

By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education met in a closed session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

The Somerset County Board of Education met in regular session at the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center, Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Scott, Vice Chairman Byrd, Mr. Willing, Mr. Paul, Mr. Miles, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Ms. Tilghman. Student Board members, Britany Dennis and Chris Wood were also present.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott at 7:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating four board members, the Superintendent and the two student board members were present. Mr. Paul was absent.

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 Vice Chairman Byrd to approve the minutes as corrected of the August 16, 2005 meeting. The vote was unanimous.

6. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to adopt the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous.

7. Public Participation

Kenneth Ballard, President of the NAACP, briefed the Board on the history of Carter G. Woodson and gave his reasons for Woodson to keep its name. Donna Ballard and Alice Johnson also spoke to the Board regarding this subject. Though, these individuals voted to keep Woodson name the same, they expressed their view about Dr. Whittington. All spoke highly of Dr. Whittington and acknowledged his accomplishments as a great educator. The NAACP suggested naming the new Intermediate school after Dr. Whittington. Upon closing Dr. H. D. Whittington took the floor and spoke on his behalf. Alice Bishop had requested to address the Board but was not present. Chairman Scott thanked everyone for their participation.

8. Student Board Members Report

Chairman Scott thanked student board members, Chris Wood & Britany Dennis for their reports.

9. Marion Sarah Peyton Report

Mr. Curtis briefed the Board on the special happenings at Marion Sarah Peyton. Josh Landon, Amanda Evans, Rachel Evans, Rykeisha Whittington, and Zachery Muir all spoke about their first couple weeks of school. All students were happy and had great stories to tell.

Mr. Curtis also had various parents brief the Board on their experiences with Marion Sarah Peyton. All parents seemed pleased with the principal and staff at the school. Ms. Monk expressed how pleased she was to work at the school. Ms. Monk also briefed the Board on the various programs offered at Marion. Marion Sarah Peyton has partnerships with various businesses which help to encourage children to read by offering incentives. Marion also has peace incentive awards in which children are awarded at the end of each month for showing good attitude, achievement, and attendance.

Chairman Scott thanked Mr. Curtis, parents, and all students who participated in the school report and updates.

10. Cadet Officer Leadership Program Awards

Sergeant Choate briefed the Board on what the ROTC program was about. Sergeant Choate stated that this program encourages students to think about the choices they make. Marcus Mears and Michael Moore were the recipients of the Leadership awards. Mr. Mears was not present.

Chairman Scott, Dr. Brofee, and Sergeant Choate presented Mr. Moore his, 2nd Lieutenant of the ROTC Program medal. There have been 350 students go through the ROTC program within the last four years.

11. Drug & Alcohol Abuse Juvenile Court

Judge Long and Jack Paul commended Somerset County Public Schools on a job well done with their students. Judge Long explained to the Board that 70% of cases in court regarding juveniles are related to drug & alcohol abuse. Judge Long explained that the juvenile court program provides early intervention, treatment, counseling, and education which are the key to helping young offenders.

Mr. Paul gave a presentation describing the focus and role of the juvenile drug court. The courts will offer incentives to students who do well. In collaboration with the Somerset County School System, this program will also offer meaningful community service. Mr. Paul, along with various members of the program, are waiting for grant approval but noted Judge Long's commitment to the program regardless of grant support..

12. A. Policies

1. A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Paul, and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve policy #600-21, Students in State Supervised Facilities. All Board members unanimously agreed.
2. A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Vice Chairman Byrd, and seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the Fixed Asset Policy and Administrative Procedures, Policy #300-13. All Board members unanimously agreed.
3. Mr. Miles moved and Mr. Willing seconded to approve the Travel Expense Policy #200-20. All Board members unanimously agreed.

- B. Dr. Brofee, as requested by the contractors for Woodson Elementary School, recommended that the Board decide on the renaming of Carter G. Woodson School. A motion was called by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Miles to keep the name of Carter G. Woodson Elementary School. All Board members unanimously agreed.

13. A. Student Services

Upon recommendation of Mrs. McLaughlin, the Board will review amended policy #600-17, Standards of Social Behavior, for approval on October 25, 2005.

B. Human Resources

A motion was called by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Willing to approve the Human Resources report on professional employees. The vote was unanimous.

Upon recommendation of Dr. Brofee, the Board was asked to review amended Policy #700-13, Work Schedule and Leave for SCPS employees. The amendment allows Administrators to work two extra days per month at the Superintendent's discretion. These days can be used for compensatory leave rather than annual leave. The Board will vote at the October 25, 2005 board meeting.

C. Transportation and Facilities Update

A motion was called by Mr. Willing and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to train Johnny Pollard as a substitute bus driver. All Board members unanimously agreed.

Mr. Daugherty reported that Princess Anne Elementary's HVAC program is complete, Woodson Elementary is going well and progressing on schedule, and Somerset Intermediate is in the Construction Phase.

D. Finance Report

Mr. Paul moved and Mr. Willing seconded to approve Vicki Miller's budget transfer request. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Paul requested Ms. Miller to get projected utility cost increase figures for the year.

ESMEC Advisory Consortium will do a study and vote on September 27, 2005.

E. Somerset Safe Schools Initiative Grant

Ms. Vicki Carter and Mrs. Tracey Cottman informed the Board of the 3.6 million dollar Somerset Safe Schools Initiative Grant. This grant is going to provide safer and healthier schools. They gave the board a brief overview of some of the initiatives the program will be providing to students. The grant will enable the expansion of Learning Support Specialists by allowing them to place a Learning Support Specialist in each school, a behavior intervention program will be offered along with a mentoring program. The School System has collaborated with St. James United Methodist Daycare and will have a daycare program for students, and a parenting class will be offered. These are just some of the good things the Safe Schools Initiative Grant will be offering.

Chairman Scott thanked Ms. Carter and Mrs. Cottman for their overview of the Grant.

F. Gear UP

Dianne Johnson introduced the first graduation Gear Up class of 2006. Each student informed the Board of all the activities and information they received through the Gear UP Program. All students participated in ASKCAMP. ASKCAMP is a seven day summer camp where students were paid to go to college. Ms. Johnson reported that thirty-three ASKCAMP students already registered to attend college after graduation and will have three credits to start with.

Chairman Scott thanked Ms. Johnson and commended the Gear Up program.

14. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Brofee complemented the Drug & Alcohol Abuse Juvenile Court Program. Dr. Brofee also expressed her appreciation to all staff and thanked them for their help in getting school off to a good start.

Nancy Smoker was thanked for her enormous efforts in helping to get the Master Plan Update prepared for submission.

15. October Board Meeting

A motion was called by Chairman Scott, moved by Mr. Willing, and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the October 25, 2005 Board Meeting.

16. Adjournment

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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