

**Minutes of Open Work Session
Westover, Maryland
January 27, 2015**

TIME: 10:00 a.m. Location: J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairman Mr. Warner Sumpter, Vice Chairman Mr. Dan Kuebler, and Board Member Mrs. Penny Nicholson; Superintendent Dr. John B. Gaddis; Assistant Superintendent of Administration, Ms. Nancy Smoker, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Mr. Tom Davis; Mr. and Recording Secretary Melissa Tilghman. Mr. Gregory Sutton, Supervisor of Transportation and Operations, staff and bus contractors were also present.

ABSENT FROM THE MEETING

Board Member Margo Green-Gale and Board Member Robert Wells

Chairman Sumpter declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION, POLICY #200-18

The Board met in Open Work Session to continue the discussion of the proposed revisions to Policy and Procedures for Policy #200-18, Student Transportation. Discussion focused on healthcare, association dues, workmen's compensation payments, bus loan payments, direct deposit options, and PVA payments. Several bus contractors were present and were given the opportunity to listen, provide input and discuss the proposed revisions to the policy.

Chairman Sumpter apologized to the bus contractors regarding the ceasing of payment deductions from their paychecks to pay bus association and workmen's compensation dues and bus loan payments, and stated that Board Attorney, Mr. Fulton Jeffers advised the Board members that continuing to do so was a liability to the Board. Dr. Gaddis added that recommendations from the Legislative Auditors were also a factor in these changes.

Mr. Charles Fisher thanked the Board members for taking their time to revise the Student Transportation Policy.

The Board concluded that another meeting was needed to further discuss and revise the Student Transportation Policy and Procedures. The Board's goal is to make sure the Student Transportation Policy and Procedures do not contradict each other. A date for the next meeting has not been determined. A draft copy of the Student Transportation Policy and Procedures will be posted to the Somerset County Public Schools website.

Chairman Sumpter thanked everyone for attending and called for a recess at 11:45 a.m.

The Board reconvened in the Open Work Session at 12:30 p.m. to review the Proposed FY2016 Budget.

Proposed FY2016 Budget

Ms. Smoker presented a detailed list of the budget requests submitted by the schools for the FY2016 Budget. She reported that in the FY2015 Budget, \$9.5 million is expected from Local Revenue and \$27.5 million expected from State Revenue which reflects \$200,000 more than next year. An expected \$1 million from the FY2015 Budget will carryover to the FY2016 budget. There is a \$2.3 million dollar difference in revenue due to the pension shift.

Ms. Smoker reported that the costs for the following items have not been included in the FY2016 Budget and will add approximately an additional \$2 million to the already strained budget:

- Request for fifty-five additional positions
- Requested consumables increase
- Instructional equipment costs
- Security Initiatives
- Conference fees
- All 10 month custodians moved to twelve months
- Addition of more food services staff (if needed)
- School maintenance fees
- Athletic coaches requests
- Technology costs
- Salary increases
- Special Education's maintenance of efforts costs
- \$290,000 increase in materials of instruction and textbooks
- \$100,000 increase in summer school staffing and transportation costs
- Resolve for overcrowding at Somerset Intermediate School and Princess Anne Elementary School

After further discussion of the budget, the Board decided that the following items were priorities that should be included in the budget:

- Maintenance and facilities upgrades
- Retaining highly qualified staff
- Continuing to improve technology
- Reducing class size
- Professional Development
- Salaries
- Security Initiatives beginning with the completion of a new security assessment

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sumpter called for an adjournment of the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent
Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Recording Secretary