

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 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, 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 May 15, 2007 at 6:40 p.m. to review the SIS Tawes Construction Project. Upon completion of the SIS Tawes Construction Update the regular open session meeting began. 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.

### **OPEN WORK SESSION**

The Somerset County Board of Education met in an open work session at 6:40 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Dr. Brofee and recording secretary Melissa Tilghman.

### **REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott at 7:05 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 Member Brittany Dennis was also present. Student Board member James Daniels asked to be excused to attend practice for the Washington High School Play.

**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. Paul and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve the minutes of April 17, 2007. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the minutes of the called Board meeting on May 01, 2007. The vote was unanimous.

**6. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to adopt the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous.

## **7. Public Participation**

There was no public participation at this meeting

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

Brittany Dennis provided the Board with an informative report on the schools. The Crisfield High School's Eighties pop concert was successful, Senior Awards are being held on May 21, 2007, and Crisfield High School graduation is scheduled for June 05, 2007. James Daniels was excused to practice for a play at Washington High School where he is the leading actor.

## **9. Ewell School Report**

Mrs. Evans provided a highlighting report to the Board on Ewell School. There are 16 students attending Ewell School and they have two certified teachers. Alice Evans is retiring after over 30 years of service. Smith Island's Halloween Social was a success with lots of participation from the parents. Nurses from George Mason University visited Smith Island promoting a career in nursing. Mrs. Evans reported that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Ewell were invited and did attend the North Bay trip and thanked the Board for the opportunity. A summer painting program has been planned to help students get community service hours. Mrs. Evans also stated that she is trying to get students to participate in the Olympiad and the Water Safety Program.

## **10. Student Service Recognition**

Mr. Turner presented Brittany Dennis and Morgan Pusey with Service Learning Awards for their outstanding community involvement and exceeding the required community service hours needed to graduate.

Mr. Elebash presented Environthon participants Jeremy Nagle, Justin Zheng, Albert Linamen, Keisha Corbin, Stephen Schuckert, and Alicia Critchfield awards for winning first place and advancing to the state competition.

Mr. Elebash presented Somerset County Public School's Artist of the Year from the following schools; Somerset Intermediate – Kylie Curtis, Washington High School Academy - Koran Jackson, Andrew Ratcliff – Washington High School, and Ray De Vincentz – Crisfield High School.

Chairman Scott thanked Mr. Turner, Mr. Elebash, the students and the teachers and congratulated them on a job well done. Chairman Scott also stated that he enjoyed hearing the good things happening at the schools.

## **11. Student Services Report: What's Worked**

Ms. Carter and Mrs. Cottman showed a presentation outlining various strategies that have worked with students throughout the school year. Mrs. Cottman invited various collaborating agencies to attend the Board meeting to thank them for their help and involvement. Focus has been made on prevention strategies and security. Parent and Agency Outreach has been successful with several parent night out activities held.

Sixth and Eighth grade students hold the largest percentage of the Alternative Learning Center students. Early intervention for Elementary Schools is being developed. A Boys Day out is being scheduled where fathers and sons will enjoy a night out together. Mrs. Cottman and Ms. Carter were both thanked by Chairman Scott. Mr. Paul stated that truancy court has helped a lot and has

been an achievement within SCPS.

## **12. Old Business**

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

#### 1. Change Order Approvals for Somerset Intermediate School

Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order requests.

#### 2. Dr. Brofee announced the State Award Notice for the Approval of the Capital Improvement funds for project construction.

### **B. Ewell Grade Configuration Parent Request Form**

A motion was made by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve the Ewell Grade Configuration Parent Request Form. This will offer parents the option of having the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders remaining at Ewell or traveling to Somerset 6/7 Intermediate. The vote was carried unanimously. Tina Corbin thanked the Board for listening to the concerns of the Ewell students and for allowing them the option of sending their children to Somerset 6/7 Intermediate.

### **C. Policies**

#### 1. Upon recommendation by the Superintendent, Mr. Pruitt moved and Mr. Willing seconded to approve revised policy #600-31, Personal Electronic Devices. The vote was unanimous.

## **13. New Business**

### **A. Human Resources Report**

#### 1. New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

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

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve the amended policy to allow the Supervisor of Human Resources or Superintendent to accept employee resignations. All Board members were in agreement.

#### 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.

#### 3. Unit I and III Two Year Contract Negotiations Agreement.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Miles moved and Mr. Pruitt seconded to approve the Unit I Two Year Contract Negotiations Agreement. The vote was unanimous.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Pruitt moved and Mr. Miles seconded to

approve the Unit III Two Year Negotiated Agreement Contract for 2007-2009. The vote was carried unanimously.

Mr. Paul thanked the negotiations team. Unit II Negotiations contract has not yet been finalized.

## **B. Finance Report**

### 1. Category Transfers

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve Mrs. Millers' category transfer request. All Board members were in agreement.

### 2. Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Monthly Finance Report and was thanked by the Board. Mr. Paul questioned the ESMEH Energy Costs Savings. Mr. Daugherty will provide savings cost at the next Board meeting.

### 3. Monthly Food Report

Mrs. Miller presented the Monthly Food Service report and reported that as of today's date food service is at a \$40,000.00 profit.

## **14. Superintendent & Board Member Comments**

The Superintendent began her comments asking the Board and community members to pray for Jim Webster. Mr. Webster's brother passed away and we offer his family our condolences. Dr. Brofee commented on various events happening within the schools. Woodson Elementary School was congratulated for being named the Character Education School and will be honored in October. A staff appreciation gathering will be held 1:30 p.m. at Washington High School on June 13, 2007. The meeting held with the NAACP went well. Student Recognition Ceremony will be held on May 23, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ella Fitzgerald Center and a State of Schools Luncheon will be held on May 24, 2007. Mr. Pruitt ended the comments congratulating Crisfield High School on a job well done at the 'Pops' concert.

- 15. June 2007** – It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Willing, and passed to approve the June 19, 2007 open regular session at 6:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

## **16. Adjournment**