

**Minutes of Open Regular Session
J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center
September 15, 2015**

OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

Location: J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairman Warner Sumpter, Vice Chairman Dan Kuebler, Mr. Robert Wells, Ms. Margo Green-Gale and Ms. Penny Nicholson; Superintendent, Dr. John B. Gaddis; Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Tom Davis; Board Attorney Mr. Fulton Jeffers and Miss Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

CLOSED MEETING:

4:00 p.m. – Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, **General Provisions Act**, 3-305 (b), On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to enter into a Closed Session at 4:05 p.m. for the following reasons:

- To Review and Approve the Closed Minutes of August 18, 2015
- 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 an Open Regular Session at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Each year, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), manages a Risk Management Grant Program. One of MABE's goals is to promote an effective risk management program among its members. These grants are intended for a one-time purchase of supplies and/or equipment for the purpose of reducing the severity of losses to our school system. This has reduced, and in some cases, eliminated our exposure to potential identified risks and unnecessary losses. In the past, Somerset County Public Schools has used this grant money to purchase surveillance cameras for SCPS buildings,

AEDs for the high schools and child safety seats for SCPS school buses. MABE awards Somerset County Public Schools a yearly \$10,000.00 grant for risk management.

MABE representatives Steve James, Deputy Executive Director and John Magoon, Risk Management Officer, attended the Board meeting to accept an appreciation award presented by Chairman Sumpter and Dr. Gaddis recognizing MABE for their support of Somerset County Public Schools Risk Management Goals.

Student Board Members

Miss Jill Holland, Supervisor of Instructional Technology and Social Studies introduced the Crisfield & Washington Academy and High Schools' Student Board Representatives and their alternates to the Board Members.

- CAHS – Miss Bell
Miss Brittingham (alternate)
- WAHS – Miss Elmore
Miss Johnson (alternate)

Student Board Members' Reports

The Student Board Representatives presented their designated schools' activities reports. Mr. Davis thanked the students for their outstanding work.

Open Regular Session Minutes

On the motion of Board Member Green-Gale and a second by Vice Chairman Kuebler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the August 18, 2015 Open Regular Board Meeting minutes.

Announcement of Closed Meeting:

Chairman Sumpter announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in a Closed Session on September 15, 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 August 18, 2015 closed session meetings
- 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)

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Curriculum and Instruction

Somerset Digital Learning Initiative

Ms. Jill Holland shared a presentation with the Board on Somerset's Digital Learning Initiative. The Digital Learning Program (KUNOS) was purchased with funding from an MSDE grant totaling \$400,000 which was used to purchase a total of 565 Android devices along with keyboards and cases for students in grades 10-12 for College and Career Readiness classes. With the implementation of the Digital Learning Program, wifi was updated at Washington High School allowing computer technicians and teachers the opportunity to engage in new experiences with the tablets. The tablets allowed for open sharing of assignments between the teachers and students. Teachers were provided 20 days of professional development to prepare them for the implementation of the digital program. A pilot program took place in the Spanish II classes in both high schools. Vice Chairman Kuebler questioned KUNO's impact on student achievement. Ms. Holland responded that there was not any significant relationship between student achievement in the Spanish II classrooms and the use of the digital program, however, KUNOS quick access to the internet and math textbooks has proven to be very beneficial for students and teachers.

This was the first introduction of Android tablets on the Somerset County Public Schools' Network. The Curriculum Loft LMS/CMS software had several glitches which made it difficult to sync with other applications. This hindered students from sending and receiving assignments. Ms. Holland stated that even though this digital program was not as successful as it was expected to be, future plans to move forward with the advancement of technology will continue.

Dr. Gaddis stated that reports have shown that technology is a tool that can help improve student achievement, but KUNOS could not show evidence that student achievement was impacted. He stated that he was excited to see Somerset County's advancement in technology and thanked Ms. Holland and Mr. Jon Berlin for all their hard work. Vice Chairman Kuebler stated that Somerset County needed high speed broadband connectivity.

B. Facilities and Capital Planning

1. JM Tawes Education Specifications (First Reader)

Ms. Daniele Haley, Supervisor of Facilities and Capital Planning presented the JM Tawes Education Specifications to the Board for First Reader approval. Vice Chairman Kuebler commended staff on the remarkable job that was done to help save on Capital Improvement costs allowing Becker Morgan Group to quickly complete the J.M. Tawes Career and Technology Center's Education Specifications.

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board voted unanimously to approve the First Reader of the JM Tawes Education Specifications.

2. FY2017 Capital Improvement Preparation Plan

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Nicholson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY2017 Capital Improvement Preparation Plan.

C. Monthly Finance Reports

1. Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Linda Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, informed the Board that a preliminary draft copy of TGM Group's Audit Report would be dispersed to Board members within the next week. She presented the August 2015 expenditures report.

Approval of \$1,891,272 Expenditures Report through August 31, 2015

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board voted unanimously to approve the expenditures report for the month of August 2015.

Food Services Report

Ms. Johnson presented the Food Services Report to the Board. She reported that the meal count from August 24, 2015 to August 31, 2015 shows that a total of 8,239 more meals were served this year compared to this time last school year.

D. HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Whitlock, Supervisor of Human Resources shared the personnel report with the Board.

On the motion of Board Member Green-Gale and a second by Vice Chairman Kuebler the Board voted unanimously to approve the Certificated staffing report.

Professional Retirements

Greenwood Elementary School ➤ Benita Hudson – Assistant Principal
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Professional Separations (Certificated)

Washington Academy & High Schools ➤ Brittany Coppola – Math Teacher
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Professional New Hires (Certificated)

Greenwood Elementary School ➤ Carly Evans – ESOL Teacher (.5) PAES & (.5) GES
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Professional Transfers:

Theresa O’Neal	From GES Comprehensive Special Education Teacher	To (.5) DIS Pre K Teacher and (.5) ECE Comprehensive Special Education Teacher
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Professional Promotions:

Tracie Bartemy	ECH/Elementary Ed./Title I Supervisor – Central Office	Director of Schools – Central Office
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SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Chairman Sumpter welcomed the new Student Board Members and the Alternates. He stated that he appreciates the positive public articles that have been highlighting the positive things in Somerset County.
- Board Member Nicholson stated that the school year was off to a great start.
- Vice Chairman Kuebler reiterated his position on student achievement.
- Board Member Green-Gale commended the school staff for all their hard work. Board Member Wells apologized for missing so many meetings, but explained that the absences were due to work related reasons.
- Dr. Gaddis reported that:
 - The school year is off to a smooth start
 - He is thankful for working with Ms. Tracie Bartemy, Director of Schools.
 - He has viewed positive comments on social media and continues to hear positive comments from other counties
 - The KUNOS program didn't work out, but he was excited about moving forward and looking into the use of other interactive media

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board will convene in an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 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 Nicholson and a second by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary