

OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

Location: J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairman William Miles, Vice Chairman Robert 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, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Tom Davis and Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary. 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 Board Member Warner Sumpter and a second by Board Member Margo Green-Gale, the agenda was approved as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 14A3, First Quarter Report, was added to the agenda.

CLOSED MEETING:

4:04 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 3-306 of the **General Provisions Act**

On the motion of Ms. Green-Gale and a second by Vice Chairman Wells the Board voted unanimously to enter into a Closed Session at 4:04 p.m. for the following reasons:

- To approve the minutes of the October 21, 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)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments.

Crisfield Academy & High School /Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Recognitions

Vice Chairman Wells and Dr. Gaddis presented recognition awards to the following CAHS SADD students for their exhibition of leadership positivity throughout the county and representing the Somerset County Public School System well.

- President: Mr. Ford
- Vice President: Mr. Adams
- Secretary: Miss Brown
- Treasurer: Mr. Atkins
- Publicist/Historian: Miss Brumley and Miss Ferraro

Ms. Lynne Brumley and Corporal Hill were presented appreciation awards for their work as faculty advisors for SADD.

Vice Chairman Wells and Dr. Gaddis also recognized the following:

Booster Club Presidents Recognition	
Willis Dryden	CAHS Band Booster’s President
Ms. Keisha Evans	CAHS Athletic Booster’s President
Mr. Jimmy Harris	Washington Academy & High School’s Athletic and Band Boosters President

Custodial Recognition	
Mr. Roy Kelly	2014-2015 Deal Island Elementary School’s Custodian of the Year
Mr. Rob McCready	2014-2015 Princes Anne Elementary School’s Custodian of the Year Somerset County Public Schools Overall 2014-2015 Custodian of the Year

Student Activities Reports

Mr. Benton, Washington Academy & High School’s Student Representative and Mr. Ford, Crisfield Academy & High School’s Student Representative presented highlights from their respective reporting areas.

Open Regular Session Minutes

On the motion of Board Member Warner Sumpter and a second by Board Member Margo Green-Gale, October 21, 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 November 18, 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 October 21, 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 Dan Kuebler and a second by Board Member Warner Sumpter, the Board voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the following policies:

Policy #200-06, School Principals/Building Administrators
Policy #200-07, Central Office Professional Staff Evaluations
Policy #200-12, Professional Staffing of Schools
Policy #200-13, Use of School Facilities
Policy #200-14, Bidding and Purchasing
Policy #200-17, School Dedications
Policy #200-19, Drug and Alcohol Testing – School Vehicle/Boat Operator

The motion carried unanimously and the policies were adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum & Instruction

Woodson “Kinderbuddies”

Ms. Lily Welch, Woodson Elementary School’s Principal, shared a presentation with the Board called “Kinderbuddies”. The “Kinderbuddies” Initiative was implemented over seven years ago by Mr. Decker, a 5th grade Math and Science teacher and Ms. Kinhart, a Kindergarten teacher. This is a hands-on, peer mentoring, one to one initiative where one 5th grader is paired with one kindergarten student. The students’ schedules are flexed to allow hands on projects such as reading, participating in scientific experiments, community awareness projects, attending field trips together and tutoring. Woodson Elementary School students have sent holiday posters to units in Afghanistan and are currently working on a local project called “Operation We Care”. Ms. Welch reported that the best part of “Kinderbuddies” is observing the long lasting relationships that students develop throughout the years of working together.

Student Discipline Update – First Quarter Report

Dr. Gaddis shared a First Quarter Report on staff and student attendance. He reported that staff attendance rates are great and that there have not been any significant substitute costs because of staff attendance issues. He also reported that:

- Reading and Math diagnostics data is being collected to monitor students success
- There is a direct impact of teacher attendance and student performance.
- Teachers are seldom pulled from classrooms for professional development.
- Teachers have a 93.3 % teacher attendance rate
- The new grading system is in effect and, as a result, fewer failures have occurred
- There has been a reduction in discipline referrals and suspension rates have gone down

Monthly Budget Reports

October 2014 Budget Expenditures

Ms. Smoker reported that the CTE line item shows a significant difference because materials of instruction have been moved to the instructional category. Board Member Dan Kuebler questioned the surplus of funding in several categories and requested that CAHS technology updates be put on the item list, as well as classroom aides. He stated that Special Education and Health Services issues should also be addressed. Mr. Kuebler expressed that SCPS should partner with medical services and pay for staff to get flu shots.

Ms. Smoker reported that surplus in technology has already been accounted for, but has not been spent at this time.

On the motion of Board Member Dan Kuebler and a second by Vice Chairman Wells, the October 2014 Budget expenditures report in the amount of \$2,945,934 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 October, the Food Services Budget will be in the black. Board Member Dan Kuebler questioned the Food Services manpower. Dr. Gaddis reported that the support of great staff has contributed to the success of the Community Eligibility Provision Program, and to date, there has been an increase of 31,721 more meals being served to SCPS students.

Food Services Proposed FY2015 Budget

Ms. Wendy Harrison, Chief Finance Officer, presented the FY2015 Proposed Food Services Budget to the Board for approval at the recommendation of the Legislative Auditors. She reported that the “Other Charges” line item in the budget pertains to miscellaneous expenses, such as travel and consultant fees.

On the motion of Board Member Dan Kuebler and a second by Board member Warner Sumpter, the Board voted to approve the FY2015 Proposed Food Services Budget in the amount of \$1,706,535. The motion carried unanimously.

School Activity Funds

Ms. Harrison shared the School Activity Fund audit completed by TGM Group. She reported that a manual containing procedures in the handling of school activity funds will be developed and that meetings will be held with all secretaries to review the procedures.

Administrative Functions

AED Communications

Dr. Gaddis shared that AED is currently behind wind turbine construction in Crisfield and reported that he has submitted a letter to the Board from AED requesting the Board to rethink their position in not moving forward with a decision on wind turbines. Dr. Gaddis stated that the Board is waiting to see how effective or efficient the turbines will be before making any decisions. There was no motion made to revisit the Board’s previous decision to “Table” voting on the wind energy project.

Belief Statements

Dr. Gaddis presented the First Reading of the Schools System’s Belief Statements as developed by the Excellence by Design Steering Committee. On the motion of Vice Chairman Wells and Board Member Warner Sumpter, the Board approved the First Reading of the following 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.

Approval of J.M. Tawes Feasibility Study Recommendation

Ms. Haley, shared with the Board the Executive Summary of the Feasibility Summary for the J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center. She stated that the study concluded that a new construction of the J.M. Tawes building is the more cost effective option. Ms. Haley will be requesting the Board's approval to move forward on the planning of the new construction option of the J.M. Tawes building. The contractor for the budgetary estimate stated that construction time should be approximately 27 months. She stated that State approval, design approval, development approval as well as other necessary approved documents will be needed before the actual groundbreaking of a new building which could take up to two years.

Board Member Dan Kuebler emphasized that warranty, maintenance of new structure, and future proof of building, in and out, was important.

Board Member Warner Sumpter requested more public input on the feasibility study of a new J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center Building.

On the motion of Vice Chairman Robert Wells and a second by Board Member Warner Sumpter, the Board voted to approve the J.M. Tawes Feasibility Study and recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

FY2016 Capital Improvement Plan

Ms. Haley presented the FY2016 Capital Improvement Plan for the Board's approval. The Board discussed the upcoming issues with the Somerset Intermediate School. Board Member Dan Kuebler expressed that he was concerned about Somerset Intermediate's ability to accommodate the increase of future incoming 6th graders. Ms. Haley stated that the design of the building includes space to accommodate future construction which would include adding a portable to the school.

Ms. Haley shared that Hurricane Sandy funding was distributed to the Crisfield Head Start and It Takes a Village Programs. The Crisfield Head Start will be connected to Crisfield Academy & High School, but will be a separate entity. She stated that it was a great opportunity to incorporate the Head Start Program and Crisfield High School because it will provide funding for much needed renovations at the high school. Ms. Haley reported that utilization of the CAHS building will look great for future reporting data.

On the motion of Board Member Dan Kuebler and a second by Board Member Warner Sumpter, the FY2016 Capital Improvement Plan was approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Superintendent Dr. Gaddis thanked County Commissioner, Charles Fisher for his support and shared with the Board that:
 - They should go visit the schools during Education Week
 - 1:1 Device Initiative is being brought back into the classrooms
 - In-View taping went well
 - SCPS has donated over \$15,000 to United Way
- Board Member Margo Green-Gale thanked SCPS staff for their dedication and hard work, the student representatives for their informative highlights of school activities, complimented the CAHS SADD Members and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Vice Chairman Robert Wells thanked Ms. Haley for sharing the Capital Improvement Update, thanked the community for attending, and commended Ms. Welch on her “Kinderbuddies” Initiative.
- Board Member Warner Sumpter encouraged the community to visit the new website and commended the transportation department. He stated that the students boarding the bus in his area are polite and courteous and bus transportation at that stop seems to be going well. Mr. Sumpter apologized for not being able to attend the Judy Center Ceremony on December 3, 2014. He will be attending a meeting at the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE).
- Board Member Dan Kuebler commended the staff. He reported that three female students attended the Math Competition in Salisbury, MD and won.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Miles announced that the Board will convene in an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 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 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 Sumpter, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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