

OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

Location: J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairman William Miles, Vice Chairman Wells, 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 Recording Secretary, Ms. Melissa Tilghman. Vice Chairman Wells was excused from the meeting. Supervisors, Staff, Media and Community members were present for the Open Regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Vice Chairman Wells, the agenda was unanimously approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED MEETING:

4:03 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 10-508 of the **Annotated Code of Maryland**

On the motion of Ms. Green-Gale and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a Closed Session at 4:03 p.m. for the following reasons:

- To review and approve the minutes of July 15, 2014
- To discuss personnel matters - Section 10-508(a)(1)
- To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice Section - 10-508(a)(7)
- To perform administrative functions - Section 10-503
- To discuss matters related to school security – Section 10-508(a)(10)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Elina Peoples and Ms. Lillian Wells testified to the Board that action should be taken at Washington Academy & High School to address discipline and school safety concerns that could impact the academic achievement of the students at the school. The Board thanked them for bringing their concerns to the Board.

Chairman Miles and Dr. Gaddis presented Mr. Dave Elebash with a plaque of recognition as the former Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction.

Open Regular Session Minutes

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the July 15, 2014 Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

Announcement of Closed Meeting:

Chairman Miles announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in a Closed Session on August 19, 2014 pursuant to Section 10-508(a) and Section 10-503 of the Maryland Annotated for the following reasons:

- To review and approve the minutes of July 15, 2014
- To discuss personnel matters - Section 10-508(a)(1)
- To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice Section - 10-508(a)(7)
- To perform administrative functions - Section 10-503
- To discuss matters related to school security – Section 10-503(a)(10)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrative Operations

Spare Bus Purchase Requests

On the motion of Vice Chairman Wells and a second by Mr. Sumpter the Board voted to remove the Spare Bus Purchase request from the table. The motion carried unanimously.

On the motion of Vice Chairman Wells and a second by Mr. Sumpter the Board voted to deny the spare bus purchase requests. The motion carried unanimously.

Use of Video Cameras for Safety and Security, Policy #600-42

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Vice Chairman Wells, the adoption of Policy #600-42, Use of Video Cameras for Safety was approved as corrected. The vote carried unanimously.

Attendance – Elementary and Secondary, Policy #600-07

The Board expressed their concerns regarding the revisions to the Attendance Policy, 600-07. Students are allowed to have 20% of unexcused tardies before intervention is required. Dr. Gaddis stated that COMAR addresses absences not tardiness. Mr. Kuebler voiced his criticism of the policy and requested an explanation of tardiness discipline and the classifications according to COMAR. Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers, requested that Ms. McLaughlin provide the Board with State clarification of the age of habitually truant students from Age 5 to 20.

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the adoption of Policy #600-07, Attendance – Elementary and Secondary, was approved with comments. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy #600-13, Community Offenses by Students

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the adoption of Policy #600-14, Community Offenses by Students, was approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy #600-14, Student Tobacco Use

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and second by Vice Chairman Wells, the adoption of Policy 600-14, Student Tobacco Use was approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy #600-16, Dangerous Weapons Instruments

On the motion of Ms. Green-Gale and a second by Vice Chairman Wells, the adoption of Policy #600-16, Dangerous Weapons Instruments was approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy #600-18, Early Childhood Learning

On the motion of Vice Chairman Wells and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to the Early Childhood Learning Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy #600-34, Student Bullying & Harassment

On the motion of Mr. Sumpter and a second by Vice Chairman Wells, the adoption of Policy #600-34, Student Bullying & Harassment was approved. Voting in favor of the motion were Vice Chairman Wells, Mr. Sumpter and Ms. Green-Gale. Mr. Kuebler voted nay to the motion and requested additional information regarding COMAR requirements of the revisions to the policy. The motion carried 3:1 and the policy was adopted.

Policy #600-35, Serious Threats of Violence

On the motion of Mr. Sumpter and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Board voted to approve the adoption of Policy #600-35, Serious Threats of Violence. A matrix outlining the Tiers of Interventions and Disciplinary Responses has been developed and is included in the administrative procedures. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy #600-36, Fighting

On the motion of Mr. Sumpter and a second by Mr. Kuebler, the Board voted to approve the adoption of Policy #600-36, Fighting as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy #600-43, Student Gang Activity Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior

On the motion of Mr. Sumpter and a second by Vice Chairman Wells, the Board voted to approve the adoption of Policy #600-43, Student Gang Activity Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

AWD Wind Energy Project

Mr. Vincent Patrella showed a presentation on the advantages of wind turbines stating that the Somerset County Public School system could save three to four million dollars over the contract period. The Board thanked Mr. Patrella for the presentation.

Student Board Members

Mr. Elebash introduced the two new Student Board Representatives. Mr. Benton of Washington Academy & High School is a prospective College Park student and Mr. Ford of Crisfield Academy & High School is a prospective Liberty University student.

Curriculum & Instruction

Greenwood Elementary School's Report – A Culture of Readers

Ms. O'Neal, Greenwood Elementary School Principal, showed a presentation highlighting past, present and future academic plans and incentives developed to encourage GES students to read. Some of those incentives included cupcake decorating and picking a prize from the school's treasure chest. She stated that she and the GES staff will be taking whatever strategies are necessary to promote reading, as long it is within their budget. The Board thanked Mrs. O'Neal for the informational presentation and encouraged parents to promote reading at home. Mr. Kuebler stated that United Way provides free books to children ages 0-5.

Monthly Finance Report

June and July 2014 Budget Expenditures

Ms. Smoker presented the FY2014 June expenditures report. She reported that the finance department is still closing out the books for FY2014, but is predicting that approximately 98% of the budget will be spent. There will be an approximate carryover fund balance of \$730,000. Mr. Ron Hickman, from the TGM Audit Group, will present the final end of year report once it has been completed.

Mr. Kuebler stated that he would be donating his yearly Board stipend to the Pre-Kindergarten all day program.

Ms. Smoker presented the FY2014 July expenditures report. On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Vice Chairman Wells, the Board voted to approve the July FY2014 Budget Expenditures' Report of \$1,567,107. The motion carried unanimously.

Food Service Report

There was no new information to report.

Category Transfers

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the Board voted to approve the presented category budget transfers. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Functions - Policies

The following policies were revised and presented to meet COMAR and State Regulations:

- Policy 600-03, Student Health and Wellness Services
- Policy 600-3.2, Nutrition
- Policy 600-3.3, Student Wellness
- Policy 600-26, Sale of Competitive Foods

It was the consensus of opinion of the Board to approve the First Reader of the aforementioned policies as amended. The motion carried 3:0. Mr. Kuebler recused himself from the vote as he is a member of the Wellness Committee.

Policy #600-15, Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Ms. McLaughlin presented revisions to Policy #600-15, Alcohol and Drug Abuse. She testified that verbiage in the policy was removed and included into the policy's administrative procedures.

On the motion of Vice Chairman Wells and a second by Mr. Green-Gale, the Board voted to approve the First Reader of Policy #600-15, Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy #700-59, Compensatory Time

Ms. Whitelock presented Policy #700-59, Compensatory Time. She testified that Compensatory Time is defined in Unit Negotiated contracts. Unit II employees are allowed two days of compensatory time per year and it must be pre-approved.

FY2014 Capital Improvement Update

Ms. Daniele Haley, Supervisor of Facilities, presented a Capital Improvement Update Report. She reported on the status of the Greenwood Elementary School Roof and HVAC Replacement, the Washington Academy & High School Bleacher Replacement, the Crisfield High School Lighting Replacement, Marion Sarah Peyton School Lighting Replacement and Athletic Fields. Ms. Haley also reported on current and future facilities projects.

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the Board voted to approve Becker Morgan Group, Inc. as the selected Architecture/Engineering firm to conduct the feasibility study for the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center’s renovation.

SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER TRAINING REQUESTS

On the motion of Mr. Sumpter and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Board voted to approve the training of Ms. Krista Kurtz as a substitute bus driver. The motion carried unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Vice Chairman Wells and seconded by Ms. Green-Gale to approve the Human Resources Report as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**Certificated
New Hires:**

Paige Thomas	Carter G. Woodson Elementary – PK/Intervention Teacher
Courtney Daniels	Carter G. Woodson Elementary 4 th Grade
Micheal Robbins	Somerset Intermediate/Washington Academy & High School-Music
Cody Rausch	Deal Island Elementary – Music
Shelton Handy	WAHS – Long Term Substitute – Math
Ashley Balsaa	Princess Anne Elementary School – Contractual Reading Intervention
Mckenna Mason	Carter G. Woodson Elementary – Intervention
Tom Davis	Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Professional Transfers:

Rachel Johnson	Carter G. Woodson – 4 th Grade to Princess Anne Computer/Science Lab
Jason Pfirman	Princess Anne Elementary Computer Lab to Somerset Intermediate Social Studies
Caitlin Hetland	Deal Island/Princess Anne Elementary School Music to Washington Academy & High School Band
Elizabeth Marshall	Princess Anne Elementary School Vice Principal to Somerset Intermediate School Vice Principal

**Classified
Separations:**

Kim Prince	Occupational Therapist
Dianne Ritchey	Accounting Associate

**Classified
New Hires:**

Sebastian Cartwright	Somerset Promise Academy – Paraprofessional
Jennifer Ward	Carter G. Woodson Elementary – Paraprofessional
Aimee Palenchar	Princess Anne Elementary – Paraprofessional
Ashley DelGaudio	Somerset Intermediate School – IEP Clerk
Thelma Douglas	Princess Anne Elementary - Paraprofessional

**Classified
Transfers:**

Valerie Bevins	Paraprofessional Crisfield Academy & High School to Paraprofessional Somerset Intermediate School
Tamara Bell	Paraprofessional Princess Anne Elementary to Paraprofessional (In School Suspension) Crisfield Academy & High School
Vicki Nelson	School Administrative Associate Washington Academy & High School to School Administrative Associate Crisfield Academy & High School
Darlene Parks	Paraprofessional (One on One) Ewell to Paraprofessional Ewell
Thelma Douglas	Princess Anne Elementary - Paraprofessional

**Classified
Promotions:**

Amy Ford	School Nurse Washington Academy & High School to Nurse Manager Central Office
Jon Berlin	Network Administrator Reclassify to Unit II

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

The Board members thanked the staff for their hard work, congratulated the new Student Board Representatives and welcomed Mr. Tom Davis, the newly hired Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction. Mr. Kuebler expressed that the county's goal is to increase student achievement. Mr. Sumpter expressed acknowledgement to Mr. Conal Turner, Workforce Development Supervisor, for the great things he does for the students of Somerset County Public Schools. Through the Workforce Development Program, several students were employed at various businesses, such as, the Manokin Manor Nursing Home, PRMC, the Somerset County Detention Center, and the Somerset County Department of Social Services.

Dr. Gaddis announced that the Somerset County School District will be participating in the Free Breakfast and Lunch Program. This means that all students in the county will be provided a free breakfast and lunch. Pre K students will also be fed lunch. Brian Mitchell, from the Washington Redskins, will be attending the Free Breakfast/Lunch Kickoff next Thursday at the Somerset Intermediate School. He also reported that SCPS had received the Twenty-first Century Grant and that the discipline policy had been revised to improve the consistency of discipline procedures within the schools.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Miles announced that the Board will convene in an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 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 10-508(a) 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 Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary