



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center, Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 6:00 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. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Willing, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Willing Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board members Joshua Lundgren and Michelle Malinger were also present at the meeting.

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 all five Board members and the Superintendent were present. Student Board members Joshua Lundgren and Michelle Malinger 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. Paul and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve the October 21, 2008 Board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of Agenda

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

7. Student Board Members' Report

Student Board member Joshua Lundgren provided his schools reports Crisfield Academy and High School will be hosting a canned food drive and Thanksgiving Candy bags will be for sale. An awards ceremony was held November 14, 2008 and the Band Bingo was a success. The 10th grade students will be attending the Reginald Lewis Museum trip, this week is the CHS book fair, and next week is school spirit week. There is also APD planning for next week. The mock terrorist event was successful.

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Michelle Malingier announced that this is American Education Week; Deal Island School received \$1500 grant award from the community organization. Greenwood Elementary's 5th grade students have been using the Promethean Boards and have found it very exciting with student showing much desire to learn.

8. Public Participation

Laura Troop-Curtis, PAC member, announced CAHS's participation in a fundraiser being held at UNO's Restaurant all day on Saturday, November 22, 2008. UNOs will donate up to 20% of individuals' tabs to CAHS upon request.

9. Princess Anne Elementary School

Mrs. Johnson showed a presentation to the Board members on the happenings at Princess Anne Elementary. PAES staff has set time aside to help students with MSA's. This time is called STARS time. Opening Day's ice cream social was a success along with Back to School Night. A talent show was held which provided joy and excitement to the students as well as the staff. Family Math night was a success with interaction between the students and the parents. The Mentor Program is going quite well. There has also been some concern with the increase of suspensions. This is due in part to disrespect to teachers and classroom disruptions. PBIS incentives have been shared by all students to allow all students to be successful. Mrs. Johnson's Café, time set aside for students to have lunch with the principal, is going well. Mrs. Johnson has taken this opportunity to have lunch with students to get to know them better.

10. Recognitions

The Board recognized Deal Island School and congratulated them on the recent \$1,500 grant they received from the community organization. Mr. Daugherty was also presented with a design award for Somerset Intermediate School, a national recognition gained by SHW architects.

11. Old Business

A. Policies

#100 Series, Foundation and Governance

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Willing, and passed to approve the revised 100 series policies presented by the Superintendent. The vote was unanimous.

#800 Series, School and Community Relations

Mr. Turner provided clarification and changes to the 800 series policies with the request that the Board review and study the policies. The Board members will vote on approval of the policies at the December Board meeting

12. A. Monthly Finance Report

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Mrs. Miller's category transfer request. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Miller provided the monthly finance and food service reports to the Board. Mr. Paul questioned the over expenditure in administrative costs in the monthly report. Mrs. Miller explained that this was due to the hiring of a vice principal. There was good news for the food service report. The retiree program has helped the department save in substitute costs.

Mrs. Miller provided the Board with a preparation schedule for the rest of the school year. The Board members thanked her for her reports.

B. Policies

Mrs. Miller presented a list of the 300 series policies for the Board's review and public input. Revisions to these policies will be presented at the next Board meeting. Mr. Willing suggested that close attention be used with revisions to Policy 300-3, Budget Deadlines, Schedules, Planning, Hearings, Reviews and Adoption.

C. SAFE Schools/Healthy Students

Mrs. Cottman, Safe Schools/Healthy Students Coordinator, provided an overview of the program to the Board members and certificates to collaborating agencies for their help and commitment to the program. The Board was informed of the various services that have been provided through the program and that the funding will end at the end of June.

Mrs. Cottman introduced Mr. Warren Rhodes, SSHS Evaluator, and Dr. Melanie Miller. Mr. Rhodes explained the role of the Steering Team Committee. He stated that the program has served approximately 348 students per year.

Mr. Paul stated that the community and parents should help with increasing student school attendance. Mr. Rhodes noted that the focus of the collaborating agencies is to write new grants to help with the continuation of this program. Parents, staff, and students are being asked to complete a service participation survey to determine the programs impact on students and families.

Mrs. Cottman showed a presentation of several parents and the Learning Support Specialists explaining how the program has helped them. Mrs. Cottman was thanked by Dr. Brofee and the Board members.

D. Master Plan Update 2008

Dr. Brofee began her Master Plan presentation by first complimenting Mr. Daugherty on the nice job that was done by staff in keeping the board room exceptionally clean. From there she began to talk about the work involved in getting the Master Plan done. Mr. Paul questioned the number of hours worked by staff on the Master Plan and asked for a total. Dr. Brofee said she would compile it and

continued by informing the Board that the Master Plan Update was mailed today. A presentation outlining the steps taken to complete the Master Plan Update was presented. Clarifying questions requested by MSDE were answered listing key strategies to contribute to the success of Special Education subgroup. MSDE commended SCPS on the Executive Summary, Human Resources, PBIS, and the Budget sections of the report.

E. Summary Report for 2007-2008

Dr. Brofee presented a detailed summary report of various activities, professional development, master plan aligned activities, and ESOL. A written plan for students in jeopardy of failing was also discussed. An increase was seen in parents using PowerSchool and checking students grades. Character Education has proven to be successful. As of the 07-08 school year, 83% of teachers were considered Highly Qualified. Students are being taught on a 13:1 teacher ratio. There has also been an increase in teachers who have received their Tech. Ed. Certification. Dr. Brofee thanked the Leadership Team and Mrs. Smoker for analyzing and putting things together.

F. Bridge Plan

Mr. Bloodsworth discussed the Bridge Plan to the Board members. As of the 2009 school year, 14% of students in that cohort need to pass HSA. The 2010 cohort, 51% of students need to pass HSA's. The Bridge Plan is an alternative method for students having trouble passing the HSA. Students are assigned to an operating class where a teacher monitors their progress on provided state required and developed projects. These projects are graded by a panel which allows students meet the HSA requirements. The number of points needed to reach the cumulative HSA score of 1602 determines how many projects a student must do.

G. Approval of External Survey

It was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Paul, and passed to approve Susan Johnson's request to conduct an external teacher's survey concerning. The vote was unanimous.

H. New Bus Contractor Approval

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded by Mr. Pruitt, and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to advertise for the replacement of retiring bus contractor Alexander Whittington. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Charles Jones' request to purchase a new bus for the 2009-2010 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Transportation Report

Mr. Daugherty began his report by thanking Ms. Carter and Mrs. Cottman for the cameras put on the schools and on the buses through the Safe School/Healthy Students grant. He reported that there had not been any bus accidents so far and congratulated the bus drivers. Mr. Daugherty also informed the Board that over 50% of the bus drivers were over 65. The Board members thanked Mr. Daugherty for his report.

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I. Human Resources Progress Report

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Willing, seconded Mr. Paul and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources report. Mr. Lawson informed the Board that SCPS continues to recruit new staff. The vote was unanimous.

Out of State Travel

There was no Out of State travel to report to the Board this month.

403b Plan Update

It was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded by Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve the 403b Retirement Annuity Plan presented by Mr. Lawson. The vote was unanimous.

I. Tri County Legislative Dinner

Dr. Brofee announced and invited the Board members to the Tri County Legislative Dinner on December 01, 2008 at the J.M. Tawes Career and Technology Center.

13. Superintendent & Board Member comments

Dr. Brofee first thanked the GES staff for all their help and student support during the death of DeJaiya Jones. The Board was informed that the Parent Advisory Council has been given a web link on our website where they can post information. It will be monitored and approved by our Technology staff. Legislative audits will begin December 01, 2008.

Dr. Brofee assured the Board and the community that the Crisfield fight has been taken seriously and announced that a meeting is being held December 19, 2008 at the Board office to discuss how the community and various organizations can help with ongoing support of students at all times. An energy initiatives report will be given at the December Board meeting.

The Superintendent thanked the community for attending and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

- 14. December 2008** – It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Willing, and passed to approve December 16, 2008 as the next open regular session. The closed session will begin at 6:00 p.m., an open recognition session for Chairman Scott and Mr. Paul will be held at 6:30 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

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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