



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in an open session to 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 Miles, Vice Chairman Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Mr. Wells, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Miles, Vice Chairman Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Mr. Wells Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cavins, Student Board Representatives were also present.

### **REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order**  
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miles 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. The Student Board Members were also present.
3. **Declaration of Quorum**  
It was declared that a quorum was present.
4. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
Chairman Miles led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. **Approval of Minutes**  
A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt and passed to approve the minutes of October 20, 2009. The motion was carried unanimously.
6. **Adoption of Agenda**  
It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve the adoption of the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous.
7. **Pacesetter Award**  
Mr. Daugherty introduced Allen Gorsuch of Energy Educated Incorporated. George Todd and Dr. Brofee were presented with the Energy Pacesetter Award. Somerset County Public Schools saved over \$400,000 by conserving energy. The Superintendent along with Mr. Daugherty thanked Mr. Todd for all his hard work. Mr. Todd thanked all the staff in the schools for their accountability of conserving energy.
8. **Student Board Members' Reports**  
Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cavins presented the Board with various highlights of activities going on within the schools and the upcoming holiday events. Chairman Miles thanked the students for the information. Chairman Pruitt also announced that Mr. Cavins had been accepted to West Point Military School.

## 9. Public Participation

Several parents addressed the Board with related concerns about school and student safety at Crisfield High School in regards to a recent field hockey issue. The Board members thanked each parent and assured them that the issue will be looked into.

Mr. Vernall Cottman, of Men in Progress, addressed the Board in regards to a new group that he is a part of. This group is involved in education and has extended an invitation to the Board to call upon them for mentoring, tutoring, etc. Mr. Cottman was thanked by the Board members.

Mr. Clarence Bell thanked the Board for the energy conservation implementation. Mr. Bell explained that his wife works for SCPS and has implemented conserving energy at home. He continued with how cost effective this savings has been for his family.

## 10. Greenwood Elementary School

Ms. O'Neal presented the GES School report to the Board. Pre K has been added to the school this year bringing their enrollment to an all time high. The school uniform implementation has been going well and parents seem to be very pleased. For those students having trouble with purchasing uniforms, loaner uniforms are given to the student and returned at the end of the school day.

Students have been engaging in meaningful technology activities and gaining learning experiences through hands on experiments. The focus on cooperative learning is also being practiced.

Ms. O'Neal also stated that balance and consistency continues to be a challenge. GES has had an increase in parent involvement, Math Intervention Program, Fruit and Vegetable Program on Tuesdays and everything is successful due to the great staff. Ms. O'Neal was thanked by the Board for the information.

## 11. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Finance

#### **Policy 300-14, Fundraising**

It was moved by Vice Chairman Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve revised Policy #300-14, Fundraising. The vote was unanimous.

### B. Student Services

#### **Policy #600-34, Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation**

A motion was called for by Dr. Whittington, moved by General Sumpter and passed to approve Ms. McLaughlin's revised Policy #600-34, Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation to reflect the revisions made by the Maryland State Department of Education. The vote was unanimous.

#### **American Cancer Society**

Ms. Carter introduced Ms. Kathy Decker and Ms. Peggy Merrit, American Cancer Society Volunteers. They have requested the Board's approval to allow Relay for Life back into the schools

along with other collaborative projects on cancer prevention. Ms. Peggy Merritt was concerned with getting the community involved and felt that a community-based carnival held at the Ruritan Field would be a good idea. Ms. Decker and Ms Merrit would like to visit the schools and promote Relay for Life. The Board was also informed of an Incentive Program with Staples that would allow the school system to buy school supplies on a discounted rate. The Superintendent requested the Board's approval to take this information to A&S for discussion.

## **12. New Business**

### **A. Instructional Report**

#### **Master Plan Update Responses from MSDE**

Dr. Brofee informed the Board that the responses for the Master Plan Update were accepted by MSDE.

#### **System Achievement Report & Update**

Mr. Bloodsworth showed a presentation with a breakdown of student achievement data. The elementary Reading AMO is very close and our Math Performance is close to the state level. At the middle level the reading proficiency has increased dramatically and Somerset's Intermediate Special Education subgroup has improved in reading. Somerset is "A School In Need of Improvement". The middle level Math has increased in proficiency. The data for the high school level showed that Algebra/Data Analysis and English II have improved slightly.

Other measures of AYP include attendance which is 94.9 at the elementary level, 93.5 at the middle, and 77.17 and the high school level.

Mr. Miles questioned students' attitudes in taking HSAs. Mr. Bloodsworth's stated that elementary schools offer incentives to get students motivated. Dr. Whittington questioned the problem that 8<sup>th</sup> graders seem to be having,

Mr. Pruitt questioned the high school attendance, but high school attendance is not a factor when considering AYP.

### **B. Finance**

#### **Monthly Finance Report**

Ms. Miller presented the monthly finance report to the Board. Chairman Miles thanked her for the information.

#### **Food Service Report**

Ms. Miller presented the food service report to the Board. The Board questioned the reasons for the decrease in lunch participation. General Sumpter requested a revenue report showing the decrease or increase in student lunch sales. Vice Chairman Miles stated that a survey should be developed asking the students what they wanted for lunch. Dr. Whittington questioned the commodity prices. Ms. Miller explained that commodity prices have increased to balance the decrease in sales.

## **FY2011 Budget Process and Calendar**

Ms. Miller presented the FY2011 Budget Process and Calendar to the Board members. There will be four scheduled public input sessions, the creation of a budget blog has been added to our website and the Superintendent has Parent for Coffee which gives parents the opportunity to respond on certain issues including the budget. The request of the news reporters to help spread the word was also extended.

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Vice Chairman Pruitt, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve Ms. Miller's FY2011 Budget Process and Calendar. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **Legislative Audit Status**

Ms. Miller presented the audit to the Board members and the Superintendent.

## **C. Technology Presentation**

Ms. Smoker showed the Board a presentation on Ed-Line. This is a professionally designed website where parent's and teachers will have access to. Parents will have access to actual assignments that were given in class, there will be one log-in which will give parents access to all their children in SCPS. Teachers are being trained now and in early December information will be uploaded. Chairman Miles feels that we are moving into the right direction and showed concern as to how many parents have access to computers at home. He didn't want any students to miss out on this opportunity. Mr. Wells feels that teacher/student face to face is more beneficial for a student. He also voiced concern that parents are being forced to purchase computers that they may not be able to afford.

Chairman Miles thanked Ms. Smoker for her report.

## **D. Policies**

Mr. Lawson presented revised policies, #700-39, Title IX Non Discrimination Policy and policy #700-43, Employment of Foreign National to the Board for their review and study. Mr. Lawson is looking for approval at the next Board meeting. Dr. Whittington questioned the female discrimination regarding sports. The Superintendent referred him to the Athletic Policy.

## **E. Transportation and Facilities**

### **WAHS Renovation Contract Approval**

A motion was called for by Vice Chairman Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve Valued Carpet's contract for the WAHS Renovation Contract. The vote was unanimous with all Board members in agreement.

### **Request to Move WAHS to a Full Renovation Project**

Upon the recommendation of the Maryland State Department of Education, it was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to move WAHS to a Full Renovation Project. The vote was unanimous.

## **F. Human Resources Report**

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Vice Chairman Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve Mr. Lawson's Human Resources report. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Review of Revised Job Descriptions**

Mr. Lawson requested the Board's review and study of the following revised job descriptions: Human Resources Director, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education Supervisor, and Special Education Supervisor. The Board will vote at the next Board meeting.

### **Out of State Travel**

Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Lawson for the Out of State Travel report.

## **12. Superintendent's & Board Member Comments**

Dr. Brofee thanked the Student Board Members for their reports. She also announced that the Education World Website features Deal Island Elementary School.

Dr. Whittington announced that Lynnette Johnson had been recognized as the Educator of the Year. He also thanked the Men of Progress for their willingness to help mentor, tutor etc. the students of Somerset County Public Schools and was very pleased with the increased number of community members at the Board meeting. Dr. Whittington informed the community that when problems arise at a school that the principal of the school should always be contacted first. Chairman Miles agreed.

- 13. December 2009** – A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve December 15, 2009 as the next open regular session. An opened called session will be held at 5:30 p.m. to discuss policies and facilities, an executive session will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by the open regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **14. Adjournment**

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve the adjournment of the meeting at 9:30 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

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