

OPEN ABBREVIATED SESSION

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

Location: J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairman Warner Sumpter, Vice Chairman Dan Kuebler, Mr. Robert Wells, and Ms. Margo Green-Gale; 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.

Chairman Sumpter asked that a moment of silence be designated to the Crisfield Academy & High School sophomore fatally injured in a car crash and a silent prayer for her mother who was also injured on March 28, 2015.

Absent from the Meeting

Board Member Mrs. Penny Nicholson was excused from the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Board Member and a second by Vice Chairman Kuebler, the Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda as amended.

Discussion: The following items were removed from the agenda and will be placed on the April 21, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda:

- Item 9a - Early Childhood Education/Judy Center Recognitions
- Item 13-C1 – Somerset Early Learning Advisory Council’s Judy Center Update
- Item 13-C2 – 21st Century SAILS Program

CLOSED MEETING:

11:35 a.m. – Pursuant to Section 3-306 of the **General Provisions Act**

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells the Board voted unanimously to enter into a Closed Session at 11:35 a.m. for the following reasons:

- To review and approve the minutes of the February 19, 2015 Closed Session
- 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)

Board Member Wells excused himself from the closed meeting at 1:03 p.m.

The Board reconvened in an Open Abbreviated Session at 1:13 p.m. and was rejoined by Board Member Wells.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Koly Ward, Third President of School Bus Contractors' Association addressed the Board on behalf of the Somerset County School bus contractors and substitutes. He thanked the Board members and Dr. Gaddis for listening to the contractors concerns and taking action.

Ms. Lauresa Wigfall, a parent of a Greenwood Elementary School student, addressed the Board regarding her concerns of the proposed reconfiguration options presented to the parents for the elementary schools. She stated that as a parent, she is coherent about the academic needs of early childhood development, but has some concerns that more emphasis is being placed on early childhood development and not the academic needs of the older students. She stated that she is worried about the schedule change and its impact on special classes.

Student/Staff/Citizens Recognitions

Dr. Gaddis thanked the community and staff for attending and stated that the meeting agenda was abbreviated to allow staff to be available to students and other staff grieving for the loss of the Crisfield Academy and High School sophomore.

Open Work Session Meeting

On the motion of Board Member Green-Gale and a second by Vice Chairman Kuebler, the Board voted to approve the February 11, 2015 Open Work Session Minutes as amended.

Open Regular Session Minutes

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Vice Chairman Kuebler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February 19, 2015 Open Abbreviated Board meeting as amended.

Announcement of Closed Meeting:

Chairman Sumpter announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in a Closed Session on March 30, 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 February 19, 2015 closed session 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

Policies

#400-01 to #400-9, Facilities Development and Maintenance

On the motion of Board Member Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board voted unanimously to approve the abolishment of the following policies effective upon the adoption of the new combined policy #400-01, Facilities Planning and Capital Improvements:

1. 400-01 Facilities Development Goals
2. 400-02 Evaluation of Facilities Planning & Development
3. 400-03 Facilities Planning (Deleted)
4. 400-04 Enrollment Projections
5. 400-05 Educational Facilities Master Plan
6. 400-06 State Capital Improvements Program
7. 400-07 Building Accommodations
8. 400-08 Facilities Construction
9. 400-09 Educational Specifications

Policies #400-1 through #400-9 were revised and condensed into one policy, 400-1, Facilities Planning and Capital Improvements.

Policy #400-10, Selection Architects, Engineers & Construction Consultants

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board voted unanimously to approve the adoption of revised Policy #400-10, Selection of Architects, Engineers & Construction Consultants.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Functions

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board voted to accept the First Reader of the following policies:

1. 400-1 Facilities Planning and Capital Improvements
2. 700-4 Anti-Harassment
3. 700-5 Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace
4. 700-7 Personnel Records, Data Storage & Records Destruction
5. 700-10 Employment Practices & Interview Fairness
6. 700-11 Business Leave
7. 700-12 Sick Leave

Calendar Adjustment

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board voted to approve the Superintendent's request to write a letter to the State Superintendent seeking the waiver of four school days students missed due to inclement weather.

Discussion: Dr. Gaddis stated that the revision to the school calendar schedule changes the students' last day of school. He thanked Mr. Sutton for his prompt reports on weather conditions. Chairman Sumpter stated that the safety of students and staff are a priority and commended Dr. Gaddis for making the appropriate call to cancel school on those particular inclement weather days. Vice Chairman Kuebler requested that community activities be planned for the students' last day of school.

Result: The motion unanimously carried.

Curriculum & Instruction

Somerset Early Learning Advisory Council's (SELAC)

Removed

21st Century SAILS Grant

Removed

Overcapacity Issues

Mr. Davis presented a timeline study of the steps he and the committee members have taken in collecting data, analyzing and determining the best solution to resolving the overcapacity issues in the elementary schools. He has held meetings with staff, parent and the community to present recommendations as well as obtain feedback. Mr. Davis stated that he will be monitoring special school permission requests as he continues to develop a plan to resolve the overcapacity issues.

Mr. Davis presented the following overcapacity recommendations to the Board:

Option #1

- Princess Anne Elementary School – Should remain Pre – K to 5
- Greenwood Elementary School – Should remain K to 5

Option #2

- Princess Anne Elementary School – Pre K to Grade 1
- Greenwood Elementary School – Grade 2 to Grad 5

Option #3

- Greenwood Elementary and Princess Anne Elementary Schools – Pre K to Grade 5

Option #4

- Adjusting the attendance line for Deal Island Elementary School to increase enrollment and provide capacity relief for PAES and GES

The Board continued the discussion of Mr. Davis' recommendations. Mr. Davis also reported that overcapacity concerns at Somerset Intermediate can be addressed with the installation of the portables which can be transported from Washington Academy & High School to Somerset Intermediate. There is also extra space at the SIS that can be utilized. Chairman Sumpter requested that security improvements be done to the portables if they are transported and used at SIS.

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the submission of the First Reader of Mr. Davis' recommendations to resolve the overcapacity issues at the elementary schools.

FY2016 Proposed Budget

Dr. Gaddis presented the FY2016 Proposed Budget totaling 37 million in expected revenue and stated that the presented total, without the fund balance, is less than last year. Dr. Gaddis reported that due to the already strained budget, summer school for the elementary and high schools will not be held. Chairman Sumpter added that PARCC implementation has been tedious and that the State does not provide adequate funding to purchase technology and preparation tools needed to implement the assessments.

Dr. Gaddis thanked Ms. Smoker for balancing the budget and urged the community to contact our elected officials for support. He stated the commissioners are aware that the Somerset County Public Schools may have to seek additional County funding to cover additional budget requests.

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Green-Gale the Board voted to approve the Superintendent's FY2016 Proposed Budget.

Discussion: Chairman Sumpter commended Ms. Smoker for her work on the budget.

Result: The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Budget Reports

Expenditures through March 31, 2015

Ms. Smoker presented a budget on projected revenue for the year. She stated that the presented budget shows over \$227 thousand dollars more in additional revenue, than in the original budget. Ms. Smoker reported that the additional funds include a large portion of Special Education reimbursements.

Ms. Smoker presented budgeted expenditures for the month of February 2015 one with projections and one without projections, 92% of the budget has currently been spent, which includes projected expenditures.

On the motion of Vice Chairman Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the revised budget expenditures report for the month of February.

Food Service Report

Ms. Smoker presented the Food Services Report. She reported that reimbursements from the State and Federal are the same as the last report. Projections look to be the same as last year with an over expenditure of approximately \$71,021. Somerset County has served over 51,000 more meals this year.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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

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

Professional Separation (Certificated)

Emily Knuth – Special Education Teacher

Bessie Taylor – Social Studies/Government Teacher – Washington Academy & High School

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Vice Chairman Kuebler reported on Larry King's In-view Education Show, featuring Showcase work and improvement initiatives being practice in Somerset County Public Schools to increase student achievement. Chairman Sumpter, Dr. Gaddis and a Washington Academy & High School student were interviewed.
- Board Member Wells thanked the community for attending and commended Mr. Davis and his committee for all his work on the school reconfiguration.
- Dr. Gaddis thanked everyone for attending. He stated that he has been before the delegates to testify on the success of the Coalition Eligibility Program and that poverty doesn't know color, ethnicity, or gender. Dr. Gaddis expressed excitement in the success of the program and his satisfaction that all students in the system are provided breakfast and lunch. He also asked the audience to keep the Joyner family and the Crisfield Community in their thoughts and prayers and commended Washington Academy and High School for their assistance to the families.
- On behalf of the Board, Chairman Sumpter expressed their appreciation to Dr. Gaddis and staff for their time and dedication in helping the Crisfield Community cope with the loss of the Crisfield High School sophomore.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board will convene in an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 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 Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent
Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary