

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, October 25, 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, October 25, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Byrd, Mr. Paul, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Ms. Tilghman. Student Board members, Britany Dennis and Chris Wood were also present. Mr. Willing and Mr. Miles asked to be excused from the meeting.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott at 7:05 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating three board members, the Superintendent and the two student board members were present. Mr. Willing and Mr. Miles asked to be excused.

### **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. Paul and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve the minutes of September 20, 2005 and the called Board meeting on September 27, 2005. The vote was unanimous.

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

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Vice Chairman Byrd and seconded by Mr. Paul to adopt the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous.

### **7. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

### **8. Student Board Members Report**

Chairman Scott thanked student board members, Chris Wood & Britany Dennis for their reports.

## **9. Whittington Primary Report**

Mr. Pruitt announced the success of the Reading First Program at the Elementary School. Mr. Pruitt gave accolades to his teachers on what a wonderful job they have been doing with their students. Percentages were given cited on the status of the students progress by grade: 83% on benchmark PreK-K, 87% on benchmark K-1, 76% on benchmark 1-2, and 69% of students on benchmark 2-3.

Ms. Evans, Instructional Facilitator, received a \$2,000.00 grant from the Math Survivors Program. Mr. Pruitt also announced that Captain Willey will be flying down to Whittington Primary. The Board was also informed of the Hurricane Relief funds raised by Whittington, \$3,520.00.

Upon Mr. Pruitt's closing comments, he thanked the Board for allowing him to continue at the elementary school and commended Dr. Brofee on a job well done.

## **10. Old Business**

### **A. Policies**

Upon recommendation of Dr. Brofee, Mr. Paul moved and Vice Chairman Byrd seconded to approve the amended Work Leave Schedule Policy #700-13. The vote was unanimous.

Vice Chairman Byrd moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve Policy #600-17, Standards of Social Behavior, presented by Mrs. McLaughlin. All Board members agreed.

Mrs. McLaughlin presented the Board with the new Implications of State Changes regarding the Attendance Policy which states that students are marked ½ day for attending school any part of the day and considered a full day when attending school for more than ½ day.

### **B. Implementation of Healthy Students/Safe School Grant**

Mrs. McLaughlin gave an overview and the status of the Safe Schools Initiative Grant.

### **C. Truancy Court Overview**

Mrs. McLaughlin presented the Board with an overview of the Truancy Court informing the Board that truancy is usually a secondary education level problem. Chairman Scott thanked her for the information.

### **D. Transportation**

Upon recommendation of Dr. Brofee, Mr. Paul moved and Vice Chairman Byrd seconded to approve the \$.02 mileage increase for bus contractors retroactive to the beginning of the school year. The Board unanimously agreed. The Board also agreed that a sliding scale would be considered for the future.

## 11. New Business

### A. Instructional Report

1. Mr. Bloodsworth, Mr. Elebash, and Ms. Cheek delivered the 2004-2005 Maryland Student Achievement Report. None of the Somerset County Public Schools are in the "In Need of Improvement Status", but we do have schools in need of local attention. We anticipate Crisfield High School to be identified as a school in need of improvement primarily due to the low performance of the special education students, and are concerned about our overall secondary performance.
2. Dr. Brofee presented the Board with the September 2005 Steele Commission Report of Lieutenant Governor, Michael Steele.

### B. Human Resources Report

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

### C. Transportation and Facilities Update

1. A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve the SCPS Comprehensive Maintenance Plan presented by Mr. Daugherty.
2. A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to train two new bus drivers, John McKenzie and Samuel Thompson.
3. Upon recommendation of Mr. Daugherty, a motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve Whiting-Turner's Change Order Requests for the Woodson Elementary School Renovation. These requests were:
  - 1) Delete Alternate #14 **(-\$7,403.00)**;
  - 2) Deduct removal of Gymnasium Floor **(-\$7,725.00)**;
  - 3) Additional Forest Conservation Protection **(\$4,315.00)**;
  - 4) CMU Coloumn Enclosures **(\$1,830.00)**;
  - 5) Remobilization for Screw Pile Contractor **(\$6,437)**;
  - 6) Additional Pile Footage **(\$8,055.75)**;
  - 7) Extend Metal Panels **(\$1,672.00)**
  - 8) Delete Alternate #2 **(-\$43,199.00)**;
  - 9) Protective Ramp for New Forest Conservation Plan **(\$1,476.63)**;
  - 10) Credit for not supplying floor trough **(-\$2,250.00)**;
  - 11) Digital Telephone System to a Voice Over Internet Protocol System **(\$22,680.00)**;
  - 12) Raising the canopy and building an extension out to the bus loop **(\$4,536.00)**;
  - 13) Demolish and remove concrete in the kitchen area **(\$3,672.00)**.

All Board members agreed.

## **D. Finance Report**

1. Mrs. Miller gave the Board the highlights of the Commission to Study Local Maintenance of Effort report. Chairman Scott thanked her for her report.
2. Pigg, Krahl, Stern, & Company presented the Board with its Audited Financial Statements with only a few recommendations for improvement. The Board commended and thanked them for their report.
3. Upon recommendation of Mrs. Miller, the Board was asked to review the #300 series (#300-1 to 300-12) of the Board policies for approval on November 15, 2005.
4. Mrs. Miller presented the Board with a projected yearly utility increase report. Mr. Paul suggested balancing the heating thermometer throughout the schools to help with rising costs.

## **12. Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Brofee spoke to the Board concerning how well the Technology Certification Process was going. Mrs. Miller was thanked for the audit. Dr. Brofee also announced that Deal Island had received the Achieving Performance Award.

The Board was also informed that Larry Bell, Consultant, would be visiting our schools beginning November 02, 2005. Dr. Brofee also brought the Board the information requested concerning the Master Plan and its hours and cost involved.

## **13. December Board Meeting**

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve the December 13, 2005 Board Meeting.

## **14. Adjournment**

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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