



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in an open work session at 5:00 p.m., a closed session at 6:17 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 Sumpter, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Vice Chairman Miles was excused from the meeting.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:25 p.m. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. The student representative from Washington Academy & High School representative was present. Crisfield Academy & High School's representative was excused from the meeting. Vice Chairman Miles was also excused from meeting.

### **OPEN WORK SESSION**

Dr. Brofee began the meeting with the discussion of approval for three teachers to obtain National Board Certification. Those teachers are Keisha Evans, Sharon Richards, and Phaedra Spencer. The Superintendent informed the Board that this was a great professional development experience. Dr. Whittington questioned the fee procedure and stated that it should be handled like a credit reimbursement not a forward payment.

Mr. Daugherty presented change order requests #50 and #51. Change order requests #50 is to furnish and install labor, materials, of plaques of recognition and change order #51 is to furnish and install a terrazzo replacement floor..

Mr. Daugherty presented the four bidding proposals to the Board for Washington High's Kitchen Equipment and presented the Bid for the GES parking lot.

Mr. Daugherty presented the capital improvement budget for the Board. Projects include, SIS drywall replacement, GES cafeteria doors, JMT door and classroom replacement, PAES replacement, HVAC GES Geothermal design submitted, upgrade the central office bathroom and elementary playground repairs. General Sumpter questioned the level of priority of projects and suggested that the door replacement be raised to a higher priority.

The Superintendent discussed the MABE related conference expenses with the Board members and the central office conference policy that had been enacted to reduce county costs. Vice Chairman Miles and Ms. Green-Gale would like to be registered for the conference. Mr. Wells will not need housing; General Sumpter is not sure that he will be able to attend.

The Board discussed Policy #600-19, Student Assignment. The Superintendent discussed the various circumstances that a student may transfer schools within the county. She informed the Board that the State does not usually get involved unless racially, illegally, or discriminatory actions

are raised or suspected by the public or individuals directly involved. Dr. Brofee provided the Board with a breakdown of the Maryland State Laws. Mr. Wells requested the number of Out of County transfers from UMES and related costs. Dr. Whittington stated that we need to have set guidelines and stick to them. He expressed concern that some students are approved for transfers while others are not and discussed the racial disparities at Deal Island School. Dr. Brofee stated that no parent request for a student transfer has been denied except at the secondary level where a transfer violated Maryland's athletic regulations. The Superintendent provided several possibilities and scenarios to the Board in regard to the Deal Island Elementary School issue.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

### **REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by General Sumpter at 7:30 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that four Board members and the Superintendent were present. Washington Academy and High School's student representative was also present. Both Vice Chairman Miles and Crisfield Academy and High School's representative were excused from the meeting.

#### **3. Declaration of Quorum**

It was declared that a quorum was present.

#### **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Sumpter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **5. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was called to approve the amended agenda. All Board members approved the amendments and the motion was carried unanimously.

#### **6. Student Board Member Activities Report and Recognition**

Miss Elmore announced the various end of year events happening at the schools. She also discussed the SGA's concerns with the Board. Miss Elmore stated that students felt that high school uniforms should begin with the eighth grade and that students felt that enforcing

uniforms would diminish freedom of speech and would not identify students in trouble. General Sumpter stated that the SGA group was very well spoken and encouraged input from the student representatives. Dr. Brofee presented an award to Miss Elmore for her service as a student board member.

**7. National Board Certification Studies**

The Board unanimously agreed to table the National Board Certification Studies. They requested the length, description, reimbursement policy, and the qualification used to get certified.

This item was replaced with Change Order Requests #50 (local plaque purchase and installation) and #51 (installation of a replacement terrazzo floor). It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order requests. The vote was unanimous.

**8. GES Parking Lot Bid Approval**

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve awarding the GES Parking Lot Contract to Bozman's Paving. It was a three to one vote as Mr. Wells abstained from voting.

**9. WHS Kitchen Equipment Bid Approval**

A motion was called for by Chairman Sumpter, moved by Mr. Wells, and seconded by Dr. Whittington to approve the Kitchen Equipment Bid. The vote was unanimous.

**10. Capital Budget Approval**

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's Capital Budget. The vote was unanimous.

**11. MABE Summer Leadership Conference**

The Superintendent discussed the expenses related to the MABE Summer Leadership Conference. Ms. Green-Gale and Vice Chairman Miles will be attending the Conference.

**12. Public Participation**

Several parents from Deal Island Elementary School addressed the Board expressing their disapproval of the Superintendent's proposal to reducing a teaching position at Deal Island Elementary Schools. The parents were concerned that they were not given a chance to provide adequate input in regards to this decision and that any budget cuts should not be

imposed on the classroom. A suggestion was also made to charge to out of county student transfers.

Koly Ward, bus contractor, addressed the Board on the deletion of the PVA for years 13-15. He presented a breakdown of expenses for parts, fuel, and maintenance upkeep on the buses. He requested that the Board consider the continuation of year 13-15 for PVA.

The Board thanked all the individuals for attending and their concerns will be considered and discussed.

### **13. Date of June Board Meeting**

The Board unanimously agreed to change the June 21, 2011 Board meeting to June 14, 2011 and will hold another Board meeting on June 30, 2011.

### **14. Superintendent Search Update**

General Sumpter provided an update on the Superintendent search. He stated that this is a thoughtful process that takes time and that the Board members are working with the Superintendent of Maryland Public Schools. The State Superintendent would like to appoint the new Superintendent by July 1, 2011. Public information and dates will be going out within the next couple of weeks. General Sumpter thanked all the parents for attending.

### **15. Superintendent and Board Member Comments**

Mr. Wells suggested that the parents should forward their concerns and questions to Annapolis as the budget cuts are bigger than the local government. He stated that the government needs to hear our concerns and our dilemmas.

Dr. Whittington addressed the Deal Island parents who addressed the Board on their issues. He assured them that their suggestion will be taken into consideration and that the adjustment of the districting line is not an easy task.

The Superintendent invited parents and the public to attend the upcoming PTA meeting at Deal Island Elementary School.

- 16. May 24, 2011** – A motion was called for by General Sumpter, moved by Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to convene in a closed session at 6:00 p.m., hold a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2012 Budget at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center. On Tuesday June 14, 2011 the Board will convene in an open work session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss facilities items, a closed session at 6:00 p.m., and an open regular session meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

## **17. Adjournment**

It was moved by Ms. Green-Gale, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary