



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed meeting at 5:00 p.m to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation, an open public work session at 5:55 p.m. to discuss facilities and policies, and convened in a closed session at 9:45 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 Miles, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Mr. Wells, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

A Tribute to Mr. Stan Pruitt, former Board Member who departed this world July 23, 2010 was held at 6:30 p.m. The regular Board meeting began at 7:30 p.m. Present were, Chairman Miles, Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, Mr. Wells, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. Student Board members were also present.

OPEN PUBLIC WORK SESSION

FACILITIES ITEMS AND POLICY REVIEW

Chairman Miles called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. Mr. Daugherty presented Washington High School's Renovation change order requests 18 – 25 as follows: #18) includes the furnishing and installation of casework in the instrument, music, and wardrobe storage areas; #19) the furnishing and installation telephone interface to accept direct connection of incoming calls to certain locations; #20) the furnishing and installation the required computer equipment and training for the upgrades security camera system; #21) the furnishing and installation of all materials necessary to install the owner provided projectors with set-up and training included; #22) to demolish existing stairs and carpet in the auditorium, install new concrete steps and handrails in accordance with ASI #4; #23) the furnishing and installation of tectum wall panels as indicated on ASI #4 with the removal of carpet on balcony face; #24) the furnishing and installation new carpet where indicated on ASI #4; and #25) the furnishing and installation of all painting associated with ASI #4.

The Board members expressed concern regarding the approval of change orders and future funding costs. Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Eric Butler (Construction Manager), and assured the Board that we had not exceeded the contingency funds or state allocations. Dr. Brofee suggested talking with police, and Homeland Security to help pay for the security camera cost. General Sumpter explained that the new camera system has various capabilities and supported the change order that was upgrading the system to immediate lockdown capabilities in the future. Chairman Miles stated that he was please with the contractors doing change orders as it avoids local or other hired contractors from using the "blame" game. Mr. Daugherty and Dr. Brofee will be meeting with county commissioners to update them on the project.

Mr. Daugherty will be seeking the Board's approval of the Comprehensive Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plans during the regular session meeting.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miles at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that four Board members and the Superintendent were 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 General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Wells, and passed to approve the minutes of August 17, 2010. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Vice Chairman Wells, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous.

7. Audited Financial Statements

TGM Group presented the audit report. The report was positive highlighting that SCPS will have a surplus and fund balance to add to the 2012 budget. An area of concern is Food Services which continues to have expenses exceeding revenue. Ms. Miller stated that funding for the Food Service Program may have to be funneled through the general funding budget. The audit addressed \$38 million active funds and noted \$50 million associated with SCPS staff who were commended for a job well done. There has been a significant improvement in bookkeeping. The auditors did not discover any inaccuracies and expect to be done by next month. Dr. Whittington stated that staffing needs to be reduced to balance the Food Budget. Ms. Miller assured Dr. Whittington that staff had been reduced and she would look into the Food Service Program's staffing although the loss appears to be sales and rising food costs.

8. Introduction of Student Board Member

The student board members presented the school reports highlighting all the upcoming events and were thanked by the Board members.

9. Public Participation

Pastor LeBron Palmer of the Living Hope Fellowship addressed the Board on the issue of Church Services being held at Crisfield High School. Pastor Palmer has been using the school from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 every Sunday to have service and has requested the Board's permission to continue use of the facility until they acquire the funding and land to build a church. Chairman Miles thanked Pastor Palmer for addressing the Board.

Mr. Garland Hayward addressed the Board on Middle States Accreditation. He thanked the Superintendent for her explanation of accreditation that was printed in the Somerset Herald and in a meeting between the two of them. He expressed his concern that we need to increase public awareness of the achievements of Somerset County Public Schools.

Mr. Henry Ward addressed the Board on behalf of the Bus Contractors. He has requested a closed session meeting to discuss personal issues and requested the Board's review of his request for a second PVA.

Mr. Allan Webster introduced himself to the Board and the community. He suggested safety meeting quarterly with teachers, law enforcement, parents and the community to promote drug and gang awareness.

10. School Board Visitations for Site Presentations

The Superintendent presented a list of the dates of various school activities to which the Board has specifically been invited throughout the year.

11. Old Business

A. Facilities

Change Order Requests

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington, and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's change order requests presented during the open work session. The vote was unanimous.

Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Vice Chairman Wells, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan. The vote was unanimous. The Maintenance Plan includes renovations and vehicle purchases.

B. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Wells to approve Mr. Lawson's revised Secondary Literacy Supervisor's Job Description. The vote was unanimous.

C. Policies

Policy #300-15, Record Retention – Financial Documents

Ms. Miller presented revised Policy #300-15, Record Retention – Financial Documents for the Board’s review and study. The Board will vote at the October Board meeting.

Policy #600-17, Standards of Social Behavior

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Wells and passed to approve revised Policy #600-17, Standards of Social Behavior. The vote was unanimous. The change will include the addition of an In-School Intervention.

Policy #600-36, Fighting

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Wells and passed to approve the revised Policy #600-36, Fighting. The vote was unanimous. The change will include the addition of an In-School Intervention for the high schools and In-School Suspension for elementary schools. The Somerset County Health Department no longer provides anger management to Somerset County Public Schools’ students, but counseling is provided by the Learning Support Specialist and the school counselors.

D. Middle States Accreditation

The Superintendent responded to the community concerns about accreditation. Somerset County Public Schools utilizes the Master Plan Update to implement goals for student achievement and requires documentation that our plans are being executed effectively and efficiently. There are over twenty Maryland State and Federal required audits performed each year which monitor SCPS’s meeting or exceeding standards of practice and meet expected results. Middle States Accreditation Membership costs \$2,000 a year and would require an increase in staff, time, and energy. The community has expressed concern about colleges outlook on accreditation. The Superintendent stated that colleges do not look at accreditation. Dr. Whittington expressed concern that since Holly Grove is accredited the Board should review and study the Middle States Accreditation for possible membership.

13. New Business

A. Instruction

Master Plan Update 2010

Chairman Miles called for a tabling of the Master Plan Update 2010. All Board members agreed.

Race to the Top Funding

The Superintendent briefed the Board with the guidelines with the Race to Top funding.

SCPS has been awarded \$1 million to be distributed over a four year period. Forty-eight states agreed to adopt a common core curriculum. The assessments are now being designed to show student growth. MSDE is designing a system to track students from Pre K to graduation and possibly their first job. MSDE is also working on a warehouse to pull in-depth data together on students. Educators' evaluations will now be designed to include student growth as one of the evaluating tools. Funding will also go to low achieving schools that are in "Need of Improvement" status.

October Board Meeting

The Board members approved the Superintendent's request to change the October Board meeting from October 19, 2010 to October 12, 2010 to allow for the Master Plan Update's approval for submission by October 15, 2010.

Out of County Field Trip Requests

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve Mr. Bloodsworth's Out of County field trip requests.

Summer Programs Report

Mr. Bloodsworth presented a table containing data regarding the summer school and Voyager programs. The Voyager program provides a comprehensive extended school year. The migrant program had an increased enrollment of students. The migrant programs hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and children can attend starting from age three.

B. Proposed Gear Up College Tour Itinerary

It was moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Vice Chairman Wells and passed to approve the Gear Up extended North Carolina Trip. The college tour is open to all students.

C. Out of County School Request

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve the Out of County School Request. Chairman Miles stated that the policy needs to be revised to include SCPS retirees. Dr. Whittington did not vote.

D. Capital Improvement Plan

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by General Sumpter and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's Capital Improvement Plan. The vote was unanimous.

Policy #200-13, Use of School Facilities

A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by General Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to table Policy #200-13, Use of School Facilities until the October Board meeting.

E. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

Mr. Lawson presented the revised Food Service Worker, Elementary Math/Science Coordinator, Custodial Trainer/Courier job descriptions for the Board's review and study. The Board will vote at the next board meeting.

New Hire, Retires, and Resignations

The Board did not vote to approve this report last month. The Board agreed that they would review the report before voting at the next Board meeting.

14. Superintendent and Board Member Comments

The Superintendent announced that Tracie Holland had received unexpected Reading First funding and that DNR would be seeking for building a pavilion in the back of the Somerset Intermediate School. General Sumpter thanked the Superintendent for the explanation on Middle States Accreditation and announced that the next NAACP Candidates Night will be held on October 21, 2010.

- 15. October 2010** – A motion was called for by Chairman Miles, moved by Vice Chairman Wells, seconded by General Sumpter and passed approve the open called session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss change order requests, an executive session at 6:00 p.m., and an open regular session meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. The vote was unanimous.

16. Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by General Sumpter and passed adjourn to the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary