



The Somerset County Board of Education met at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday November 13, 2007 at 5:35 p.m. to review the SIS Tawes Construction Project. Upon completion of the SIS Tawes Construction Update the Board met in a closed session meeting at 6:30 p.m.

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 6:30 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, Assistant Superintendent Doug Bloodsworth, 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, Assistant Superintendent Doug Bloodsworth, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. The new Student Board members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins were also in attendance.

### **OPEN WORK SESSION**

#### **Castlebridge Solar Energy Study**

The Somerset County Board of Education met in an open work session at 5:35 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Mr. Bloodsworth, recording secretary, Melissa Tilghman. Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Catanzaro were also present at the meeting. The Hybrid Group, Mr. Allen Gorsuch, Steve Wood, and Mack Steeler attended the open work session to provide the Board with more details on the Solar Power Hybrid Energy Proposal.

Speaking on behalf of the Castlebridge Solar Hybrid Energy Group, Mr. Gorsuch provided a detailed explanation of the study affidavit. The Board was provided with written responses generated by the Board after receiving the feasibility study. The Board members took a brief moment to read responses. The group is requesting that they be allowed to continue with the study and would like concrete assurance of the project after the study is complete.

The group stated that the project would generate more money than it costs and is largely renewable. The study is configured based on what we know about the power. Generators will be used to save money when energy usage reaches its peak. The generators will reduce power shortages and will not have to be used much, as school will not be in session during the energy peak hours when energy prices are higher. Mr. Paul questioned the ownership of the project. The proceeds of the project will be shared with the county and the group. The group explained that they already owned property to began the project, but would like to start project on an already established facility. It would be more promoting and beneficial and the school would be considered a "Green School".

The Hybrid group was thanked by the Board and given permission to continue study, but explained that approval from the commissioners was needed to go forward with the project.

## **Change Order Request**

Mr. Catanzaro provided the Board with a brief update on the status of the SIS project. The Board was informed that 65% of SIS was complete and the entirety of the project should be by November 30, 2007, but would be no later than Christmas Break.

Mr. Daugherty provided the Board with change order requests #43 to #48.

## **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 four Board members and the Assistant Superintendent were present. Mr. Pruitt asked to be excused. Student Board Members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins were also 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 for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the minutes of October 16, 2007. The vote was unanimous.

### **6. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Vice Chairman Miles to adopt the amended agenda. Item 11-B was removed.

### **7. Public Participation**

Bobby Wells spoke to the Board regarding the Octoberfest held at Deal Island Elementary School. Mr. Wells is a parent of a student attending this school. He explained that upon his arrival at the school's function he was directed to the cafeteria and was not given the real reason why. He later found out that a student attending the school was diagnosed with a communicable disease and was upset that he wasn't informed. The school did however follow proper procedure, sterilized the room and directed the party to another location in the building.

## **8. Student Board Members' Reports**

Student Board member Chatriece Lawson provided an informational report on the various activities happening at the northern schools. Lynette Johnson, PAES Dean of Students, had been awarded an Afterschool Program grant and the PAES Community Foundation Grant. Student Board member Alexandar Cavins provided an informational report on the various activities happening at the southern schools. Mr. Cavins reported that the Tawes School and USA skills competition was going well. The "Why Try Program" is going well. The students of CHS received a visit from Captain Willey and the school was on the news for school spirit, 78% of students made credit or honor roll the first quarter, and a Basketball Madness dance will be held on November 30, 2007. Before and afterschool tutoring is provided to all CHS students. The CHS college fair will be held next week, during American Education week, and the annual blood drive is coming up.

## **9. 1927 Somerset County Board of Education Annual Report**

Mr. Bloodsworth provided a 1927 SCPS Annual Report. This report was found by Mr. Bloodsworth's 87 year old uncle and listed 75 schools that were once opened in Somerset County. It contained data showing that in 1927 Somerset County Public Schools was third in the State in enrollment. Mr. Bloodsworth was thanked by the Board members.

## **10. Deal Island Elementary School Report**

Mrs. Linamen provided the DIS report. There are only two at-risk students who are in intervention. Volunteer hours have increased significantly. DIS adheres to the PBIS rules even though they are not a PBIS school. 85% of students attended the quarterly incentive. The reptile man was invited to visit students. Mrs. Linamen informed the Board that DIS had received a \$2,000 grant and a \$650 grant award. PTA fundraisers reached approximately \$7200.00. Finally the Board was informed that DIS will be having a Back to School Bash.

During American Education Week a program was held for the veterans and James Benton sang for them.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **11. Facilities**

#### **Change Order Requests**

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order requests #43 to #48. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Daugherty also announced the Teacher of the Year Recognition on November 15, 2007 and a tour of the new Somerset 6/7 school at 5:30 p.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **12. New Business**

#### **Policies**

Mr. Bloodsworth presented revised Policy 600-21, Attendance/ Enrollment/Eligibility/ Pupil Assignment for the Board's review and study of the policy to vote at next month's meeting. The revision states that Somerset County Public School system employees and University of Maryland

Eastern Shore employees who live outside of Somerset County and wish to have grandchildren for whom they provide care attend Somerset County Public Schools in the regular program of education, should write a letter to the Superintendent of Schools requesting permission. Permission is contingent upon Board approval. If permission is granted, tuition will be waived.

### **Human Resources Report**

#### Physician's Assistant Program

Mr. Lawson stated that a memo of understanding was being written stating the agreement in regards to the Physician's Assistant Program. The Board requested a copy of the MOU prior to the next Board meeting. The athletic trainer will supervise the assistant. Betsy Thomas will supervise the assistant at Washington High School.

#### New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources report. 1) Resignations: Richard Gregg Lee, Deborah Benton; 2) New Hires: Traci Tyler, Terri Milbourne, Victoria Harris; and 3) Reassignments: Tara Thomas. The vote was unanimous.

### **Out of State Travel**

Mr. Lawson provided the employee Out of State Travel to the Board for informational purposes only.

### **Finance Report**

#### Monthly Finance and Food Service Reports

Mrs. Miller provided the Board with the monthly finance and food service reports. The Board was informed that the student personnel category was overspent and there could be a transfer request in the future. The Food Service Report showed negative marks, but Mrs. Miller anticipates that they will disappear. Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

## **13. Superintendent & Board Member Comments**

Mr. Bloodsworth announced and offered an open invitation to the public and the Board members to attend the schools during American Education Week. He also informed the Board that he would be bringing forward HSA changes. Students must pass the HSA's in order to graduate. They will be given a report of their progress. April Todd's recognition ceremony was announced and will be held Thursday, November 15, 2007.

Mr. Willing announced the lack of time in closed session with Mr. Johnson and invited him to speak in open session. Mr. Johnson spoke to the Board on behalf of the bus contractors and their requests to update the fuel costs adjustments. Mr. Johnson stated that the bus contractors voted to have the sliding scale removed based on incorrect figures that were given to them and that Worcester and Wicomico counties continue to use the sliding scale. Mr. Paul stated that he would like to have the accounting department involved and have the fuel cost adjustments done monthly. Mr. Paul informed Mr. Johnson that he would have a response for him by the December Board meeting. Mr. Willing announced that due to the fact that his father is a bus contractor, he will not vote on this subject.

14. **December 2007** – It was moved by Chairman Scott, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, and seconded by Mr. Willing, and passed to approve December 11, 2007 as the next open regular session. The open work session will begin at 5:30 p.m., closed session will begin at 6:30 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.
15. **The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**

Doug Bloodsworth, Assistant Superintendent  
Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary