



The Somerset County Board of Education met at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday March 18, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. to review the FY2009 School Budget.

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, March 18, 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. Vice Chairman Miles arrived at the end of the meeting.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board members Alexander Cavins and Chatriece Lawson were also in attendance.

OPEN WORK SESSION

FY2009 Budget Review

The Somerset County Board of Education met in an open work session at 5:35 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Willing. Present were Chairman Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and recording secretary, Melissa Tilghman.

Dr. Brofee discussed the 1.2 million dollar fund balance. There is \$175,000 dollars in projected electricity costs. The Superintendent presented a presentation showing the breakdown of % usage per dollar spent. Somerset has the lowest cost per pupil and above teachers % increase for the past six years. Dr. Brofee explained that several reductions needed to take place in order to keep the school system running with the decreased budget. In Elementary reduction were made in Reading Consumables, Maps & Globe, Conferences, Handwriting, Media, and Equipment. At the Secondary level reductions will be in Media, Materials of Instruction, Attendance Make-up, and conferences. Mr. Paul questioned the availability of textbooks to all students. Dr. Brofee assured Mr. Paul that there are enough funds so as all students are provided textbooks. Other reductions will be in consultants, recruitment initiatives, software, administrative equipment and individual school requests. These reductions in the operating budget totals \$904,000.

The Superintendent also explained that there will be several program reductions as they are as follows: the realigning of services and not filling vacant positions, reducing staff and secondary programs, reducing grant positions, staff realignment. The Board was assured that the Union Guidelines would be met. Dr. Brofee is hoping that local agencies will funnel several positions through their agencies.

Towards the ending of the presentation Dr. Brofee briefly spoke on the concerns of the negotiations.

Parent Recognition

A light reception was held followed by the introduction of the nominees for Comcast's Parent of the Year by Miss Nelson, Public Relations Specialist. Those nominees were Ngina Mandouma, Janet Hall, Ismael Todman, and Stephanie Kayhan. Each nominee received an appreciation plaque thanking them for the support and commitment to the students of Somerset County.

There were also several volunteer representatives of various schools presented with awards. Those individuals were James Benton, Judy Blake, Lori Dawson, Vincent Jackson, Jean Davis, Ramona Evans, Cleo Horsey, Lorie Long, Rachel Lowe, Michelle Sterling, Darlene Taylor, Sharone Terrell, and Paula Todd.

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 all Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board Members Alexander Cavins and Chatriece Lawson 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 for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve the minutes of February 19, 2008. The vote was unanimous.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous.

7. Princess Anne Elementary School

Mrs. Welch presented a very informative report on the happenings at Princess Anne Elementary

School. Student benchmark numbers are increasing with 25% of students exiting out of intervention. Discipline referrals are down and PBIS results are up. Last year there was a 22% discipline referral rate. This year the percentage has dropped to 9%. PBIS incentives are given every month and Wildcat dollars are also given as incentives. Students are enjoying the use of the promethean boards and Mrs. Welch hopes that funds will allow them to receive another board. Princess Anne Elementary held a "Girls Night Out". Parents were entertained with craftmaking among other activities and Mrs. McLaughlin, Student Services Supervisor, was a speaker. Princess Elementary students are given the opportunity to have Student Led Conferences. Students are given a chance to be in charge and obtain different learning experiences from other students. The Board members thanked Mrs. Welch for her report.

8. Student Board Members' Reports

Student Board member Chatriece Lawson provided the Board with an enlightening report. There was over \$380,000 in scholarships given to several Washington High School students. WHS held a male role model gathering. MSA encouragement activities have been planned throughout all the schools to get students ready for MSA's. Mrs. King's Family and Consumer Science class at Somerset Intermediate School have started the Blue Heron Cafe'. Miss Lawson was proud to announce that the WHS Seniors defeated the Faculty for the first time. Student Board member Alex Cavins reported that all schools were preparing for MSA's. Twenty-one seniors went to Wor-Wic to complete enrollment applications and the National Honor Society Event will be held on March 23, 2008. Chairman Scott thanked both students for their reports.

9. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

OLD BUSINESS

10. Finance Report

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve Mrs. Miller's Audit Bid Proposal award to FAW Casson and Company. A motioned was carried with a unanimous vote by all Board members.

FY2009 Budget

Dr. Brofee presented an overview of the proposed FY2009 school budget as it was presented in the Open Work Session. Mr. Paul questioned the increased school mandates with the continued decrease in educational funding.

Facilities

Energy Management Conservation Policy #400-3

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's Energy Management Conservation Policy #400-33. The vote was unanimous.

Instruction

Announcement of Approved Calendar A

Mr. Bloodsworth announced the approval of the 2008-2009 School Calendar A which was taken by a poll over the telephone.

2008 Student Testing Calendar

Ms. Carter provided an overview of the MSA, HSA, and Dibels Testing Schedule Calendar. Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

Policies

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's amended and revised Ethics Regulations Policy #100-3. Policy #700-03, Conflict of Interest was eliminated. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Finance Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Monthly Finance and Food Service Report. Both Reports are looking great at this time. Chairman Scott thanked Mrs. Miller for the information.

Human Resources Report

New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

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

Out of State Travel

There was no Out of State Travel to report.

Facilities

Contract Approval for Bus Route #5

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to award Joe Asonavich the contract for bus #5. The vote was unanimous.

Transfer of the Westover Elementary School Building

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to return Westover Elementary School to the Commissioners. The vote was unanimous.

17. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

Dr. Brofee announced that eleven students at Washington High School had received Scholarships to UMES.

- 18. April 2008–** It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to approve April 15, 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.

19. The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Karen-Lee Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary