



OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

Location: J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairperson Warner Sumpter, Vice Chairperson Margo Green-Gale, Mr. Robert Wells and Mr. Troy Brittingham, Jr.; Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John B. Gaddis, Board Attorney Mr. Fulton Jeffers and Ms. Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary.

ABSENT:

Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Tom Davis, Director of Schools, Mrs. Tracie Bartemy and Board Member Nicholson were given prior approval to be excused from the meeting.

Chairperson Sumpter declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Vice Chairperson Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Brittingham, the Board unanimously voted to approve the amended the agenda with the following additions:

Discussion: The following items were added to the agenda:

- Item 6-E, To Perform a Quasi-judicial Function 3-305 (b)(13)
- Item 14-D2, Commissioning Agent Contract

EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, **General Provisions Act**, 3-305(b), a motion was made by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, seconded by Board Member Wells, and passed to enter into an Executive Session at 4:10 p.m. for the following reasons:

- To Review and Approve the minutes of December 20, 2016 and January 17, 2017
- 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)
- To Perform a Quasi-judicial Function 3-305(b)(13)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

Student/Staff/Citizen Recognition

2016-2017 Division Three Award Winning Young Writers of America Publication Recognitions

Seven Somerset County Public Schools students from the Somerset Intermediate School were presented awards for having their poems selected to be published in the 2016-2017 Division Three Young Writers of America Publication. Several students read their poems and were commended by the Board members on a job well done. The students were accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Randi Merritt. Ms. Merritt teaches English Language Arts, Reading and Social Studies at the Intermediate School.

The America Library Poetry Recognition Award

A fourth grader from Ewell Elementary School was presented a recognition award for having her poem published by The America Library of Poetry who will be publishing her work "Much More than Wings" in the poetry book "Imagine" which will be released this summer. The fourth grader was accompanied by Ms. Janet Evans, Ewell Principal, Guidance Counselor and Teacher.

The Board Members commended the principals and students for a job well done.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ACTIVITIES REPORTS

The Student Board Representatives from Washington Academy & High School and Crisfield Academy & High School shared exciting highlights of school activities held within their respective reporting areas. Chairperson Sumpter thanked the student representatives for their informational reports.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes the Regular Open Session Minutes of December 20, 2016 and January 17, 2017.

Announcement of Closed Meeting:

Chairperson Sumpter announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in an Executive Session on February 21, 2017 for the sole purposes of discussion on Personnel Matters, Student Matters and Legal Matters as pursuant to Section 3-305 (b)(1), (7) and (13) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and to perform Administrative Functions. The Board also voted to approve the closed session minutes of December 20, 2016 and January 17, 2017 Board Meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

Policy #300-14, Fundraising

On the motion of Vice Chairperson Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Brittingham, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reader of the revisions and corrections to Policy #300-14, Fundraising.

Policy #600-34, Bullying Harassment and Intimidation

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Brittingham, the Board unanimously voted to approve Policy #600-34, Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation.

NEW BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

Policy #200-13, Use of Facilities

Ms. Daniele Haley, Supervisor of Facilities and Capital Planning, submitted the First Reader of the revisions to Policy #200-13, Use of School Facilities. Board Attorney Jeffers advised the Board to research the impact the revisions will have on the payroll department.

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to accept the First Reader of Policy #200-13, Use of School Facilities.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

J.M. Tawes Project Update

Dr. Gaddis informed the Board that he, along with Mr. Davis and Mrs. Bartemy, met with the Board of Public Works and Governor Larry Hogan. He stated that the Governor confirmed that Somerset County Public Schools would get 14.7 million dollars for the first year of the Tawes Project.

Mr. Keith O'Neal, Principal of the J.M. Tawes Career and Technology Center provided the Board with an update on the new J.M. Tawes Project and the various technical programs that will be offered in the new building. He provided a list of the current and new programs that will be housed in the new building. They are as follows:

- Culinary Arts
- Business Management
- Teacher Academy
- CAD
- Criminal Justice/Homeland Security
- Automotive
- IT Networking
- Carpentry
- HVAC
- Health Occupations
- Fire and Rescue (offsite)
- Bio Med Engineering
- Interactive Media
- Media/Heavy Truck
- Pre-Engineering PLTW
- Horticulture
- Computer Science
- Masonry
- Welding
- General Education Classroom
- General Science Lab
- Distant Learning Classroom

Mr. O'Neal reported that all classrooms will be designed to accommodate each particular program being held at the facility. He reported that Oak Contracting LLC, the Construction Manager At-Risk Firm, will be submitting the construction documents to the Board at the June 20, 2017 Board Meeting. The construction plan will be submitted to the Board for approval at the June 20, 2017 Board Meeting and forwarded to the State by June 23, 2017. Bids for the Tawes Project will be put out July 2017 and expected approval will occur at the August 2017 Board Meeting.

Dr. Gaddis expressed that current and future technical programs are good paying jobs with a high demand within Somerset County. He stated that the State denied the addition of a

cosmetology class, as they did not feel Somerset County had a high demand for that particular career choice.

Chairperson Sumpter stated that the Board is very happy with the progress of the Tawes Project and that a technical career choice is a great path to take whether or not a person chooses to go to college.

FY2018 PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

Representatives from each school testified before the Board to present the top three budgetary items that were of the utmost importance to the school.

Carter G. Woodson Elementary School (Ms. April Snead)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 4th Grade Pre K Teacher to reduce class sizes ➤ 2nd Grade Reading and Math Intervention Teacher ➤ Two paraprofessional returned to each primary grades
Crisfield Academy and High School (Ms. Gina Lankford)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New lighting in auditorium and other facility upgrades ➤ Full-time choral teacher ➤ Classroom furniture, desks, chairs and cabinets
Deal Island Elementary School (Ms. Ashley Ardnt)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technology improvement ➤ Facilities upgrades ➤ Additional paraprofessionals
Ewell School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Flag pole replacement ➤ Exterior gym equipment ➤ Window screens repaired
Greenwood Elementary School (Ms. Audrey Spence)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Additional staffing positions to reduce class sizes ➤ Building maintenance and beautification ➤ Technology improvements
J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center (Ms. Julie Evans)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued student exposure to Tawes Curriculum ➤ Health Occupations fee coverages
Marion Sarah Peyton – Somerset Transition Program (Mr. Sidney Hankerson)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Additional middle school math teacher ➤ Implementation of a Common Behavior Program ➤ Furniture
Princess Anne Elementary School (Ms. Crystal Webster)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small class sizes, 20 or fewer students per class ➤ Technology improvements ➤ Additional storage to accommodate the smaller classrooms
Somerset Intermediate School (Mr. Auerelio Martinez)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Space ➤ Additional paraprofessionals ➤ Science textbooks
Washington Academy & High School (Mr. Michael Mason)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Facilities improvement – Bleachers ➤ Reduced class sizes ➤ Increase in materials for Specials classes

Dr. Gaddis informed the Board that the delay in several of the facility improvement upgrades were due to the Governor fencing in the money. The funding from the Aging Schools money will be released for the FY2017-2018 school year.

FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PLANNING

Crisfield Academy and High School/Head Start Construction Project Contract Approval – 3.8 million dollars

Mrs. Haley presented the Board with the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of 3.8 million dollars for the Crisfield Academy & High School/Head Start Renovations & Addition Project as submitted by the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company. Dr. Gaddis stated that 2.1 million dollars came from a Community Block Grant and 1.7 million dollars came from Hurricane Sandy funding.

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the GMP.

Commissioning Agent Contract – Lilker EMO Energy Solutions (\$46,900.00)

On the motion of Board Member Brittingham and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve Ms. Haley’s request to award the Commissioning Services contract for the new JM Tawes Technology & Career Center to Lilker EMO Energy Solutions for \$46,900.

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORTS

January 2017 Budget Expenditures Report

Mrs. Linda Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, thanked the schools’ representatives for presenting their top three budget requests to the Board. She reported that, to date, a little under 58% of the current budget has been spent. Mrs. Johnson stated that she would be requesting category budget transfers at the March Board Meeting.

Approval of January 2017 Expenditures Report \$3, 685, 607

On the motion of Chairperson Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve the \$3,685,607 expenditures report for month of January 2017.

Food Services Report

Mrs. Johnson presented the Food and Nutrition Services report to the Board. She reported that the current deficit is \$199,684, which will be reduced once State reimbursements have been received. Mrs. Johnson reported that 368,148 meals have been served so far this year which compares to 4,439 more meals than this time last year.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Personnel Report

Ms. Beth Whitelock, Supervisor of Human Resources presented the personnel report to the Board for review and approval of the certificated staffing report.

On the motion of Board Member Brittingham and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following Certificated Staffing Report.

Professional Retirements:

Greenwood Elementary School
➤ Deborah Tull – Computer Lab Teacher
➤ Patti Monk – Instructional Facilitator
Princess Anne Elementary School
➤ Karen Linamen – Math Teacher
Somerset Intermediate School
➤ Joan Gilsdorf – Infant/Toddler Teacher
Washington Academy & High School
➤ Christina Jones – Language Arts Teacher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Sumpter made the following announcement:

The Somerset County Board of Education will convene in an Open Regular meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 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 Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. 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 MEMBER COMMENTS

- The Board members and student representatives thanked the community, parents and staff for their hard work and support of the Somerset County Public Schools System.
- Dr. Gaddis commended the school system for the good things and the various opportunities it provides for the students in Somerset County. He encouraged the staff and the community to focus on the positive stories going on within the system. Dr. Gaddis reported the following:
 - He will continue to testify and show his support of the CEP Program.
 - He has continued to show support of the Wor Wic Scholarship Fund and has requested that the Governor add the three year Wor Wic Scholarship to the budget.
 - The Somerset County Public Schools System has been taking precautions and following the necessary protocols in handling the flu epidemic.
 - Student attendance is at its highest.
 - Student Representative reports were awesome.
 - The basketball teams are doing well
 - Somerset County is a small county, but is powerful and mighty.

Dr. Gaddis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged the community to attend more often.

- Chairperson Sumpter commended the exceptional sportsmanship of the basketball team players and staff. He complimented Dr. Gaddis and staff for all their hard work and stated that there are a lot of good things happening within SCPS. He also thanked the community and school representatives for attending the meeting and requested the community, staff, and parents to reach out to the local delegates and testify on behalf of the educational needs of SCPS.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Brittingham, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary