

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, October 17, 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 October 17, 2006 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.

Chairman Scott requested a moment of silence in honor of Leroy Johnson, CHS student who passed away last week.

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 September 19, 2006.

• Announcement of Closed Session

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to adopt the amended agenda. 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 brief report on the Southern schools and was thanked by Chairman Scott. There was no report available for the Northern Schools.

9. Crisfield High School and Academy Report

Ms. Josenhans began her report by thanking the Board and the community for all the help provided with the death of Leroy Johnson. Crisfield High School has extended 5 period classes allowing students

take extra classes during the year if needed to graduate. The board was also informed that two seniors and one staff member were invited to Brew River for dinner in appreciation of their help with the blood drive. Crisfield High School came in third on the shore. Ms. Josenhans also announced that December 11, 2006 will be Crisfield High School's first blood drive and they will also be performing a Line Theater on January 19, 2006.

Mrs. Ward provided an academy report beginning with the 8th grade Gear-Up enrollee numbers. The enrollment for Gear Up students has gone up. Extra assistance is being provided to all students taking Algebra. Gale Aiken, UMES Project Achieve Coordinator provides the tutoring. A career fair was held and a college fair will be held in November.

10. Old Business

A. School Calendar

1. Waiver Request for Carter G. Woodson Elementary School

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the waiver request for Carter G. Woodson Elementary School called on September 11, 2006. Due to classroom flooding caused by a water line failure, Dr. Brofee asked MSDE's Superintendent Nancy Grasmick for permission to waive this day. The State approved. All Board members agreed with the approval of this request.

B. Facilities

1. Approval of the Capital Improvement Plan

The Capital Improvement Plan was presented last month and was approved by the Board on 10/06/06 through a phone poll.

2. SIS Construction Report

Contractor, John Catanzaro gave the Board an update and presented a timeline on the construction at the new Somerset Intermediate School. He informed the Board that the 313 day contract will not be met and will have to be extended due to rain.

C. Policies

1. Approval of Human Resources Policies 700 series

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve the Human Resources Policies 700 series presented by the Superintendent. Mr. Lawson was out sick.

11. New Business

A. Instructional Report

1. 2005 – 2006 Student Achievement Report

The 2005-2006 MD Student Achievement Report was presented to the Board by Mr. Bloodsworth, Mr. Elebash, and Ms. Holland.

SCPS seems to be ahead of state average for Reading Readiness. Reading scores have gone up and the 4th grade level is higher than the state average. We have a 95% attendance rate and Math scores have also gone up.

SCPS continue to focus on the achievement gap between ethnic groups. "Reading at Five" is a new program used to monitor elementary readiness. Different Math strategies are also being used to close the learning gap between students such as adding Math software. This will help children increase math skills, using performance matters. The Special Education subgroup remains "In Need of Improvement". Washington High School's reading level has been labeled "In Need of Improvement". Reading programs have been purchased. The Math category strategy seems to be working and will remain the same.

Present 10th graders will have to pass all four HSA tests as a graduation requirement. HSA classes are being offered year long for students having trouble passing the HSA tests. Biology seems to be troublesome, Algebra outscored the State levels, and English students seem to be of concern. The attendance is at 90%. Crisfield High School Graduation Rate is in "Alert" status. With the high schools changing to 5 period, 70 minute blocks per day, students can now take all electives and extra classes if they choose. Mr. Paul questioned the state's graduation target being met if students are allowed to dropout at age 16. .

There has been 87 students who have taken the Advancement Placement Test. Mr. Miles questioned whether or not students were taking advantage of afterschool programs. It was noted that the transportation issue is a concern, but afterschool programs continue to be filled to capacity. Greg Bozman has been seeking extra help with students in the Crisfield afterschool programs.

2. Maryland School Achievement Report

Dr. Brofee and Mrs. Smoker showed a presentation on the Master Plan Update. The Board was informed that the Thornton Funds must be used in alignment with the Master Plan and State Goals met must show that our plan is enhancing student achievement. This information is being gathered using state supplied data, SCPS assessments, and Master Plan progress reports.

Successes for SCPS were outlined as follows: 1) Improvement on elementary performance; 2) progress is being made towards the improvement of secondary performance and we continue to work on ELL and Hispanic subgroups; 3) State of Art facilities; 4) Salaries have been raised in order to make them competitive with other counties; 5) and there has been a systematic integration of the Master Plan. SCPS will continue to work to improve the graduation rate, decrease the dropout rate, improve secondary education progress and poverty learners, and accelerate special education secondary progress.

Priorities of SCPS outlined in the MP presentation are the Integration of the Master Plan into school curriculums and continued acceleration in secondary, Hispanic, and ELL achievement.

B. Human Resources Report

1. New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent (Mr. Lawson was out ill) Mr. Willing moved and Vice Chairman Byrd seconded to approve the Human Resources report presented by Dr. Brofee. The vote was unanimous.

2. Out of State Travel

The Board members were given a list of staff that will be attending upcoming out of state conferences.

C. Facilities and Transportation

Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Approval

Upon recommendation of Dr. Brofee, Mr. Paul moved and Vice Chairman Byrd seconded to approve the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan presented by Mr. Daugherty. The vote was unanimous.

Approval to except Bids for Unit Ventilators

Upon recommendation of Dr. Brofee, Vice Chairman Byrd moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to except bids for Unit Ventilators. Towson Mechanical was given the contract for Princess Anne Elementary, Somerset 6/7 Intermediate, and Washington High School. General Mechanical was given the contract for Ewell School. The vote was unanimous.

Approval to except Bids for Deal Island Exterior Lighting

Upon recommendation of Dr. Brofee, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to except bids for Deal Island's Exterior Lighting. AET Electric has been chosen to receive the bid for this project. The vote was unanimous.

Maryland Department of Education Administrative Complaint and Consent Order

Upon recommendation of Dr. Brofee, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve the Administrative Complaint and Consent Order Agreement. This is a necessary agreement in order for SCPS to receive a building permit for SIS. We will agree to bring in holding tanks in order to get waste disposed of should school construction cause sewer malfunction.

D. Finance Report

1. Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller provided an update on the Local School Budget and was thanked by Chairman Scott.

2. Monthly Food Service Report

Chairman Scott thanked Mrs. Miller for her Food Service report update.

12. Superintendent & Board Member Comments

Dr. Brofee began her comments by thanking and naming all staff persons and outside agencies who helped during the sudden death of Crisfield High School student, Leroy Johnson. Dr. Brofee also read a thank you letter sent by the Governor's Office. Dr. Brofee honored the Governor's office with a framed key to Carter G. Woodson School as a dedication to the school's renovation. Dr. Brofee thanked the Shore UP/Flu Mist Vaccine Program which was given to over 150 elementary students and staff so far. Best wishes were given to Shore Up and their transfer into the Whittington Building. Final comments were given by Mr. Miles who commended the Crisfield High School's band for presenting such a great performance at the MABE conference. Student Board member Britany Dennis, is a member of the Band.

13. November 2006

Mr. Willing moved and Vice Chairman Byrd seconded to approve the November 14, 2006 Board meeting. The vote was unanimous. *(The actual scheduled meeting is November 21, 2006.)*

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

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