

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, September 19, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday September 19, 2006 at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Byrd, Mr. Paul, Mr. Willing, Mr. Miles, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board members James Daniels and Britany Dennis were also present.

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 that all five Board members, the Superintendent, and the two student Board members James Daniels and Britany Dennis were present.

Chairman Scott requested a moment of silence in honor of Samuel Hodge, CHS custodian, who lost his battle with cancer on September 17, 2006.

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.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul 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 Members Report

Both James Daniels and Britany Dennis provided outstanding informative reports. The opening of school and opening days went well. "In My House", a new program to help middle school students make better choices was explained to the Board. Chairman Scott and Board members thanked the students for their reports.

9. Old Business

Business Leave Policy #700-11

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Vice Chairman Byrd seconded to approve Policy #700-11 as presented. The vote was unanimous.

High School Requirements for Graduation Policy #500-34 (Administrative Procedures)

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Miles seconded to approve revised Policy #500-34, which gives this year's 10th graders credit for their 8th grade Algebra. Class. The vote was unanimous.

10. New Business

Student Service – Discipline for 2006

Vicki Carter informed the Board that discipline problems within the schools have improved. There has been an increase in attendance and a decrease in disciplinary violations. A 30-60-90 day monitoring process has been established to notify counselors when students are at risk of attendance and disciplinary problems.

Update on Safety Schools/Healthy Students

Tracy Cottman presented the Board with an update on the SSHS Grant. Learning Support Specialist have been placed at each school. Several new programs have been developed to help students with achievement. "In My House", a skills development curriculum, "Oweus Bullying", a bullying prevention program, and a Conflict Intervention program has also been purchased. There is also a Healthy Families program which provides Home Assessments to children ages 0 -5. Mrs. Cottman provided the Board with a step by step model chart outlining the steps being taken in providing Safe Schools and Healthy Students.

Mrs. Cottman introduced Kathy Seifert, SSHS Evaluator. Ms. Seifert evaluates the student data received through the SSHS programs. In previous evaluations Ms. Seifert noted that students had better grades and higher self esteem. It was also found that at risk kids were no different than the very high risk kids. Services provided to students and the data reported will be shared with other counties, but students will be given a number to identify them. The names and schools of the students will not be identified. Mr. Paul questioned the effectiveness of the program and whether or not each student was given a profile to help identify their individual needs. Ms. Seifert informed Mr. Paul that each student was profiled and that assessments are given to help determine what the child needs and what area the help is needed in. Ms. Carter assured the Board that the SSHS model has been written into the Master Plan, therefore when the grant ends, the program will continue.

Request for Approval of Research Study

Upon the request of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Vice Chairman Byrd seconded to approve Sherema Copes' research study on African American parents involvement in their children's education. Various families will be interviewed in hopes of finding answers to the lack of parental involvement. The identity of those interviewed will be kept confidential. Upon the conclusion of the project Ms. Copes will provide the Board with the results. All Board members agreed.

10B. Opening Day

Mr. Bloodsworth reported the highlights of the opening of school. The 6th and 8th grade students began school August 31, 2006, a day earlier than the rest of the students. This was considered a transition day for those students and teachers. Students were given lockers and shown around the school, thus making September 05, 2006 operate a little more efficiently. The school population has grown from 2,960 students at the beginning of the school year to 2,992.

Science Curriculum

Mrs. Holland introduced the revised and completed Science Curriculum to the Board for informational purposes. The new curriculum collaborates Reading into Science and Social Studies. HSA courses will be provided to students with a 69% or below. This year's 10th graders will have to pass all four HSA tests. Mr. Paul questioned the remediation of students with low test scores. Mrs. Holland informed Mr. Paul that courses may be retaken and that end of course exams are being correlated with the HSA tests. Mr. Paul's concern was that students' achievement will be based on test scores and is not allowing the child to learn. Mrs. Holland informed Mr. Paul that tests were focused on students' ability to analyze.

Math Curriculum

Mr. Elebash introduced the revised and completed Math Curriculum to the Board for informational purposes. Formative Indicators are being used to identify the needs of students. This determines why students are put into certain classes in which teachers can focus on what needs to be taught and what students need the extra help. Teachers go around checking homework and guide and assist them as they go along.

Physical Education and Health Education Program "LIVE IT"

Upon the request of the Superintendent, Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Willing seconded to approve the LIVE IT Program sponsored by Coco Cola. They will be providing supplies and tools needed to run the program. They are also be providing pedometers to distribute to all students. The vote was unanimous.

10C. Pigg, Krahl, Stern & Company Audit Report

Pigg, Krahl, Stern, & Company provided the Board with the Audit Report. Food Service was congratulated for having a profit of \$26,170.00. Also noted in the audit report the Auditors' Report finds that Instructional Salaries make up the largest portion of the budget and only 2% of the budget was used for administrative salaries.

10D. Opening Day of School

Mr. Daugherty informed the Board that the overall start of the school year went well. There was traffic congestion on the school routes which caused student lateness. The City of Crisfield agrees that physical reconstruction needs to be done to end the congestion. Mr. Daugherty also informed the Board that he will recommend two new buses for next year and has been encouraging the hiring of new substitutes.

Update on Facilities

Mr. Daugherty began his facility update report by commending the Marion and Whittington moving crew. They also helped in the clean up of Woodson Elementary. Marion is being used for storage and Whittington has become the Crisfield Head Start. Greenwood Elementary has a new glass entrance, Princess Anne Elementary has a new basketball court, and Woodson Elementary has a trash condenser. Mr. Daugherty also informed the Board that the Maintenance Department will have computer system training.

Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Daugherty presented the Board with the Capital Improvement Plan for approval. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the plan to review and study.

Dedication of Woodson Elementary School

The Superintendent invited the Board members and community to the Woodson Dedication, to be held Sunday, September 24, 2006.

10E. Human Resources Report

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Willing moved and Mr. Paul seconded to approve the Human Resources Report presented by Mr. Lawson. The vote was unanimous.

Highly Qualified Status

Mr. Lawson provided the Board with information regarding steps being taken in getting educators to the Highly Qualified Status. More professional development and teacher tutoring is being provided. Mrs. Higgs and Miss Wright were thanked for their insights over teacher applicants. Mr. Lawson also informed the Board that there has been a 47% reduction in non highly qualified teachers and elementary resignations have declined. Due to improved benefits, increases salaries, shape of buildings, visionary leadership, and student class size, recent hires seem pleased with the system.

Human Resources Policies #700 series

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board will review and study the #700 series policies for a vote at the October Board meeting.

Out of State Travel

Mr. Lawson provided the Board with the names of Out of State Conference attendees for informational purposes only.

Master Plan Updates

Upon the request of the Superintendent, the Board agreed to allow the Master Plan Report Update to be submitted on October 16, 2006.

11. Superintendent & Board Members Comments

The Superintendent began her comments by informing everyone that the schools were off to a strong start and are looking good. The Board and community were informed that through collaboration with the Somerset County Health Department, a Flu Mist is being offered throughout the schools to elementary students. The skills and expertise of two staff members were recognized. Lisa Hopkins was chosen to serve on the Leadership Development Council and Nancy Smoker was chosen to serve on the Master Plan Update Review Committee.

12. October 2006 Board Meeting

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Miles moved and Mr. Paul seconded and it was passed to hold the October Board meeting on October 17, 2006, closed session at 6:00 p.m., and open session at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center.

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

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