



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in an open public meeting at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center, Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. to review policies and convened in a closed session at 6:15 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 Willing, Vice Chairman Miles, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Willing, Vice Chairman Miles, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Both Student Board members were also present.

POLICY REVIEW

Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Lawson presented and discussed the revisions made to the 600 and 700 series policies. The Board will review and study these policies in the open session.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Willing at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that four Board members and the Superintendent were present. Mr. Pruitt was absent from the meeting. Washington Academy & High School representative was also present. The Crisfield Academy and High School Representative had requested late arrival due to a school commitment, his Band Banquet.

3. Declaration of Quorum

Chairman Willing declared a quorum to be present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Willing led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve the April 14, 2009 and the April 21, 2009 Board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the amended agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Volunteer Appreciation

Christy Scott announced the names of the volunteers receiving awards. Dr. Brofee thanked the volunteers and expressed Somerset County Public Schools' appreciation of the volunteers' dedication to the students of Somerset County by volunteering over 100 hours of community service within the schools. Those volunteers were Debra Handy, Paula Todd, Linda Sterling, Judith Blake, Lori Abbott, Sarah Anderson, Debbie Pratte, Donna Merritt, Shawna Gammino, Frances Holmes, Melissa Collins, Tanna Johnson, Janet Hall, and Willie Smullen.

8. Student Activities Report

The Washington Academy & High School's student Board representative reported on the various activities going on in the schools, including WAHS school's proposal for a one hour lunch break. This idea has been widely received by the students. The Board members thanked her for the information. The Crisfield Student Board member added to his report that a student survey had been created. A high percentage of students reported that they had been bullied and harassed. It was also reported that students would like to have better food offered for lunch, more field trips, stricter discipline, and more school programs. The Board members requested a copy of the percentages and would like to see this survey completed throughout the school system.

9. Gear Up Report

The Gear Up report was tabled until the June Board meeting.

10. Public Participation

Mr. Ward spoke to the Board members regarding the bus contractors' administrative fee adjustment request. Mr. Ward also took the time to provide a token of the bus contractors' appreciation to Mr. Daugherty, Dr. Brofee, and the Board members. Dr. Brofee and Mr. Daugherty both received a jacket and the Board members received a hat. The Board Chairman thanked Mr. Ward along with all the Board members for all their hard work and for the safety of the children.

11. OLD BUSINESS

Policy Revisions and Reviews

600 Series Policies Approval of Revisions

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve the following revised policies: 600-18, 600-19, 600-23, 600-24, 600-25, 600-26, 600-27, 600-28, 600-29, 600-30, 600-31, 600-32, 600-37, 600-38, 600-40, and 600-41. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Policy #600-20. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by General

Sumpter, and passed to approve Policy #600-21. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the revised Policy #600-22. A sixteen year old student can now request to enter school. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Policy #600-33. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve revised Policy #600-34. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, and seconded by General Sumpter to approve revised Policy #600-39. The motion was carried unanimously.

700 Series Policies

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve the following revised policies: 700-2, 700-3, 700-8, 700-10, 700-11, 700-12, 700-19, 700-25, 700-27, 700-38. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve the following revised and amended polices: 700-4, 700-7, 700-9, 700-14, 700-15, 700-16, 700-20. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by General Sumpter, and seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the following policies: 700-30, 700-32, 700-40, 700-41, and 700-42. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawson presented the following policies to the Board for their review and study: Policy 700-17, 700-18, 700-21, 700-23, 700-26, 700-29, 700-31, 700-34, 700-50, 700-51, 700-52, 700-53, and 700-54. The Board will vote at the June Board meeting.

HSA and Bridge Report

Mr. Bloodsworth provided an update on the HSA and Bridge projects. The Board members thanked him for the information.

New Business

12. A. Finance

Monthly Finance and Food Service Reports

Ms. Miller provided the monthly finance report to the Board. The Board members thanked Ms. Miller for the information.

Monthly Food Service Report

Ms. Miller provided the food service report. The Board was informed that due to staffing, food cost, low student participation and annual reimbursements, the food service budget will be at a loss. Mr. Willing asked to meet with the Food Service Manager and Finance to figure out a resolution to the food service deficit. Dr. Whittington and General Sumpter also added that parents should be aware that they can always reapply if their income changes.

B. School Uniforms: Process & Proposal

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the School Uniforms at Deal Island and Greenwood Elementary Schools. The vote was unanimous. Mrs. O'Neal also stated that an increase in academic learning and improvement in self esteem are expected from the new school uniform policy. Mrs. McLaughlin showed a presentation outlining the uniform expectations. Some of the vendors that carry the uniforms are Walmart, J.C. Penny, Sears, Target, and Rainbow.

C. Facilities and Transportation

Educational Facilities Master Plan

Mr. Daugherty presented the Educational Facilities Master Plan for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the June Board meeting.

Capital Improvement Budget Approval

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by General Sumpter, and passed to approve the Capital Improvement Budget. The vote was unanimous.

Princess Ann Elementary Boiler Replacement

The Princess Anne Elementary Boiler Replacement request was tabled until the June Board meeting or will be handled through a telephone poll and reported at the June Board meeting.

Deal Island Elementary Reroofing Approval

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington to approve Mr. Daugherty's Deal Island Elementary Reroofing request. The vote was unanimous.

D. 2010 Budget Approval

A motion was called for by Chairman Willing, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by General Sumpter, and passed to approve the 2010 School Budget. The motion was carried unanimously. The recent decrease in unrestricted stimulus funds has meant that the computer recycling program has been extended to five years instead of four years and several technology software programs have been eliminated. Title I and Special Education funds are expected to receive additional funding.

It was the consensus of the Board to gather more information and have a separate meeting next month, June 16, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the Food and Nutrition Budget.

E. Special Education Staffing Plan

Mrs. Reich presented the Special Education Staffing Plan for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the June Board meeting.

F. Adult Education and Work Study Report

The Adult Education and Work Study Reports were tabled until the June meeting.

G. STEM Report

Mr. Bloodsworth reported on the STEM grant. The Board was informed that there are several grants that have been put into place to start engineering programs. Various projects will be done where students will create projects by grade. A course will be offered in relation to building innovative things. The course will be taught by a certified robotics teacher who is also part of "Project Lead the Way". The Board offers their assistance with this project.

H. Human Resources Report

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles 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 for the month.

I. TELL Data Survey

Dr. Brofee introduced the TELLS Data Survey to the Board members. This report allows educators to tell Maryland about the teaching conditions at their schools. Somerset County had the highest teacher participation rate. An analysis of the data will be provided to the Board upon completion.

I. 2009-2010 Board Meeting Calendar

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the 2009-2010 School Calendar. The vote was unanimous.

J. Environmental Literacy Investment Project Survey

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the Literacy Investment Project Survey. The vote was unanimous.

13. Superintendent's and Board Members Comments

Dr. Whittington stated that he would like to see more research done on the school uniforms and make sure that parents are aware.

The Superintendent congratulated the schools on their art exhibitions and thanked the Board Members for attending.

- 14. June 2009** – It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve June 16, 2009 as the next open regular session. A Food Service Budget meeting will be conducted prior to the policy review session at 5:30 p.m. followed by the closed session at 6:15 p.m. and the open regular session will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center. The vote was unanimous.

15. Adjournment

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by General Sumpter, and passed to approve the adjournment of the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent
Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary