



The Somerset County Board of Education met at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday October 16, 2007 at 5:45 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, October 16, 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. Pruitt, Mr. Paul, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Paul, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. The new Student Board members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins were also in attendance.

#### **OPEN WORK SESSION**

The Somerset County Board of Education met in an open work session at 5:45 p.m. Present were Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Willing, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Paul, Dr. Brofee and recording secretary, Melissa Tilghman. Chairman Scott arrived five minutes late. Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Catanzaro were also present at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Miles, moved by Mr. Pruitt, and seconded by Mr. Willing to go into open work session. Mr. Catanzaro began the meeting informing the Board members how cost effective it has been having SPN working with us. We had a savings of over \$327,000. Mr. Daugherty followed by discussing change order requests #39 (costs to pump water out the retention ponds), #40 (additional materials for the windows layout), #41 (addition of thicker paneling, and #42 (additional steel railings). A detailed description of the change orders was provided to each Board member. Mr. Catanzaro informed the Board that 70% of the SIS construction project is complete. The Board was excited to hear that final completion should be between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Mr. Daugherty made the board aware that we had been cited with four violations totaling \$1,250.00. Mr. Daugherty has asked Mr. Jay Sakai, Director of the Water Management Administration, for lenience and a waiver from having to purchase an approved sewage holding tank and the pumping and transporting of waste to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

#### **REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

##### **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 that all five Board members and the Superintendent were present. 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. Pruitt to approve the amended minutes of September 25, 2007. The vote was unanimous.

## **6. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Miles to adopt the amended agenda. The Hybrid Wind Solar System presentation was tabled. The vote was unanimous with all in agreement.

## **7. Public Participation**

Stephanie Roskow spoke to the Board voicing her concerns for Pre-K students' safety and supervision from Woodson Elementary School to the outside portables. Mrs. Roskow asked if fencing could be put around this area. The Board will follow up with her concerns and get back with her at a later date.

Mr. Bernard Ward, Somerset County resident, spoke to the Board with concerns about the hiring practices of the school system. Mr. Ward is concerned that there are not enough minorities, especially men, holding positions within the system and feels he would be a valuable asset. Vice Chairman Miles assured Mr. Ward that he would look into his concern. The Superintendent also asked the public and the media to assist them in their search for Highly Qualified minority educators.

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

Student Board members Chatriece Lawson and Alexander Cavins provided an informational report on the various activities happening at the schools. Wor Wic will be sponsoring and Teacher Academy, Skills USA is about to kickoff and Princess Anne Elementary has planned several special events during Red Ribbon Week. The Board members thanked both student representatives for their reports.

## **9. Maryland Teacher of the Year**

Ms. Hopkins informed the Board and community that April Todd was selected as the Maryland Teacher of the Year and will be competing Nationally for TOY. She was thanked by the Board for the information.

## **10. Crisfield High School and Academy Report**

Ms. Josenhans informed the Board that the 2007-2008 school year was off to a great start. Year long HSA classes are being offered and Biology HSA scores have increased over 10% from last year. Crisfield High School, along with the community, sponsored a Blood Drive where they placed 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the shore.

Mrs. Ward showed a presentation outlining student progress at the academy. Mrs. Ward expressed that she is not satisfied with the Math HSA scores so tutoring is being offered to students before and after school. Her goal for CHS to increase the number of AP courses provided to student during high school.

Mrs. Ward also provided the Board with a list of programs being used to improve classroom behavior and reduce fighting. At the conclusion of her presentation, Mrs. Ward stressed that Parent Involvement in education is the key to success and that she has seen more parents involved. Crisfield High School and Academy is "Off to a Quality Start".

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **11. Facilities**

Hybrid Wind Solar System

Allen Gorsuch and Mac Shelor's Hybrid Energy presentation was tabled and not presented at this Board meeting.

Change Order Requests

It was moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order requests #39 - #42. The vote was unanimous.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **12. Facilities and Transportation**

Request to Train a New Bus Driver

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to train Ambrose Bishop as a new substitute bus driver. The vote was unanimous.

New Bus Contractor Request

It was moved by Mr. Miles and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to hire a new bus contractor as Mr. King is retiring from his route. The vote was unanimous.

Request to Purchase a Newer Model School Bus

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to allow Mr. Murray to purchase a newer model school bus. The vote was unanimous.

### **SCPS's Student Attendance Report**

Ms. Carter provided an attendance update report to the Board members. She listed various reason for student attendance problems. Several trainings have been held with attendance clerks on PowerSchool entries and reports and finding missing students and data review. Ms. Carter was thanked by the Board members.

### **Human Resources Report**

#### New Hires, Retirees, and Resignations

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Pruitt to approve Mr. Lawson's amended Human Resources report. The vote was unanimous.

#### Out of State Travel

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

### **Instructional Services Report**

#### Student Achievement 2006-2007

Mr. Bloodsworth provided a presentation on Student Achievement. He explained that intervention steps had not correctly identified student need.

Mr. Bloodsworth listed action steps taken to target elementary reading deficiencies. A new Reading Coach hired is helping to align the curriculum. Mr. Bloodsworth also feels that the new school will make a difference to the intermediate school students. A new program called "Math Navigator" is being studied as a possible program that will be used in the new school. There will be several actions put into place to help increase Math scores.

The high schools have existing challenges in Math. Ultimately, it was concluded that students are not taking the HSA tests seriously. The Board thanked Mr. Bloodsworth for his report.

### **Finance Report**

#### Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller provided the monthly finance report and was thanked by Chairman Scott.

#### Monthly Food Service Report

Mrs. Miller explained that due to the extension of the Maryland Audit, a monthly food service had not been prepared. The Board pardoned the Food Service Program. Mrs. Miller did state that there will be no pay back of funds due to the Board.

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

The Superintendent distributed a mini version of the Master Plan Update Part I to the Board members. She also announced and invited the Board members and the community to join a mini reception for April Todd, Thursday November 15, 2007.

The Superintendent asked the community for help in recruiting minorities. She agreed with Mr. Ward regarding the low percentage of minorities hired and stated that the Board is opened to

anyone with suggestions on recruiting.

Mr. Pruitt complimented all the schools for such great custodial work done.

14. **November 2007** – It was moved by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Pruitt, and seconded by Mr. Willing, and passed to approve the November 13, 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 8:45 p.m.**

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