

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, March 15, 2005.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Dick Scott, Mr. Jack Willing, Mr. Jack Paul, Mr. Jamie Byrd, Mr. William Miles and Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee. Student Board member, Jenna Nelson was in attendance. Student Board member, Jalessa Worthy was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dick Scott.

2. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mr. Johnson indicating that five Board members, the Superintendent and one student board member were 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 made by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2005 regular meeting as published. The vote was unanimous.

- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION**

A closed session of the Board was held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and negotiations. All members were present.

6. AGENDA

Dr. Brofee asked to amend the agenda and add item 10C, "2004-2005 School Calendar".

A motion was made by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Byrd and passed, to adopt the agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. DeWayne Whittington spoke on behalf of the Retired Teacher Association.

Board Minutes – March 15, 2005

8. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Miss Jenna Nelson gave her student board report. Chairman Scott thanked her for her report.

It was also noted that on April 7th the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held at WHS.

9. SCHOOL REPORT: GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Cheryl O’Neal reported on the activities happening at Greenwood Elementary School since the summer of 2004. Her report was extremely positive. With the reorganization and in-house building projects, Greenwood is a new school. Mrs. O’Neal invited the Board to a Dinner Theater at GES on April 21st.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. FACILITIES UPDATE

A-1 Construction Manager Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that the SPN firm has been chosen as the Construction Manager for Somerset Intermediate School. The cost of \$582,000 is within the budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Willing and passed unanimously to accept the SPN Management Firm for Somerset Intermediate School.

A-2 Woodson Elementary Status – Bids were extended to March 29, 2005 in response to the Architect’s request for a delay to allow another general contractor to bid.

A-3 Red Cross Disaster Services – Mr. Daugherty indicated that the system had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Red Cross to use any school during an emergency. This is standard procedure.

A-4 Board Office Inspection - Mr. Daugherty reported that deficiencies reported by the Grand Jury have been corrected. Mr. Daugherty asked the Board for permission to take legal action against any and all who are responsible for work related to the skylight. It was moved by Mr. Willing and Seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to seek legal action against any and all who are responsible for the work related to the sky light.

Mr. Daugherty also presented information about the ESMEC Health Care Plan.

B. MASTER PLAN STEERING TEAM REPORT

Dr. Brofee provided a detailed report on the work of the Master Plan Steering Committee which had met on February 24, 2005 at UMES. Dr. Brofee highlighted a major recommendation from each Action Team Area.

Board Minutes – March 15, 2005

C. 2005-06 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Brofee asked the Board to move the Professional Day from April 25, 2005 to April 11, 2005 in order to take advantage of the availability of a consultant the system would like to employ.

A motion was made by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the calendar change. The motion was carried unanimously.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Mr. Lawson presented the Human Resources Report. It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Byrd to accept the Human Resources report. The motion carried unanimously.

B. FINANCE REPORT

B-1. Payroll Audit

Mrs. Miller explained the purpose of the Payroll Audit conducted with the April 15th payroll. She also discussed the lunch deficit.

B-2. Employee Computer Purchase Program

Ms. Miller explained the Payroll Deduction Plan that would allow employees to purchase a computer, interest free. A minimum of 10 people will have to participate to implement the plan. ECP² firm would supply the computers.

It was moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Byrd and passed to participate in this program.

B-3. Budget 2006 – Preliminary Presentation

Using a Power Point presentation, Dr. Brofee presented the 2006 Budget.

C. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Dr. Brofee presented the Board with proposed changes to the attendance policy as a discussion item. Dr. Brofee explained the student attendance was a major concern in Somerset County, particularly in the upper grades. Dr. Brofee gave a detailed report of the changes.

The Board accepted the policy for study over the next 60 days.

D. Out of County Conference

The agenda noted that Mr. William Curtis had been given permission to travel to Pikesville, MD for a “Special Education in the Regular Classrooms” conference.

12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – BUDGET/ATTENDANCE

There was no public participation

Board Minutes – March 15, 2005

13. Superintendent Comments

Dr. Brofee reported on the Teacher Of the Year Program, MSA Testing, and the Children's Chorus of Maryland.

There were no comments from the Board Members.

14. Called Board Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Willing to meet on March 29, 2005 in open session to consider bids for the Woodson Construction Project and discuss the proposed budget at 6:00 p.m. at the J. M. Tawes Technology and Career Center in the Board Room. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paul and carried unanimously.

15. April Board Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul and carried unanimously to meet on April 19, 2005, closed session at 6:00 p.m. and open session at 7:00 p.m. at the J. M. Tawes Technology and Career Center in the Board Room.

16. Adjournment

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

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Secretary/Superintendent
Recorded by Clarence Johnson
Prepared by Linda L. Sterling