

Princess Anne, Maryland
November 16, 2004

By unanimous vote, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday November 16, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. *

The Somerset County Board of Education met in special session to review the Educational Specifications for the new construction of the 6-7 Intermediate Project. The session was an advertised open meeting.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in a regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Chairman Dick Scott, Mr. Jack Willing, Mr. Jack Paul, Mr. Jamie Byrd, Mr. Ernest Satchell and Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee. Student Board members, Jenna Nelson and Jalissa Worthy were in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mrs. Fisher indicating five Board members, the Superintendent and two student members were present.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Scott declared a quorum to be present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scott led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Scott announced that the Board met in closed session at 5:30 p.m. for discussion of personnel items, negotiated agreements and pending litigation. This was in accordance with the Open Meeting Act 10-506 of COMAR. Present were: Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Jamie Byrd, Jack Paul, Jack Willing, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee and Executive Assistant Rebecca Fisher.

MINUTES

Motion - Mr. Willing, second - Mr. Paul and passed, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2004 regular meeting as published.

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AGENDA

Motion - Mr. Byrd, second - Mr. Willing and passed, to adopt the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Darryl Webster, a parent from the Mt. Vernon area voiced his concerns in reference to the length of the school day for his child who attends the Intermediate School. He felt that leaving home at 6:30 a.m. and arriving home at 5:00 p.m. is much too long for a 12 year old. He also expressed concern about the amount of homework that is being given to his child. Board member Jack Paul informed Mr. Webster that the Board is looking at the transportation issue.

Student Board Members Reports

Jenna Nelson and Jalissa Worthy, student board members, each gave a report on the happenings in each of the schools.

School Report: Washington High School and the Academy at Washington High

Mr. Keith O'Neal, Principal of Washington High School, gave a brief summary of the programs being integrated into the high school in order to create an atmosphere of respect. This includes such items as bringing in community groups, getting parents into the building and involved, connecting with UMES and Salisbury State University for tutoring programs, services from the Health Department and utilizing the Learning Support Team.

Mrs. Lois Collins, Principal of the Academy at Washington High, spoke to the progress and concerns of the Academy. Her report was tied to the Somerset County Goals 1) "All students will reach high standards" – direct instructional strategies that are currently being used are PLATO, Cognitive Tutor Programs in Algebra, strategic writing practices, etc. Indirect instructional strategies being used or projected to use – Collaborative teaching that strategically targets MSA skills, blended instruction, team concept, etc. 2) "All students will be taught by highly qualified teachers" - students' needs, both academically and emotionally, are being strategically targeted using the Learning Support Team, facilitators, being in a environment conducive to learning, etc. 3) "All students will be educated in learning environments that are safe, drug free and conducive to learning – through PBIS students are rewarded for good behavior, utilizing Learning Support Teams and Guidance, building family and community awareness, etc. She sited three concerns: to increase reading comprehension, we need to look at a secondary fluency program, consider a more effective Alternative Learning Center/School, and maintain or supplement current staffing positions for next year.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy 500-20 – Athletic Eligibility & Participation

Mr. Doug Bloodsworth gave an update on the changes to the Athletic Eligibility and

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Participation Policy. Mr. Jack Paul requested that the policy be modified to reflect a grade point average of 1.75 with no E's for the

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remainder of this school year with a change to a grade point average of 2.00 with no E's beginning with the 2005-2006 school year. After discussion, motion by Mr. Jack Willing, seconded by Mr. Ernest

Satchell and passed to accept Policy 500-20, Athletic Eligibility & Participation, with these modifications

Policy 600-21 Enrollment/Attendance Eligibility

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to approve Policy 600-21, Enrollment/Attendance Eligibility as presented.

Policy 600-31 Personal Electronic Communication and Camera Devices

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Byrd, seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to approve Policy 600-31 Personal Electronic Communication and Camera Devices as presented.

Policy 800-05 Relations with Parent Organizations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Satchell, seconded by Mr. Willing and passed to approve Policy 800-05 Relations with Parent Organizations as presented.

Transportation Cost Increase Consideration

After discussion, the recommendation from the Board to Mr. Daugherty, Supervisor of Transportation, was for he and the bus contractors to present to the Board a base line for fuel cost and a sliding scale.

Safety Task Force Progress

Board Member Jack Willing gave an update on the Safety Task Force progress. Items noted were: meetings with principals, cooperation of central office and school system, report to be given at the beginning of the year. Dr. Brofee stated that the action teams will be reconvening.

INITIATIVE UPDATES

Student Achievement - By 2013-2014, all students will reach high standards at a minimum attaining proficiency or better in reading/language arts, mathematics and science.

Strategy 1 – Student Engagement – We will continuously monitor and respond to each student's individual educational program for educational growth and mastery at all levels of the system.

Student Achievement Report - Mr. Clarence Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction gave the Board a presentation on the comparison of student MSA and HSA achievement scores between 2003 and 2004.

Action Plan 1.3 – No achievement gap exists between subgroups of students.

System in Need of Improvement – Dr. Brofee reported on the Somerset County Public Schools Master Plan 2004 Update.

Maryland School Performance Recognition Program –Dr. Brofee reported that awards have been received by two schools.

Action Plan 1.7- Somerset County Public Schools models and promotes the identity of a learner, setting ambitious personal standards for effort and quality educational preference.

ILP – Individual Learning Plan – Dr. Brofee distributed the Individual Learning Plan to

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the Board from the Academies.

Action Plan 1.6 – Technology tools and digital content that engage students are seamlessly integrated into all classroom instruction on a regular basis.

Student PDA - Ms. Nancy Smoker, Supervisor of Technology, reported that the students at the Intermediate School would be receiving their Handheld Palms in a few weeks.

Parent Access to Power School – Ms. Nancy Smoker, Supervisor of Technology, gave the Board a summary of what parents will be able to access from Powerschool. Somerset County Public Schools will be the first Eastern Shore County to provide parent access.

Safe Environment –We will design, monitor, and evaluate an effective and consistently administered county wide disciplinary system.

Action Plan 5.1.6.1 – Implement peer mediation programs in all schools and establish an advisory committee.

Peer Mediation – Ms. Linda Mitchell and Mr. Steve Phillips gave a brief description of the peer mediation program. The Board was shown a video of a sample of what takes place and were given the 6 steps through the mediation process. They stated that the county has 110 student mediators at this time.

Action Plan 2.8.1 – Work with multiple organizations to develop and enhance in-school programs and opportunities. Dr. Brofee reiterated the importance of our peer mediation program and informed the Board of other organizations they are helping with this.

Capital Improvement Initiative

Woodson Renovation Quarter Review – Mr. Daugherty, Supervisor of Transportation and Facilities gave the Board an update on the Quarter Review by BSA+A. We are on schedule.

Somerset 6-7 Intermediate School – Mr. Daugherty, Supervisor of Transportation and Facilities, presented the Board with the Educational Specifications for the new Somerset 6-7 Intermediate School.

NEW BUSINESS

Somerset 6-7 Intermediate School Educational Specifications

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Satchell and passed with a vote of 3-1 with Mr. Paul voting against, to approve the Educational Specifications for the Somerset 6-7 Intermediate School.

Personnel

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Satchell, seconded by Mr. Byrd, and passed, to approve the following personnel actions; resignations: Elizabeth Berry, New Hires: Carol Tack, George Perez.

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Policy 200-14 Bidding and Purchasing

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was the consensus of the Board to accept for study Policy 200-14 Bidding and Purchasing.

Policy 100-17 Notification of Board Meetings

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was the consensus of the Board to accept for study Policy 100-17 Notification of Board Meetings.

Finance

Audited Financial Statements

Representatives from the auditing firm of Pigg, Krahl, Stern & Company, PA gave the board the final audit report.

FNS Quarterly Financial Report

Ms. Vicki Miller, Supervisor of Finance, and Ms. Suzie Wood, Head Manager of Food Service, gave the quarterly financial report for the food service program. It was agreed to have a report done monthly.

Bi-Annual Reporting Senate Bill 894

Ms. Vicki Miller, Supervisor of Finance gave the Board a review of the report that is required by the State from this Senate Bill. It was agreed to have a report monthly.

Superintendent & Board Comments

Dr. Brofee reported to the Board a list of partnerships that are working in our schools – Health Department services, Project Achieve (50 mentors), Lion's Quest (character ed.), IOU (suspended students), Delmarva Shorebirds (reading incentives), Ministerial Association (speaker John Robinson – stress from traumatic violence). She reported that the Tri-County College Fair is November 17, 2004 and students from the county will be attending. Lt. Gov. Steele will be visiting the Somerset 6-7 Intermediate School on Friday, November 18, 2004.

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DECEMBER MEETING

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul, and passed, to hold the December meeting on December 21, 2004, closed session at 5:00 p.m., reception for out-going Board Member Ernest Satchell at 6:00 p.m. and open session at 7:00 p.m. at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Secretary/Superintendent
Prepared by: Rebecca A. Fisher