



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center, Tuesday, October 21, 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, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Vice Chairman Miles and Mr. Willing were excused from the meeting.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pruitt, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Vice Chairman Miles and Mr. Willing were excused from the meeting. 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 three Board members and the Superintendent were present. Mr. Willing and Vice Chairman Miles were excused from this meeting. 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 September 16, 2008 Board meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called for by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to adopt the amended agenda with the tabling of item 12-D under New Business, System Summary Report for 2007-2008, to the November 18, 2008 Board meeting. This item was replaced with Ms. Carter's Request to Conduct a Pride Survey. The vote was unanimous.

7. Student Board Members' Report

Student Board member Michelle Malingier briefed the Board members on the happenings at the Northern Schools. Somerset Intermediate is having a dance next Friday. Next week is Red Ribbon Week, school spirit week, and the schools' fight against drugs. Washington Academy and High School has a government trip coming up and 8th graders are going to the Reginald Lewis Museum. Greenwood Elementary had a successful art night and Princess Anne Elementary had their annual meet and greet event.

Student Board member Joshua Lundgren added that Crisfield Academy and High School was off to a great start. CAHS have math tutors from UMES available to help students. The dance was successful with a great turnout. Ewell was visited by Maryland's Teachers of the Year. Woodson Elementary had 537 students attend the PBIS Incentive and the 5th graders attended Delaware Tech for an exciting and eventful day.

Both student board members were thanked by Chairman Scott.

8. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

9. Washington Academy and High School Report

Mr. O'Neal began his report by inviting the Board members to visit the high school. He read WAHS's mission statement to the Board members. The teachers are encouraging academics. Teachers have been given professional development on critical thinking. Afterschool tutoring is provided two days a week for all WAHS students with transportation provided.

10. Food Service Awards

Mr. Daugherty shared with the Board MSDE's recognition of the Food Service Program in Somerset County Public Schools. Somerset County Public Schools has been named the Maryland School System with the highest percentage of average daily participation for Breakfast in all categories for the 2007-2008 school year. The Board members congratulated Mrs. Riggins and the Food Service Department for a job well done.

11. Old Business

A. Policies

100 Series

The Superintendent provided clarification and changes to the 100 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 November Board meeting.

#400-19, Minority Business Enterprise Participation

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Paul and passed to approve Policy #400-19, Minority Business Enterprise Participation. The vote was unanimous.

12. A. Monthly Finance Report

Mrs. Miller provided the monthly finance and food service reports to the Board. The Board members did not have any questions and thanked her for the information.

B. Policies

Mr. Turner presented a list of the 800 series policies for the Board's review and public input. Revisions to these policies will be presented at the next Board meeting.

C. 2008 MSA/HSA Report

Mr. Bloodsworth presented an MSA/HSA report. All schools except WAHS made AYP, including the subgroups. There has been an increase in ELL level students in the elementary schools. There has also been a significant growth in reading proficiency. Math scores have not had as a dramatic increase, but did show growth. Washington High had a decrease in the graduation rate and the special education subgroup's academic performance. Bridge projects are being developed to help students who have not passed the HSA's.

Mr. Bloodsworth thanked the leadership of the supervisors, teachers, and the Superintendent for all their hard work in helping to get students ready to pass the HSA. The Board thanked Mr. Bloodsworth and other administrators for all their focus and commitment to helping students to pass the HSA.

The Board members were given a handout detailing the progress made toward closing the achievement gap.

D. System Summary Report for 2007-2008

Item 12-D, System Summary Report for 2007-2008 was tabled until the November Board meeting. Request to conduct a Pride Survey replaced item 12-D.

Dr. Sheila Richardson requests that students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 11 be given this survey which will be used to measure students' attitudes towards and participation in drug, alcohol, and violent behaviors. A parent letter will be sent home with all students giving them the option to allow their child to complete the survey.

E. Human Resources Report

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Paul, seconded Mr. Pruitt and passed to approve the following personnel actions; new hires: Marvin Mosley and Melton Joyner; resignations: John Dize, Bonita Tilghman, and Debra Daniels. The transfer of employees tabled from the September Board meeting did not occur.

Board Meeting
October 21, 2008

Out of State Travel

Out of State travel was reviewed by the Board with no comment.

403b Compliance

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.

13. Superintendent & Board Member comments

Dr. Brofee informed the Board that Joanne Swift sang at the Teacher of the Year Gala and did an outstanding job. There is a HSA discussion scheduled at the State Board of Educators Meeting this month with the main topic of whether or not to keep HSA Plan intact. All of Maryland's Superintendent's and Dr Grasmick are in favor of keeping HSAs as so much work has been put in place by students who are rising to the challenge. The Superintendent explained that she had concerns that the GED was not recognized by the State and many think that it should be. The GED students housed at Marion Sarah Peyton have been sharing the location with the ALC students and are given the opportunity to take vocational courses provided at the school. It is the goal of educators to get the GED certificate recognized. The Superintendent also urged the public to get out and vote and further explained that SCPS had a lot to be thankful for. The Superintendent briefed everyone on the results of the Governor's meeting she attended. Education revenue has not been severely curtailed this year, but we will feel the serious economical effects by the 2009-2010 school year.

- 14. October 2008** – It was moved by Mr. Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Paul, and passed to approve November 18, 2008 as the next open regular session. The closed session will begin at 6:00 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 8:25 p.m.

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