

**OPEN REGULAR SESSION**

**TIME: 4:01 p.m.**

**Location: J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center**

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Chairman William Miles, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, Mr. Warner Sumpter and Mr. Dan Kuebler; Superintendent, Dr. John B. Gaddis; Board Attorney Mr. Fulton Jeffers; Assistant Superintendent of Administration, Ms. Nancy Smoker, and Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary. Vice Chairman Robert Wells and Mr. Tom Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Staff, Media and Community members were present for the Open Regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**Chairman William Miles declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

On the motion of Board Member Dan Kuebler and a second by Board Member Warner Sumpter, the agenda was approved as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

- Christmas Card Design Recognition was added to Item #9 under Public Participation - Student/Staff/Citizens Recognition.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

4:08 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 3-306 of the **General Provisions Act**

On the motion of Board Member Margo Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Warner Sumpter, the Board voted 4:0 to enter into a Closed Session at 4:08 p.m. for the following reasons:

- To review and approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014 closed session meeting
- To perform administrative functions - Section 3-103
- To discuss personnel matters - Section 3-305(b)(1)
- To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice Section - 3-305(b)(7)

Vice Chairman Wells was not present to vote.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### **Student Transportation**

On behalf of the Somerset County School Bus Association, Ms. Mary Jo Lafianzo addressed the Board to convey the bus contractors' position to recent changes involving the elimination of bus payment deductions to pay school bus lienholders, health benefits, and the automatic deduction of payments to pay Workmen's Compensation and Association Dues. She stated that the School Bus Association is requesting that the Board reconsider those changes as a courtesy to the dedicated contractors of the association and add a direct deposit option for bus contractors' payments.

### **School Resource Officers**

Ms. Mary Evans and Ms. Kelly Kortney addressed the Board expressing their opinion that the presence of Resource Officers are needed in the schools to ensure that students are being provided a good education in a safe learning environment. They stated that the presence of Resource Officers would deter students from being disruptive, would decrease discipline issues and provide security within the schools. The Board thanked the parents for attending the meeting and expressing their concerns.

### **Board Member Recognition**

Chairman William Miles did not seek re-election to the Board. To show appreciation for his service as a Board Member and Chairman for the past nine years, Dr. Gaddis presented Chairman Miles with a plaque recognizing his efforts in creating a bond between the community and the school system and thanked him for his commitment and dedication to the achievement of the students of Somerset County Public Schools.

Chairman Miles also received a proclamation from the Somerset County Commissioners, presented by Mr. Charles Fisher.

### **Somerset County Public Schools Christmas Card Recognition**

Chairman Miles and Dr. Gaddis presented a recognition award to Crisfield Academy & High School student, Miss Tesoreio for designing the Somerset County Public Schools 2014 Christmas card.

### **Student Activities Reports**

Mr. Benton, Washington Academy & High School's Student Representative presented highlights from his prospective reporting area. Mr. Ford, Crisfield Academy & High School representative was absent.

### **Open Regular Session Minutes**

On the motion of Board Member Dan Kuebler and a second by Board Member Margo Green-Gale, the November 18, 2014 Open Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Announcement of Closed Meeting:**

Chairman Miles announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in a Closed Session on December 16, 2014 pursuant to the General Provisions Act Section 3-305 (b) and Section 3-103 for the following reasons:

- To review and approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014 closed session meeting as amended
- To perform administrative functions - Section 3-103
- To discuss personnel matters - Section 3-305(b)(1)
- To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice Section - 3-305(b)(7)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Administrative Functions**

On the motion of Board Member Margo Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Dan Kuebler, the Board voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Board's belief statements.

We believe that:

- An understanding and appreciation for learning, varied cultures and diversity is essential to success in a global society.
- All students have the right to a safe, healthy and nurturing school environment.
- Students, family, school, and community share in the responsibility of education
- All students have the capacity to learn and become productive citizens
- A wide range of opportunities and a well-balanced, rigorous and engaging curriculum will lead to an educated community.

The motion carried unanimously and the belief statements were adopted.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Curriculum & Instruction**

#### **Quarterly Report**

Dr. Gaddis shared and discussed students overall Reading and Math Diagnostic scores. He stated that students that are not performing well are placed in intervention settings and provided small group instruction. Principals will begin meeting with teachers to determine what barriers are affecting students learning and develop a plan to increase their success. Board Member Dan Kuebler stated that all efforts should be made to help struggling students.

Dr. Gaddis announced that there will be two State of Schools Addresses, January 7, 2015 at Washington Academy & High School and January 8, 2015 at Crisfield Academy & High School. He will present follow up information related to the five goals established when he joined the SCPS system and will provide an outline of what has been done and what future steps are being taken in the promotion of student achievement and success.

#### **Somerset Digital Learning**

Ms. Jill Holland, Technology Coordinator for Curriculum and Instruction, shared a presentation on Somerset's Digital Learning Program. She stated that future infrastructure upgrades are expected which will include the purchase and installation of additional routers to accommodate WIFI usage. Diagnostic testing has been completed to ensure that schools can handle the increased demand of WIFI. Funding from the Maryland State Department of Education's Digital Learning Grant has afforded Somerset County Public Schools the opportunity to move forward with the tablet program. The \$400,000 grant has made it possible for Somerset to introduce the 1:1 tablet initiative to students. Mr. Kuebler requested the total costs for the Digital Learning program.

### **Monthly Budget Reports**

#### **November 2014 Budget Expenditures**

On the motion of Board Member Dan Kuebler and a second by Vice Chairman Wells, the November 2014 Budget expenditures report in the amount of \$3,422,724 was approved. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Food Service Report**

Ms. Harrison presented the Food Services Report. She reported that August claims have been received and compared to what is expected to be collected for the months of September through November, the Food Services Budget will be in the positive numbers. She reported that, as of November 30, 2014, there has been an additional 39,909 more meals served. The Board thanked Ms. Harrison for the information.

## **OMB Circular Single A-133**

On the motion of Board Member Dan Kuebler and a second by Vice Chairman Robert Wells, the Board voted to approve the OMB Circular Single A-133 Audit Report. The motion carried 4:0. Board Member Warner Sumpter was not in the room to vote.

## **Administrative Functions**

### **Policies**

On the motion of Board Member Dan Kuebler and a second by Vice Chairman Robert Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reader and suggested amendments of the following policies:

1. Policy 100-3, Ethics Policy
2. Policy 200-18, Student Transportation
3. Policy 200-22, Volunteer Policy
4. Policy 800-11, Title I Parent Involvement

Dr. Gaddis will schedule a future work session to address questions related to Policy #200-18, Student Transportation.

## **Capital Improvement**

Ms. Haley presented an update on Capital Improvement Projects that will be taking place during the Christmas break. She reported the following:

- Ewell – Asbestos removal and improved firewall upgrades
- PAES – Plumbing repairs
- MSP – Asbestos removal
- CHS – Wall tile replacement, painting of lockers and interior doors, and repair of electrical room, generator, firewall covers and other damages caused by the recent power surge.

Ms. Haley informed the Board that general maintenance is being done in the schools and there will be no new information to report regarding the State Capital Projects until after January 28, 2015.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Smoker shared personnel matters to the Board for informational purposes only.

## **SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- Superintendent Dr. Gaddis thanked the community, staff, and bus contractors for their support and shared with the Board and community that:
  - He is willing to meet with the bus contractors to discuss their concerns.
  - Resource Officers in the schools is a collaborative effort between the Sheriff's Office, the community and the Board; but the Board stands behind their position that occasional walkthroughs by officers in the schools is sufficient at this time.
  - The Board members listen to comments made during public participation, but will not comment during meetings. Information is received and discussed and the Superintendent will forward the Board's response to the appropriate parties.
  - Somerset County Public Schools has received over \$4.5 million in grant funds since the summer of 2014.

Dr. Gaddis commended Chairman William Miles for his dedication and commitment to the community and stated that it has been a pleasure working with him.

- Board Member Margo Green-Gale congratulated Chairman William Miles on his retirement and thanked SCPS staff and participants for their dedication and hard work. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
- Vice Chairman Robert Wells thanked the staff and the bus contractors for their support during the Princess Anne and Greenwood Elementary Schools evacuations. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Vice Chairman Robert Wells thanked Chairman William Miles for serving on the Board and stated that it has been an honor serving with him on the Board.
- Board Member Warner Sumpter wished everyone pleasant holidays. He requested that the Board members review Legislative Meeting documentation and provide feedback so he can report the local Board's opinions and comments of the various issues back to the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE). He thanked Chairman Miles for his service as a Board member and stated that it was a pleasure serving with him on the Board.
- Board Member Dan Kuebler requested that documentation be kept tracking the students who receive tablets. He also thanked Chairman Miles for his service to the Military, State and County Board.
- Board Attorney Jeffers commended Chairman Miles for his gentlemanlike behavior and stated that is has been a pleasure working with him.
- Chairman Miles thanked everyone for their support and commended Dr. Gaddis for the good things he is doing for the students of Somerset County Public Schools. He stated that Dr. Gaddis is an excellent Superintendent with the ability to ensure that Somerset County Public Schools can be the best it can be. He emphasized that staff and community support is needed in all aspects of student achievement.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chairman Miles announced that the Board will convene in an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center at 4:00 p.m. to immediately consider voting to convene in a closed meeting pursuant to Section 3-305(b) of the General Provisions of the Maryland Annotated Code. The Board will reconvene in the Open Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Additional information will be posted to the Somerset County Public Schools' website.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Board Member Dan Kuebler and a second by Board Member Warner Sumpster, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary