

OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 4:01 p.m.

Location: J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center

PRESENT: Board Members: Mr. Warner Sumpter, Mr. Dan Kuebler, Mr. Robert Wells, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, and Mrs. Penny Nicholson; 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. Student Board Representative Justin Benton, staff and community members were present for the 6:00 p.m. meeting.

Due to Board of Education office elections, Dr. Gaddis declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Reorganization of the Board

On the nomination by Ms. Green-Gale, it was the consensus of opinion of the Board to unanimously approve the appointment of Mr. Warner Sumpter as the Chairperson of the Board.

On the nomination by Mr. Wells, it was the consensus of opinion of the Board to unanimously approve the appointment of Mr. Dan Kuebler as the Vice Chairperson of the Board.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Vice Chairperson Dan Kuebler and a second by Board Member Robert Wells, the agenda was approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED MEETING:

4:09 p.m. – Pursuant to Section 3-306 of the **General Provisions Act**

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Robert Wells the Board voted unanimously to enter into a Closed Session at 4:09 p.m. for the following reasons:

- To review and approve the minutes of the December 16, 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

Transportation Concern

A grandparent of a Somerset County Public Schools' student addressed the Board regarding her concerns pertaining to a disciplinary warning her granddaughter received. Board Officials received the complaint and will follow up with the individual's concern.

Student/Staff Recognitions

Several students and staff members were recognized for their extraordinary performance and partnership with the Workforce Development Program.

Outstanding Performance in the Workforce Development Program

Miss Gonzalez, Crisfield Academy & High School Student

Miss Jones, Washington Academy & High School Student

Outstanding Partnership with the Workforce Development Program

The following individuals were recognized for the dedicated commitment in partnering with the Workforce Development Program to provide a place of employment where Somerset County Public Schools' students can obtain job and career readiness skills.

Mr. Leon Bivens, Director of Public Works at the University of Maryland's Eastern Shore

Billy Jo Chandler, Owner of Billie Jo's Pizza Shoppe

John "Jay" Tawes, Tawes Insurance

Joey Gardner, Princess Anne Town Commissioner

Susan Evans, Human Resources Specialist at McCready Foundation

Mr. Conal Turner, Supervisor of the Workforce Development Program was presented an award for his outstanding commitment and dedication in serving the students of Somerset County Public Schools for over fifty years. Through this program, students are placed in employment settings and given the opportunity to practice skills learned from courses taken at the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center.

Student Activities Reports

Mr. Benton, Washington Academy & High School's Student Representative presented highlights from his prospective reporting area. Mr. Ford, Crisfield Academy & High School representative was absent.

Open Regular Session Minutes

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Margo Green-Gale, the December 16, 2014 Open Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcement of Closed Meeting:

Chairman Sumpter announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in a Closed Session on January 20, 2015 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 December 16, 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

Policies

#100-03, Ethics Policy

On the motion of Vice Chairman Dan Kuebler and a second by Board Member Margo Green-Gale, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Ethics Policy, #100-03.

#200-18, Student Transportation Policy

On the motion of Board Member Robert Wells and a second by Vice Chairman Dan Kuebler the Board voted unanimously to table Policy #200-18, Student Transportation.

#200-22, Volunteer Policy and # 800-11, Title I Parent Involvement.

On the motion of Vice Chairman Dan Kuebler and a second by Board Member Margo Green-Gale, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Second and Final Reader of the Volunteer Policy, #200-22 and the Title I Parent Involvement Policy, #800-11.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Functions

Reappointment of Legal Counsel

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, Dr. Gaddis, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Fulton Jeffers to represent the Somerset County Board of Education as its legal counsel.

Policy #300-12, Salary Deductions

On the motion of Board Member Margo Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Penny Nicholson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the First and Final Reader of Policy 300-12, Salary Deduction.

Proposed FY2016 Budget

Dr. Gaddis shared a presentation with the Board summarizing the Proposed FY2016 Budget. He reported that school principals have submitted their budget requests for next year. The requests include the addition of fifty-five new staff.

Cost to fund these new positions would total approximately \$2.1 million plus fringe benefits and Professional Development and Contracted Services would total \$3.8 million.

The total costs to run the Somerset County Public Schools system for the FY2016 school year would total approximately 39 million dollars. This budget total does not include the requested fifty-five additional new positions.

Dr. Gaddis reported that the overall priority rankings by the School and County Staff were:

- Competitive Salaries (28%)
- Technology Salaries (22%)
- Security (11%)
- Furniture/Equipment (10%)
- New Positions (6%)

The reported overall rankings by Parents and the Community were:

- Class Size
- Technology
- Capital Improvements
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Electives
- Safety (92% of parents were satisfied with the current protocols put in place in this area, but would like to see an increase in police presence.)

Dr. Gaddis reported that the following items must be considered during budget preparation:

- Overcrowding issues at Somerset Intermediate School and Princess Anne Elementary
- Special Education Maintenance of Efforts
- Salary increases and/or steps
- Increase in Table of Rates for bus contractors

Curriculum and Instruction

Character Education and United Way

Ms. Courtney Monar, Princess Anne Elementary Principal and Ms. Kim Bozman, Princess Anne Elementary School's Counselor shared a presentation with the Board on activities in the schools to promote Character Education. She reported that Reading Theater and Character Education classes have been added to the Specials curriculum. She stated that the Reading Theater helps students improve their reading through acting.

The Character Education classes teach students honesty, kindness and patience. Mr. Kuebler stated that he would like to see these practices applied at the high schools.

Ms. Monar shared that she had attended a United Way Awards Ceremony and was concerned that no student groups received awards. She stated that activities were created at PAES to help staff encourage student participation in raising funds for United Way.

Partnership and Assessment Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Preparation

Mr. Tom Davis shared a presentation highlighting what preparation tools were being used to ensure students are going to be ready for PARCC Assessments. PARCC is a group of states working together to develop a set of assessments that measure the knowledge of a student's reading, writing, math and comprehension skills essentially needed to achieve in a college or career environment. These assessments are broken down into the following categories and will be used to evaluate the students learning progress:

- Diagnostic Assessments
- Common Unit Assessments
- Performance Based Assessments
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

He stated that lesson planning, assignments, text and other resources will be aligned with the curriculums developed by Somerset County Public Schools' staff. Teachers will utilize differentiated instructional approaches to identify the essential skills and knowledge of all students. In order to prepare students for PARCC, students are given online assessments,

exposure to accessibility and accommodation features and practice tests have been provided. There will also be cross training for Special Education Teachers and English Language Learner Teachers.

Mr. Davis commended Ms. Jill Holland, Coordinator of Technology and Mr. William Gray, Supervisor of Science/Teacher Mentor, for all their hard work in getting staff prepared for Common Core.

Monthly Budget Reports

January 2014 Budget Expenditures

On the motion of Vice Chairman Dan Kuebler and a second by Board Member Robert Wells, the budget expenditures for the January report in the amount of \$1,698,436 was unanimously approved.

Food Service Report

Ms. Harrison presented the Food Services Report. She reported reimbursements have been received from the county and the finance department was still waiting on reimbursements from December 2014 claims from the State. Dr. Gaddis stated that he was excited to announce that to date, 60,000 more meals have been served to students. Vice Chairman Dan Kuebler agreed that making sure students are fed helps students focus on learning which increases the student's ability to achieve. Dr. Gaddis reported that he was looking to start a program throughout the summer to help feed students.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

On the motion of Board Member Robert Wells and a second by Board Member Margo Green-Gale the Board voted to approve the Certificated staffing report.

Professional New Hire

David Simpson – Visual Arts Teacher (Somerset Intermediate School)

Professional Resignations

Maya Constantine – Visual Arts Teacher – Somerset Intermediate School

Professional Transfers

Sharon Richards – Washington Academy & High School Special Education Teacher to WAHS
Secondary Math Teacher

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Superintendent Dr. Gaddis thanked the community and staff for their attendance and support. He shared with the Board and community that:
 - It is important for parents, staff and the community to get involved and become a voice politically, federally and Statewide for the students of Somerset County Public Schools. He encouraged everyone to reach out to our local Senate and Delegates for support of the SCPS system.
 - A meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on January 28, 2015 at the JM Tawes Career & Technology Center to inform and provide parents information about the Afterschool Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support (SAILS) Program.
- Chairman Sumpter thanked and welcomed the newly elected Board Member, Mrs. Penny Nicholson and the return of Board Member Robert Wells and Board Member Margo Green-Gale. He also announced that an Open Work Session will be held on January 27, 2015 to discuss the FY2016 Budget. Chairman Sumpter congratulated Board Member Robert Wells for his recent assignment at the Fire Chief of the Princess Anne Fire Department.
- Board Member Margo Green-Gale thanked Ms. Monar and staff for sharing their informative presentation on Character Education and United Way. She also thanked the community for attending and wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- Board Member Robert Wells thanked the staff and expressed a “special thanks” to the bus contractors for their committed efforts into safely transporting SCPS students.
- Board Member Penny Nicholson thanked the staff for the informative presentations.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Sumpter announced that the Board will convene in an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 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 Margo Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Penny Nicholson, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary