

**OPEN REGULAR SESSION**

**TIME: 4:00 p.m.**

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

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Vice Chairman Robert Wells, Mr. Warner Sumpter, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, and Mr. Dan Kuebler; Interim Superintendent Dr. John Gaddis; Board Attorney Mr. Fulton Jeffers; Interim Assistant Superintendent of Administration, Ms. Nancy Smoker, and Recording Secretary Ms. Melissa Tilghman. Interim Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Mr. Dave Elebash arrived after the roll call. Staff, Media and Community members were also present. Chairman William Miles was absent from the meeting.

**Vice Chairman Wells declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter the agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

4:07 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 10-508 of the **Annotated Code of Maryland**

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a Closed Session at 4:07 p.m.

**PRESENT FOR THE CLOSED MEETING:** Board Members: Vice Chairman Robert Wells, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, Mr. Warner Sumpter, Mr. Dan Kuebler, and Board Attorney Fulton Jeffers; Interim Superintendent Dr. John Gaddis; Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Dave Elebash, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Administration, Ms. Nancy Smoker, and Recording Secretary Ms. Melissa Tilghman. Mr. Ed Barber, Chief Negotiator, was present for a portion of the meeting.

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes**

It was the consensus of opinion of the Board to approve the Closed Session Minutes for January 18, 2014 as corrected.

**Performed Administrative Functions –Section 10-503**

Discussed the purchase of KNOX Boxes for all schools  
Discussed Black History Month in the schools  
Discussed facilities and transportation concerns  
Discussed topics for the March 18, 2014 Board Meeting Agenda

**Discussed Personnel Matters – Section 10-508(a)(1)**

Received, reviewed and discussed the Human Resources Report and other personnel matters

**Consulted with Attorney to Obtain Legal Advice – Section 10-508(a)(7)**

Reviewed, discussed and received legal advice from Board Attorney

**To Conduct Collective Bargaining Negotiations – Section 10-508(a)(9)**

Received and discussed Unit I and Unit III Negotiation Proposals

**The Board adjourned the closed meeting at 6:02 p.m. and reconvened in an Open Regular Meeting at 6:05 p.m.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**Public Recognition**

The following awards were presented for outstanding achievement:

**Support Staff Recognition**

Ms. Caren French – Princess Anne Elementary School’s 2014 Paraprofessional of the Year

Ms. Darlene Kelly – Deal Island Elementary School’s 2014 Paraprofessional of the Year

Ms. Lucy Webster – Somerset County Public Schools’ Food and Nutrition Services Employee of the Year

Mrs. Dawn White – Greenwood Elementary School’s Paraprofessional of the Year

**School Bus Contractor of the Year**

Mr. George Handy – 2014 Somerset County School Bus Contractor of the Year

**Air Force JROTC Recognition**

Major Michael Kenemuth and Sgt. James McGee were recognized for the development of leadership, pride, self- discipline and initiative among the Junior Air Force Cadets.

The following students were recognized for demonstrating leadership during a Regional Inspection resulting in a preliminary report of “Program Exceeds Standards”:

CMSgt. Courtney Massey – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (WAHS)

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Patterson – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (WAHS)

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Austin – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (WAHS)

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Hardy – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (WAHS)

## **Student Board Members' Reports**

Ms. Waller, Crisfield Academy & High School representative reported on the highlights and activities in the Southern end of the county. Mr. Elebash presented the report for Mr. Long, Washington Academy & High School representative. Mr. Long was excused from the meeting to attend the Student Page Ambassador's Program in Annapolis.

Mr. Elebash reported that J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center will have approximately seventeen students participating in the State Skills USA Competition.

## **Open Regular Session Minutes**

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the Board voted unanimously to approve January 28, 2014 minutes as corrected.

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Open Work Session minutes for February 4, 2014 were tabled.

## **Announcement of Closed Meeting:**

Chairman Miles announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in Closed Session on the following date pursuant to Section 10-508(a) and Section 10-503 of the **Maryland Annotated Code:**

- To review and approve minutes of January 28, 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 conduct collective bargaining – Section 10-508(a)(9)

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Personnel Report**

#### **Early Childhood Coordinator**

Dr. Gaddis explained that the Early Childhood Coordinator will be responsible for grant writing and will assist in all aspects in the operation of the Early Learning Program at the Judy Center. This position will eventually be funded through Judy Center funding. Somerset County is the only county that does not have a Judy Center. Dr. Gaddis stated that a Judy Center will provide staff and family services and assistance to parents in finding the resources needed to make sure that children are ready to begin school. This assistance will also expand to the Adult Education program.

Mr. Kuebler rescinded his motion to approve the Early Childhood Coordinator's job description. Ms. Smoker will make suggested revisions and present at the next Board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Curriculum & Instructional Matters**

#### **Spanish Field Trip Update**

Ms. Andrea Jagers (WAHS Spanish Teacher) and Ms. Anna Breland (CAHS Spanish Teacher) showed a presentation of the Spanish Field Trip the students took in December 2013 to Puerto Rico. The objective of the trip was to expand the students' knowledge of the history, culture, geography, economy and language of Puerto Rico in hopes of fostering sensitivity, appreciation and understanding of diversity. Ms. Breland reported that the tour guides were very helpful and remained with the group throughout the trip. There was also around the clock security checking the parameters of the hotel throughout the night.

#### **Out of County Field Trip Request**

Ms. Jagers and Ms. Breland presented a request to take students to Costa Rica. All students are covered under the travelling company's liability and insurance policy. The Board expressed concern of the safety of the students. Ms. Breland stated that they would be seeking additional chaperones and would be requesting additional security in Costa Rica. Dr. Gaddis requested that Ms. Jagers and Ms. Breland make sure the travelling company's liability insurance certificate has been received.

On the motion of Mr. Sumpter and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Out of County Field Trip request to Costa Rica was unanimously approved.

#### **Policy #500-23, Secondary Promotion and Class Ranking**

Mr. Elebash submitted the First Reading of the revisions to Policy #500-23, Secondary Promotion and Class Ranking. He reported that the policy was one of five instructional policies being brought before the Board for review. Students are not taking advantage of the dual enrollment opportunity because currently those courses are not counted towards the student's g.p.a. A subcommittee has reviewed and revised the policy to reflect that if the course is taught within the high schools by a college approved instructor of Somerset County Public Schools then that course will count as a credit to be used to calculate the student's g.p.a. On the other hand if the course is taken at the college, the council will decide if the grade can be counted towards graduation.

#### **Somerset County Public Schools Intervention**

Mr. Elebash showed a detailed presentation of the interventions throughout Somerset County Public Schools. Intervention is defined as instruction provided to students when formative assessment tells us they are at-risk to ensure future success. Interventions are categorized in the following levels:

- Tier 1 – What the classroom teacher does to intervene
- Tier 2 – Temporary extra time or focus
- Tier 3 – Course level intervention

Intervention personnel include classroom teachers, Special Education teachers, ESOL, Intervention teachers, coaches, facilitators and Bridge Project teachers. Mr. Elebash reported that intervention is better than remediation as SCPS goal is to encourage student success and helping students succeed on the first try instead of having to repeat. The Board agreed that teachers should contact the parents when students are being considered for intervention and that parents must get involved and educated in the rigor of the upcoming Common Core.

## **Monthly Financial Updates**

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **Approval of the January FY2014 Expenditures' Report of \$3,237,231.00**

Ms. Smoker reported that 87% of the FY2014 budget has been spent. She stated that Special Education will be overspent but a reimbursement for High Roads is expected from the State which will help decrease the deficit. Student Services will also be overspent due to the pay increases of the nurses and the addition of a nurse's position added to the budget. Maintenance has spent 90% of its budget. The Board agreed that several schools are in need of severe maintenance upgrades.

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the Board unanimously approved the January FY2014 Budget Expenditures report as corrected.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Kuebler, seconded by Mr. Sumpter to approve the hiring of Mr. Gregory Sutton as the Interim Transportation Supervisor. Mr. Kuebler amended the motion to include that upon completion of Mr. Sutton's successful reference check, the status of interim will be removed. The amended motion carried unanimously and was approved.

Contractual Employee:

New Hire: Amanda Ford, Long Term Reading Intervention Substitute (SIS)

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

Mr. Kuebler thanked the Commissioner's for the Pre K funding and requested the community's help in recruiting potential pre-k students beginning at age three. He thanked Ms. Tracie Schneider and Tracie Bartemy for all their hard work and commended them on doing a great job within the elementary education department.

Mr. Sumpter stated that next year students will be required to stay in school until they are seventeen and the following year the age will go up to eighteen. He expressed that students needing intervention should be identified early and requested that teachers and administrators steer parents towards resources in getting involved and helping with student achievement.

Ms. Green-Gale thanked the staff for the presentation of very informative and detailed information at the meetings. She expressed that community and parents should voice their concerns to the Board members and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Dr. Gaddis stated that if the State would fund the prekindergarten program the county would gain approximately 2.6 million dollars in the local budget. He reported that the Legislation and State are discussing a mandatory start of school to begin after Labor Day. There has been no decision made on whether or not SCPS will be requesting a waiver from the State excusing the extra days students missed due to inclement weather. Dr. Gaddis reported that he had presented his request for funding of the GES HVAC project to the Board of Public Works and publicly thanked the commissioners for reserving \$861,000 so GES could begin their HVAC Renovation. He has asked for \$430,000 back from the Commissioners to begin technology upgrades within the schools.

Vice Chairman Wells reported that he had been attending meetings where discussion has been about the cost of housing inmates verses students' education. He reported that less money is being spent on students and student achievement and more is being spent paying for costs associated with prison institutions.

Vice Chairman Miles announced the following:

- March 18, 2014 (Next Regular Board Meeting to be held at J.M. Tawes Center.)
- February 19, 2014 (Public Budget Hearing, 6:30 p.m.)
- February 24, 2014 (Public Budget Hearing, 6:30 p.m.)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Mr. Kuebler/Mr. Sumpter; motion carried unanimously to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

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Dr. John B. Gaddis, Interim Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary