The Superintendent announced the approval of the maintenance of effort cost. One-third of SCPS students were offered scholarships totaling over a million dollars.

Dr. Whittington assured the parents that their concerns are being heard. He also stated that administrators should enforce school policies.

General Sumpter thanked the parents for attending and commented on the retiree presentation he viewed at the Staff Appreciation Program.

- 13. August 2009** – It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve August 18, 2009 as the next open regular session. A report on Washington Academy & High School Initiatives and policy issues will be conducted at 5:30 p.m. followed by the closed session at 6:15 p.m. and the open regular session will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center. The vote was unanimous.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve the adjournment of the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary