



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in a closed session at 5:00 p.m. to complete the Superintendent's evaluation. At 6:00 p.m. the Board met in closed session 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, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:15 p.m. Present were Chairman Miles, Vice Chairman Pruitt, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cavins, Student Board Representatives were also present.

### **Swearing in of Board Member**

The swearing in of newly appointed Board member, Robert Wells, took place upon the arrival of Ted Phoebus, Clerk of Court.

### **REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order**  
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miles at 7:15 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**  
The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all four 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 September 15, 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. **Student Board Members' Reports**  
Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cavins presented the Board with various highlights of activities going within the schools. Chairman Miles thanked the students for the information.
8. **Public Participation**  
There was no public participation.
9. **Somerset Intermediate School Report**  
Ms. Hopkins presented the school report for Somerset Intermediate School. There are 362 students currently attending Somerset Intermediate. Ms. Hopkins presented the data from the Teacher Climate Survey. ELL students continue to struggle in reading and the intermediate school has received a

community grant to purchase MP3 players. Teachers are still learning how to apply engaging and meaningful activities through effective integrated technology and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Master Plan Update Continued**

Dr. Brofee continued the overview of Master Plan Update Part I beginning where the presentation closed at the last Board meeting. Due to funding, ten positions were lost. SCPS will continue to seek additional funding grants; however, this is going to be a very difficult Budget year. Outside input is requested.

(Mr. Phoebus arrived. Mr. Wells was sworn in and seated.)

Mr. Bloodsworth reported on the Special Education subgroup. The elementary and middle schools have increased proficiency in reading. This is the greatest subgroup gap of AMO. While there have been tremendous gains in achievement by Special Education students at all levels. (Elementary, Intermediate, and High Schools), less than 50% of Somerset County Public Schools' Special Education students graduate from high school. SCPS have increased training and follow through. Focus will be made on providing differentiated professional development with subgroup.

In reference to professional development it is clear that there is a need to differentiate professional development according to: What is needed and how well an individual implements the taught knowledge skill or strategy. In reference to the safety of our schools we found that there are 43% fewer bullying, harassment, and intimidation incidents with a total of 61 reports in 2009. Two thirds of these reports were labeled harassment while three fourths of all referrals were males. We are concerned that black students are almost twice as often suspended out of school as white students and that males are suspended twice as often as females.

Mr. Bloodsworth spoke about the Career & Technology programs. Two new courses are being offered with an increase of students and staff awareness. The Workforce Development program has awarded scholarships to participating students. Eighty-five percent of Early Learning Pre K students are proficient and 90% of SCPS Pre K test fully ready for Kindergarten. There's inadequate funding for the Gifted and Talented Program Grade 5 testing and summer enrichment programs.

Dr. Brofee listed the ETIM (Education That is Multicultural) Goals: to increase institutional understanding and effectiveness with students and families of diverse cultures and to enrich student multicultural classroom and field experience learning in alignment with the Maryland State Curriculum. Our local goals are to increase student engagement and teacher effectiveness, increase administrative and teaching staffs' fluency and proficiency with 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, maintain and expand high quality education, emphasize and expand APD collaboration, and maintain the WAHS Renovation Project. SCPS has the lowest per capita total revenue in the state and a poverty rate of 20%. Somerset received \$320,169 in Federal Stimulus funding which offset the decrease in State funding of \$209,017. Somerset received \$1,539,184 in ARRA funds (Special Education and Title I designated), enabled the restoration of 11 positions which resulted in \$68,671 more revenue than the 2009 approved budget. Stimulus funds have enabled: tutoring for intervention students at all levels; co-teaching training and implementation; coordination of Parent Involvement Activities in Title I; extended school year programs for Special Education and regular education students; special training for Special Education teachers; and technology enhanced instruction at the elementary level. SCPS is facing multiple challenges but our schools are stronger, we have highly qualified teachers and our

students are learning more at greater depth.

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt and passed to approve the Master Plan Update Part II. The motion was carried with a four to one vote. Mr. Wells did not vote.

## **11. New Business**

### **A. 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 and was thanked by Chairman Miles. She also informed the Board that due to the glitch in the computer system, funds generated from on-site programs at the schools were not reported accurately.

#### **Policy 600-11, Fundraising**

Ms. Miller presented revised policy #600-11, Fundraising to the Board for their review and study. This policy has been changed to policy #300-14.

### **B. ACLU/NAACP Recommendations from the Task Force**

Mr. Kirkland Hall, NAACP President addressed the Board with a brief summary of the ACLU/NAACP Task Force Recommendations. The Maryland State NAACP has written a letter to the Governor to ask that the Model o Somerset County's taskforce be used with other counties. Mr. Hall also informed the Board that fourteen counties have adopted our Athletic Policy requiring students to maintain 2.0 GPA. The Board was also commended on the school uniforms policy being used in the two elementary schools. The NAACP will be meeting with Senator Pugh in hopes of getting the State to raise the age a student must be to drop-out from 16 years of age to 17.

### **C. Student Services Report**

#### **Homeless Monitoring Visit**

Ms. McLaughlin provided the Board with the results from the Home Monitoring Visit. A presentation was shown explaining that homeless children should have the same educational opportunities as other students. Of SCPS homeless families 46% are Caucasian and 32% are African American. By federal law, transportation must be provided to current students who fall into the homeless category and move outside of the school district. This will allow those students to continue attending their home schools. Title I programs are being used to help with the funding to purchase uniforms and school supplies. We are able to keep up with the number of homeless students from information obtained from parents, referrals, or shelters.

#### **Student Bullying, Harassment, & Intimidation, Policy #600-34**

Ms. McLaughlin presented the revised Student Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Policy #600-34 for the Board's review and study at the November Board meeting.

Ms. McLaughlin also announced the Proclamation from the Governor for School Psychology Week. Chairman Miles thanked her for her report.

#### **D. Transportation and Facilities**

##### **WAHS Renovation Contract Approvals**

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt, and passed to approve the WAHS Renovation Contracts. The vote was unanimous.

#### **E. Human Resources Report**

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

##### **Out of State Travel**

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

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

Dr. Brofee welcomed Mr. Wells and expressed gratitude for his interest in education and willingness to accept Board member position. She also thanked everyone who was involved in the completion of the Master Plan Update.

Dr. Whittington commented on the Board conferences and suggested that the student board members be allowed to attend the conferences. He also questioned the graduation exercises and suggested that a meeting be held with the Board members and the principals.

- 13. November 2009** – A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Pruitt and passed to approve November 17, 2009 as the next open regular session. 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 Vice Chairman Pruitt 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