

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, November 21, 2006 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:40 p.m.

By unanimous vote, the Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday November 21 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Byrd, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Miles, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary and Student Board member Britany Dennis. James Daniels was absent.

REGULAR SESSSION 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 five Board members, the Superintendent, and Student Board member Britany Dennis were present. James Daniels did not attend the meeting.

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. Miles to approve the minutes of October 17, 2006.

- **Announcement of Closed Session**

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Miles to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous with all Board members in agreement.

7. Public Participation

There was no public participation at this meeting.

8. Student Board Member's Report

Britany Dennis provided a report on the Southern schools and was thanked by Chairman Scott. James Daniels was not available to present a report for the Northern Schools.

9. Deal Island School

Ms. Linamen provided a very informational report on her school. DIS has a newsletter developed by the students that circulates every month. The MAC center will be collaborating with the schools to offer grandparents the opportunity to help with children needing extra assistance. DIS students are also learning about the Rain Forest and its importance. They are selling t-shirts to help with their cause. Chairman Scott thanked Ms. Linamen for her enlightening report and presentation.

10. Old Business

A. School Calendar

1. Transfer of Deed of Whittington Primary School

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Miles, and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the prepared resolution drawn by Mr. Willing which authorizes the execution of WPS Deed in order to transfer the building to the commissioners WPS is on lease to Shore Up. The vote was unanimous.

2. Update on Progress of Somerset Intermediate Schools

Mr. Catanzaro provided the Board with an update on the progress of SIS. The Board was informed that the building permit had been received and that the completion date for the school will be around October 01, 2007. Rain has continued to cause a delay. Mr. Catanzaro also stated that by the first week of December, the mechanical, electrical, and closing of Section A would be complete. The Superintendent expressed excitement and was very pleased to receive construction minutes.

11. New Business

A. Policies

1. School Community & Home Relations #800 series policies

Mr. Turner presented the revised #800 series policies to the Board for review and study to vote at the December Board meeting. Mr. Miles questioned revisions and stated that changes should promote a stronger relationship between the community and schools.

B. Human Resources Report

1. New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

Upon recommendation of Mr. Lawson, Mr. Miles moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve the Human Resources Report. The vote was unanimous.

2. Administrative Changes

The Superintendent informed the Board of several administrative changes that have been made. Ms. Dean will become the principal at WES. WHS students were disappointed to see Ms Dean leave, but were made aware that this was Ms. Dean's decision. Mrs. Lois Collins will become the Vice Principal at WHS, thus leaving a Reading Coach opening at SIS.

3. Out of State Travel

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Miles and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the Superintendents request to attend an Out of State Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. The first day of the conference will be a service project with a New Orleans school still closed from Hurricane Katrina. The vote was unanimous. Board members were also given a list of staff that will be attending upcoming out of state conferences

C. Finance Report

1. Monthly Finance Report

Dr. Brofee provided Mrs. Miller's an update on the Local School Budget and was thanked by Chairman Scott. Mr. Paul questioned the over expenditure in one area. The Superintendent provided the Board with exact figures.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Willing seconded to approve Mrs. Miller's Budget Transfer request. The vote was unanimous.

2. Monthly Food Service Report

Chairman Scott thanked Dr. Brofee for Mrs. Miller's Food Service report update. The Board was pleased to hear that there is a profit thus far of \$25,552.00.

3. FY2008 Budget Preparation Calendar

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve Dr. Brofee's and Mrs. Miller's budget preparation calendar. All Board members agreed.

D. Charter School Application

The charter school group did not attend meeting to present Charter School Application, but we anticipate application in the future.

E. James Fedderman's Dissertation Study

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve Mr. Fedderman's Dissertation Study request. This will be a study of young African American males and how well they adapt from elementary schools to middle schools. It will determine the relationship between student attendance, discipline, social class, and its impact on Self – Efficacy and Academic Achievement of Middle School Black Males. The results of this study will be used to help educators understand the importance of students' beliefs and how important it is to provide a nurturing learning environment. The vote was unanimous.

12. January 16, 2006 Board meeting

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott to approve the Superintendent's request to move the January 16, Board meeting to January 09, 2006. The vote was unanimous.

13. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

Dr. Brofee informed the board of the student discipline referrals. Office referrals have gone down 42% and the suspension rate has declined 30%. The new elected board members were named, Stan Pruitt and Meg Cohen, who will be sworn in January 2007. GES and JM Tawes have received Community Foundation Awards, GES (Leap Frog) and Tawes (Grant Money). Mr. Turner has been given more work development funds for two students in the amount of \$28,000.00 to be confirmed January 01, 2007. Mr. Sam Boston has confirmed the approval of Somerset County Public School's Capital Improvement Plan – Level A. The Superintendent also

informed the Board that the Master Plan Update had been approved and will be used to move forward. Mr. Paul ended the comments by congratulating Tiara Collins, CHS Student, for finishing 33rd out of 100 in the State Cross County meet.

14. December 2006 Board meeting

Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve the December 12, 2006 Board meeting. The vote was unanimous.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

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