

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Byrd, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Miles, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Ms. Tilghman. Student Board members, Britany Dennis and Chris Wood were also present.

MINUTES

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, the Superintendent and the two student board members were present.

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 by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the minutes of October 25, 2005. All Board members were in agreement.

6. Adoption of Agenda

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

7. Public Participation

Darryl Webster, talked to the Board about the need for a Police Resource Officer at Washington High School. Mr. Webster also voiced his opinion on the computer lab at the high school. Mr. Paul informed Mr. Webster that his concern for a resource officer at the high school level has already been addressed and the Board has given police officers permission to do routine checks in the high and middle schools until such time as a SRO is provided by the Sheriff's office.

Dorothy Coles spoke to the Board on behalf of the "Somerset Advocates for Education". Ms. Coles stated that an application would be submitted to the Board on Friday, November 19, 2005 regarding the Charter School Project.

Chairman Scott thanked both participants for their concerns and comments.

8. Student Board Members Report

Student Board member Britany Dennis of Crisfield High School gave her report on the southern end schools. Chris Wood, Washington High School student board member did not prepare a report.

Chairman Scott thanked both Student Boards members.

9. Washington High School

Mr. O'Neal thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to work with Ms. Dean. Mr. O'Neal stated that they have started a system which allows students in higher grades to give suggestions and input on helping students improve their grades. Mr. O'Neal informed the Board of the various happenings at Washington High School such as: the 9th grade has been involved in various fundraisers to help the needy, Channel One station is back up and running, and the high school's variety show was a success. Washington High's Athletic teams were praised for their efforts. Both Mrs. Dean and Mr. O'Neal thanked the Board for giving them the opportunity to work together in the high school and feel that the school year thus far has been very successful.

10. AFJROTC Awards Presentation

Sergeant Choate presented five cadets with awards for graduation from the "First Year Orientation Course, October 21 – 23, 2005. These students were Ronald King, JahQuan Shockley, Robert Wright, Joseph Ratajczak, and Roland Wescott. Mr. Wescott was also awarded the Best Drilled Cadet Award.

Maryland Parent Leadership Training

Thelma Douglas was presented with an award for attending the Maryland Parent Leadership Training. Mrs. Douglas thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to attend.

11. Informational Items

A. Somerset County Rocketry and Aerospace Program (SCRAP) Presentation

Chris Wood, student board member introduced the SCRAP students and gave the Board highlights on the SCRAP program. This program is a Salisbury Undergraduate Research Program with a 75% success rocket rate and is sponsored by Sergeant Choate.

Mr. Scott thanked the students for the information.

B. 2004 Maryland Adolescent Survey

Mrs. McLaughlin and Mrs. Cottman presented a report on adolescents' use of alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, and safety in the schools. They also announced that there will be a Positive Behavior Intervention Specialist (PBIS) in all schools. This individual will teach Anger Management and Tobacco Awareness in hopes that school can intervene and provide support staff.

School-based mental health services are being provided and has partnered with various

agencies throughout the county. The goal is to eliminate some of the education barriers we have with Somerset County Public School students.

12. Old Business

A. Policies

Upon Recommendation of Mrs. Miller, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Willing seconded to approval of Policies #300-1 to 300-12. All Board members agreed.

B. Tawes Intermediate School Project Construction Design and Cost Estimate

Upon recommendation of Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Paul seconded approval of the Construction Design of Tawes Intermediate School. All Board members agreed.

C. Master Plan Update

Dr. Brofee updated the Board on the status of the Master Plan explaining the hours and dollars spent. There has been almost \$1 million dollars spent in the past two years and still counting.

D. Maryland Academy for Teacher Education (CTE Program)

Mr. Webster asked the Board to consider and review the CTE Program, Maryland Accelerating Teacher Education. This program is designed to encourage students to become teachers and return to their home school to teach. The program also provides the teachers here with training to become great educators. The Board will vote at the December 13, 2005 Board meeting.

13. New Business

A. Human Resources Report

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, and second by Mr. Paul to approve the Human Resources Report presented by Mr. Lawson. The Board unanimously agreed.

Technology Certification Program

Mrs. Smoker gave the Board an explanation of the Technology Certification Program. This program offers review classes and if seven areas are passed, the individual will be certified in Technology Level I.

B. Facilities Update and Transportation - Policies

Upon recommendation of Mr. Daugherty, the Board took for review Policies #400-1 to 400-32 for approval at December's Board meeting.

Request for Easement across WHS Property and Change Order Request for WoodsonElementary

Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that DLM,LLC a contractor building apartments adjacent to Washington High School has asked to put a 20 foot easement across Washington High School’s property. Mr. Willing made a motion and Mr. Paul seconded approval of the easement construction with negotiated benefits for Washington High School fields and facility, and a signature contract from DLM, LLC. The Board unanimously agreed.

Upon recommendation of Mr. Daugherty, a motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the change order request for the Woodson Renovation. All Board members agreed.

C. Finance Report

Mrs. Miller provided the Board with the Finance and Food Service Reports. The budget amounts are looking good and are on target.

D. Public Relations Presentation “American Education Week”

Ms. Nelson, Public Relations Specialist, presented a very uplifting report on various activities going on at the schools.

14. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

15. December 13, 2005 – A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Willing, and approved to meet on December 13, 2005. Closed session will be at 6:00 p.m. and open regular session will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The Board unanimously agreed.

16. Adjournment

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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