

The Somerset County Board of Education met on **Tuesday, March 20, 2007** at **4:30 p.m.** to participate in a Technology Demonstration immediately followed by the proposed 2008 budget meeting. By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, **Tuesday, March 20, 2007** at **5:35 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, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The Somerset County Board of Education met at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, **Tuesday March 20, 2007** at **6:45 p.m.** to review the SIS Tawes Construction Project followed by the **7:00 p.m.** regular open session. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Britany Dennis and James Daniels were also present.

### **PROPOSED 2008 BUDGET MEETING**

The Somerset County Board of Education met in a Budget meeting at **5:15 p.m.** Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Brofee and Mrs. Miller.

Dr. Brofee informed the Board that Thornton Funds would end in FY2008 and presented them with handouts outlining the distribution of the funds. The Superintendent presented a breakdown of various educational positions and their importance in how funds were dispensed. Teachers' priority needs will be considered first. The request also included an attendance aide position at school sites, similar to IEP clerks but also charged with a level of case management. Dr. Brofee stated that if these positions did not yield improvement in attendance they would not be maintained in 2009.

The Superintendent presented a Variance Table aligned with the Master Plan Goals.

A unanimous decision was made by the Board giving the Superintendent approval to go forward with the 2008 budget.

### **REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee at 6:45 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 James Daniels and Brittany Dennis 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. Pruitt to approve the minutes of February 20, 2007.

## **6. Adoption of Agenda**

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

## **7. Public Participation**

Darlene Taylor spoke to the Board members regarding the initiation of the cell phone policy. Ms. Taylor suggested administration use good judgment when confiscating cell phones.

Mr. Thompson and Ms. Kenney were not present.

Michael Nugent reported to the Board that the CAAP program was going well and that they have applied for a new grant in hopes of providing funding for CHS and WHS. Mr. Nugent will provide copies of the grant proposal to the Board. Also Salisbury University will be offering PRAXIS classes and will also begin offering computers for parents.

Pat Carson and Captain Warren spoke with the Board members with concerns regarding the SRO program. Ms. Carson and Captain Warren expressed that the SRO officer at CHS provided a presence that was much appreciated and would like continued support of the SRO program.

## **8. Student Board Members' Report**

James Daniels and Brittany Dennis provided the Board with an informative report on the schools. Britany asked the Board if they could speak with the school principals on providing the student board members with school reporting information. The Superintendent agreed to speak with the principals.

## **9. Somerset 6/7 Intermediate School Report**

Ms. Hopkins provided the Board with an informational school report. Referrals are down allowing teachers time to focus on instruction. A recognition program is held every month to recognize honor students and those students who are struggling. Teachers are also being honored for doing a good job. The sixth grade character education program and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade college prep program are both going well. Professional Development held every Wednesday afternoon is going well. Teachers are taking this time to collaborate with each other for ideas on student improvement. Students will also be trained to prepare them for Technology Advancement in the classroom.

## **10. Family Achievement Seminar**

Dianne Johnson reported to the Board on the outcome of the Gear Up Family Achievement Seminar held at the Ramada Inn for an entire weekend. More parents attended than could be accommodated. Ms. Johnson thanked Dr. Brofee, Billie Dayton, Monique Ward, Terry Drechsler, and Christi Scott for their involvement in helping make this seminar a success.

Carolyn Hass, one of the attending parents, provided an inspirational report to the Board on her experience at the Seminar. Ms. Hass reported that the seminar was both powerful and motivating. She now realizes that parents play an important role in their child's education and parents must also look further than their child's education, but the education of students as a whole in order for children to succeed.

## **11. Old Business**

### **A. Facilities and Transportation**

1. Update on Progress of Somerset Intermediate School (presented before Public Participation and after the Adoption of the Agenda.

Mr. Catanzaro provided the Board with an update on the status of the construction of the Somerset Intermediate School. Progress continues to go well.

### **B. Policies**

1. Upon recommendation by the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Willing approved policy #600-41, Sexual Offenders Entering School Property. The vote was unanimous. They asked that the record show their reluctance to put this policy in place, but they understand it is mandatory to have a policy dealing with sexual offenders.

## **12. New Business**

### **A. Policies**

1. 800-13, Surveys and Questionnaires

Upon the request of Ms. Carter the Board agreed to review for study policy #800-13 for a vote at next month's Board meeting.

2. 500-25, Guidelines for Alternative Routes to High School Education

Mr. Bloodsworth requested that the Board review and study revised policy #500-25 and seeks approval at the April 17, 2007 Board meeting. Policy has been revised for academics and college prep program students.

### **B. Facilities and Transportation**

1. Bus Driver Substitute Training

A motion was called for by Mr. Miles and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to train Thomas Blount and Barbara Ann Asanovich as substitute bus drivers. All Board members agreed

### **C. Human Resources Report**

1. New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources Report as presented. The vote was unanimous.

2. Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson provided an informational summary of SCPS staff traveling out of state to conferences and was thanked by Chairman Scott.

**D. Finance Report**

1. Category Transfers

A motion was called for by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve Ms. Miller's category transfer request. The vote was unanimous.

2. Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Monthly Finance Report and was thanked by the Board.

3. Monthly Food Service Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Food Service Report to the Board. The Board members were pleased with the report.

**E. Program Report**

Dr. Brofee reported to the Board the meeting with the BTE focus group, schools will be visited and the BTE Chairman will interview on April 11, 2007.

**14. Superintendent & Board Member Comments**

Dr. Brofee provided the Board with the feasibility study on Capital Improvement. She will continue the discussion in May and will be seeking State funds through the regular process. Dr. Brofee also briefed the Board on the Charter School application stating that four meetings will be held for focusing on four areas that need to be addressed. The Superintendent thanked all the schools and individuals who helped with MSA. Dr. Brofee thanked all nurses, counselors, and food service workers for all that they do for students in honor of March Thank You Month. The Parent Advisory Group is going well. The Superintendent announced that in the future, teachers will be able to put their students' upcoming work on Powerschool.

The Superintendent ended her comments by sharing with the Board her experiences on her trip to New Orleans. Dr. Brofee stated the city and people were still suffering from the effects of Katrina. It was a devastating experience and we should be grateful. The schools and children are in great need.

**16. April 2007 –** It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the April 17, 2007 open regular session at 6:45 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

**17. Adjournment**