



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, May 27, 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, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

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 present.

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 in attendance.

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 Vice Chairman Miles to approve the minutes of April 15, 2008. The vote was unanimous.

6. Adoption of Agenda

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

7. Somerset Intermediate School

Mrs. Hopkins, SIS principal presented a presentation on various classes and activities performed at the school. Somerset is a climate for learning with Green Living Workshops. Teachers are using

interactive learning with the use of the promethean boards. The Band teacher has a software program used with the promethean boards that help students learn instrumental notes. If a student plays the wrong note, they can not continue until they play it correctly. Dr. Brofee thanked Ms. Hopkins for her involvement in the SIS Dedication.

8. Student Board Members' Report

Chatriece Lawson presented the northern end school report. Deal Island Schools was named the Character Education School, Greenwood Elementary's sports day will be held on May 29, 2008, and the Coalition for Essential Schools Team visited the 4th grade. The report has been provided to the SIT Team. Alex Cavins reported that thirty-nine students at CHS went to New York to see the play Greece. The Key Club and the Blood Bank collected a total of 45 pints of blood during the Blood Drive. At the conclusion of the reports each Student Board member was presented with an award to show Somerset County's appreciation in having them service on the Board.

9. Public Participation

Concerned parent, Carla Bailey spoke to the Board regarding several issues within the school system. Previous issues relating to safety, Social Studies textbooks, and BCR's have been addressed and improvements made. Dr. Brofee asked Ms. Bailey to provide a list of her concerns in writing to allow the Board time to respond.

Ngina Mdouma, also a concerned parent, spoke to the Board regarding timeout and recess procedures. Ms. Mdouma would like a procedure put in place to determine the length of taken recess and timeout. She also agreed with Ms. Bailey that there was a problem with Social Studies textbooks. Both parents requests feedback from the Board members.

10. School Nurse Proclamation

Mrs. Thomas, Head Nurse for the county provided the Board with a summary of the School's Nursing Program. A School Nurse Proclamation was received from Governor O'Malley. Mrs. Thomas reported that there are eight nurses within the system. Overall, there were 21,000 visits to the nurses' offices. Twenty-one percent were diagnosed with chronic health problems. Fourteen thousand doses of medication were given to 177 individual students. Donations from various organizations have helped the nurses purchase a Wii game. This game is used to help with in school rehabilitation. Mr. Paul questioned parent and nurse relationships. Mrs. Thomas responded that all students don't have doctors so parents respect the nurses' decision when a students is seen in their office. For students who do have doctors, it is basically the same. Parents appreciate and respect the nurses' decision before contacting doctors.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Finance Report

Monthly Report

Ms. Miller presented the Monthly Finance and Food Service Report. Mr. Paul questioned the overage in several categories. Ms. Miller explained that this was due to the purchase of football equipment and out of county expenditures. Mr. Miles questioned the textbook expenditure category and stated that those funds should be spent to make sure students have textbooks.

Food Service Report

Mrs. Miller reported that the Food Service deficit is \$4,700 to date. The exact amount will be known after inventory is taken. Chairman Scott thanked Mrs. Miller for her report.

Budget Approval Date May 27, 2008

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the FY2009 Budget. The vote was unanimous.

Instructional Report

Mr. Bloodsworth presented a presentation to the Board on the Bridge to Excellence Plan. The new Bridge to Excellence Plan provides an alternative to getting credit for the HSA. For the 2008-2009 both high schools will plan to have at least one Bridge Plan class during the Fall. School Counselors are working with parents to get ideas about targeted projects. Mr. Paul questioned the HSA practice and its effect on student learning.

Out of County Student Attendance Requests

The Out of County Student Attendance Requests was tabled until the June meeting.

Waiver of 180 Day School Year Requirement

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve the 180 Day School Requirement Waiver. The vote was unanimous.

2008-2009 Board Meeting Dates

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve the 2008-2009 Board meeting dates. The vote was unanimous.

Technology Report

Proposed Cybersafety Curriculum

Mrs. Smoker presented the proposed Cybersafety Curriculum for approval at the next Board meeting. With the widespread use of Cyberbullying several steps are being taken to reduce their effects. Students and parents should be made aware of the after effects of Cyberbullying. Students will be given information on recognizing virus contaminated emails. These classes will be held during media at the elementary level, social studies teachers will hold class for the 6th and 7th grade students, and high school students will be taught in their Technology Education courses. Chairman Scott thanked Mrs. Smoker for her report.

IT Security #200-25

Mrs. Smoker presented the IT Security Policy #200-25. This policy is a written documented plan incase we have a network disaster. It also contains risk management guidelines and software license hardware standards. The Board will vote at the June Board meeting.

Technology Plan 2008-2011

Mrs. Smoker presented the Board with the Technology Plan which is currently awaiting approval at MSDE. The Technology Plan must be aligned with the State VSC's and the Master Plan.

Human Resources Report

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve the Human Resources report presented by Mr. Lawson. The motion was carried with all Board members in agreement. Dr. Brofee followed with the announcement of the new Vice Principal Positions.

Staff Appreciation, June 09, 2008

Mr. Lawson announced the upcoming Staff Appreciation Program.

Out of State Travel

There was no out of county travel to report.

Consortium Board Member Approval

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to approve Elizabeth Hayes as the new ESMEC Health Board Member. The vote was unanimous.

Facilities

New School Bus Driver Training Approval

It was moved Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve the training of Nicholas Moon as a new bus driver. The vote was unanimous.

WHS Renovation

Mr. Daugherty provided renovation information for the Washington High School project.

(EFMP) Educational Facilities Master Plan Approval

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve the Educational Facilities Master Plan. The vote was unanimous.

12. Superintendent & Board Member comments

Dr. Brofee reported on the Parent Involvement Initiative she attended. Dr. Grasmick sent a thank you note for the glass bowl given to her at the Somerset Intermediate Dedication. Chairman Scott announced that it was he and Mrs. Scott's anniversary and was congratulated by the audience.

- 13. June 2008** – It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Miles and passed to approve June 17, 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.

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

Karen-Lee Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary