

**Minutes of Open Regular Session Meeting
J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center
March 18, 2014**

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, 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, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Mr. Dave Elebash and Recording Secretary Ms. Melissa Tilghman. 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 amended. Approval of the Proposed FY2015 Budget was added to the agenda.

CLOSED MEETING:

4:08 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 10-508 of the **Annotated Code of Maryland**

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Vice Chairman Wells the Board voted unanimously to enter into a Closed Session at 4:08 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Garland Hayward, Princess Anne Town Commissioner, presented a proclamation to Mrs. Anna Breland, Somerset County's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Breland is a Foreign Language teacher at Crisfield Academy & High School.

Student Board Members' Reports

Mr. Long, Crisfield Academy & High School representative reported on the highlights and activities in the Southern end of the county. Mr. Elebash presented the report for Ms. Waller, Washington Academy & High School representative.

Open Regular Session Minutes

On the motion of Vice Chairman Wells and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Board voted

unanimously to approve the following minutes:

- February 4, 2014 – Open Work Session Minutes
- February 18, 2014 – Open Regular Session Minutes
- February 27, 2014 – Open Work Session
- March 5, 2014 – Open Work Session

Announcement of Closed Meeting:

Chairman Miles announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in Closed Session on March 18, 2014, pursuant to Section 10-508(a) and Section 10-503 of the **Maryland Annotated Code:**

- To review and approve minutes of March 5, 2014 and February 18, 2014
- To discuss personnel matters - Section 10-508(a)(1)
- To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice Section - 10-508(a)(7)
- To performed administrative functions - Section 10-503
- To discussed negotiated matters – Section 10-508(a)(9)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Curriculum & Instruction

2014-2015 School Calendar

The Board discussed the presented 2013-2014 School Calendar. Mr. Lawson reported that the calendar now includes five inclement weather days.

In response to the Board's concern of honoring Veteran's Day, Dr. Gaddis noted that documentation and data will be collected and reported to the Board on the inclusion of the celebration Veteran's Day within the curriculum.

On the motion of Vice Chairman Wells and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, Draft One of the 2014-2015 School Calendar was unanimously approved.

Policy #500-23, Secondary Promotion and Class Ranking

On the motion of Mr. Sumpter and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Board unanimously approved Policy #500-23, Secondary Promotion and Class Ranking.

NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum & Instructional Matters

Mid Year Report

Dr. Gaddis presented an assessment report showing student growth from the beginning of the year to the middle of the school year. He expressed concern that a teacher's attendance rate impacts students' grades. Suspension and referrals have increased due to the strict enforcement of policies and procedures. Dr. Gaddis will present a State of the System presentation in the

future updating the community on the Board's and the Superintendent's vision for the Somerset County Public School System.

2013-2014 School Calendar

On the motion of Vice Chairman Wells and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve April 17, 2014 as a ½ day for students. This day was originally part of the students' Easter Break, but due to inclement weather, it will be used as a make-up day.

Inclement Weather Waiver

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Ms. Green-Gale, the Board voted unanimously to approve Dr. Gaddis request to submit a letter to the State requesting a waiver for five of the days students missed due to inclement weather.

Monthly Finance Report

February 2014 Budget Expenditures

Ms. Smoker presented the FY2014 February expenditures report. She expressed concern about the increasing costs in Maintenance of Plant and the Operation of Plant. Ms. Smoker reported that Special Education Administration category's over expenditure is due to the costs associated with the High Roads Academy.

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the February FY2014 Expenditures' Report of \$2,606,686.00 was unanimously approved.

Food Service Report

Ms. Smoker informed the Board that the preliminary audit of the Food Service program shows that Somerset passed the audit and inspections. Ms. Wendy Harrison, Chief Finance Officer, stated that due to the decline of lunch sales, lunch prices will have to be increased next school year. To date the Food Service budget has a deficit of \$45,764.00. Dr. Gaddis added that Somerset County Public Schools has the highest participation rate for free and reduced meals in the State.

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter the Food Service Report was unanimously approved.

FY2015 Budget

Dr. Gaddis presented the FY2015 Budget to the Board members. He reported that several budget input sessions were held and the budget is aligned with the Board's goals and priorities. The Tawes Technology & Career Center's Feasibility expansion study will begin next year.

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Mr. Sumpter, the Board unanimously voted to approve Dr. Gaddis' request to submit the 90% complete FY2015 Budget to the Commissioner.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by Mr. Kuebler and seconded by Mr. Sumpter to approve the original Human Resources report. The motion carried unanimously.

Certificated
New Hires:

Gregory Sutton	Supervisor of Transportation and Operations
Karen Karten	Early Childhood Coordinator
Daniele Haley	Supervisor of Facilities and Capital Planning

Separations:

Rebecca Horowitz	Science Teacher, Washington Academy and High School
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Classified
Separations:

Mamie Prout	Paraprofessional – Greenwood Elementary School
Dennis Townsend	Computer Technician – Central Office

RATIFICATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT

On the motion of Mr. Kuebler and a second by Vice Chairman Wells the Board unanimously voted to ratify Dr. Gaddis’ four year contract. As of July 1, 2014, Dr. Gaddis will no longer be considered interim.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Miles announced that the Board will convene in an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 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.

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Ms. Green-Gale commended Mr. Garland Hayward and the Commissioners for recognizing Somerset’s Teacher of the Year, Anna Breland. She also thanked the staff and community for their attendance and support. Ms. Green-Gale stated that the staff and the interim superintendents have been very beneficial to the system.

Vice Chairman Wells congratulated Dr. Gaddis on his four year contract.

Mr. Sumpter thanked the commissioners for all their financial support to Somerset County Public Schools. He stated that the State is aware of the support provided by the Somerset County Commissioners and appreciates their efforts. He also commended Ms. Tilghman on the presentation of the minutes.

Mr. Kuebler thanked Dr. Gaddis and his wife for becoming part of Somerset County. He stated that the Board is extending a hand to acquire additional funding from the State.

Dr. Gaddis reported the following:

- Title I monitoring visit went extremely well
- He was interviewed by CNN/In-view sponsored by Larry King. A six to eight minute segment promoting Team Somerset will be aired nationally.
- He is the only Superintendent out of eight that has been hired full time

Dr. Gaddis emotionally thanked his late father for his encouragement and his wife for her love and support. He stated that his family is a priority and he is proud to be the Superintendent of Somerset County Public Schools.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Sumpter and a second by Ms. Green-Gale the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. John B. Gaddis, Interim Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary