



Somerset County Public Schools

Dr. John Gaddis
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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Board Members
William M. Miles, Chairperson
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Dan Kuebler
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County Parent Advisory Committee

September 18, 2013

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:02.

The following schools were represented: Deal Island Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, Woodson Elementary, Somerset Intermediate, Washington High, Crisfield High

Also attending were Tracie Twigg-Elementary Supervisor, Christy Scott-Coordinator, and Dr. John Gaddis-Interim Superintendent

Everyone introduced themselves and Dr. Gaddis gave some insight into his background.

Purpose and Protocols

Dr. Gaddis shared the purpose of the committee and the format of the meetings.

Vision and Goals for 2013 – 2014 – Dr. John Gaddis

Dr. Gaddis shared his vision and goals for the school system including his 90 day plan.

His focus is on improving communication, increasing transparency, sharing the belief that ALL students can and should be learning, and the understanding that all decisions made will be in the best interest for students. He wants to rebuild a trusting relationship between the public and the Board of Education and encourages an attitude of moving forward as we strive to make Somerset County a leading school system in the state. He wants all school system stakeholders to take a personal and professional interest in students.

Board of Education

Dr. Gaddis updated those in attendance on what had occurred at the Board of Ed meeting the previous evening. He explained the new format they will be following at each meeting celebrating and highlighting people and accomplishments in an effort to bring a more positive focus on our school system.

Areas of concern

Dr. Gaddis shared of an upcoming pending decision of the State Board of Education regarding eliminating out of school suspensions. Public input is now being accepted on the MSDE website. If passed this could seriously impact our county on several levels. Concerned individuals are encouraged to visit the website and post their feedback on this topic.

Parent Concerns

Lunches and menu

Parents voiced concerns about our county not being able to purchase local produce; the quality of the menu selections; and a steamer still not in use at GES. Dr. Gaddis will look into these issues and report back to the committee.

Purple shirts allowed at Crisfield High

Some parents have questioned why students at Crisfield High School can't wear a purple shirt which is their school color while Washington High students can wear maroon and gold. Purple is not currently an approved uniform color. Dr. Gaddis will discuss this with the Board since it would require a policy change. In the meantime parents can approach Mr. Conrow, the principal, to see if school spirit days can be designated when students would be allowed to wear purple. This would not violate the current policy.

Fog Delays

There was concern about fog delays and when they are announced and the impact for the Smith Island students. Dr. Gaddis will talk with Paul Jefferson about making the call earlier so as to give them ample notice.

High School Electives

A parent shared a concern about the lack of electives for high school students. Dr. Gaddis shared information about some changes that were going to be made so that students would have more opportunities to take off campus courses as well as on-line courses. Training will be provided to guidance counselors on a new program so they can better advise students of their choices and prerequisites.

Dr. Gaddis thanked the parents for their attendance and comments.

The committee will meet on the following dates:

November 20, 2013

January 22, 2014

March 19, 2014

May 21, 2014

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.