

**Minutes of Open Regular Session Meeting  
J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center  
January 19, 2016**

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**OPEN REGULAR SESSION**

**TIME: 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center**

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Board Member Warner Sumpter, Board Member 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 and Director of Schools, Ms. Tracie Bartemy; Board Attorney Mr. Fulton Jeffers and Miss Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary.

**Announcement**

Due to the reorganization of the Board of Education's Office Members, Dr. Gaddis, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

**Reorganization of the Board**

Nominations were opened for the Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the 2016-2017 Year. Dr. Gaddis, Superintendent, called for a motion on the nominations for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Somerset County Board of Education.

On the nomination by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board voted to approve the re-election of Board Member Sumpter as Chairperson of the Board. Board Member Sumpter accepted and the motion carried 3:2.

Voting for the motion: Board Member Green-Gale, Board Member Nicholson, and Board Member Sumpter

Voting against the motion: Board Member Wells and Board Member Kuebler

On the nomination by Board Member Wells, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Board Member Nicholson as the Vice Chairperson of the Board. Board Member Nicholson accepted and the motioned carried 4:1.

Voting for the motion: Vice Chairperson Nicholson, Board Member Green-Gale, Board Member Wells, Board Member Green-Gale, and Board Member Sumpter

Abstaining from the Vote: Board Member Kuebler

**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 agenda as presented.

## **CLOSED MEETING:**

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

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

To review and approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015 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**

### **Student/Staff Recognitions**

Dr. Gaddis and Chairman Sumpter presented substitute bus driver, Mr. Troy Brittingham, with a “Distinguished Service Award” for his expertise and heroic efforts in preventing a potentially deadly bus crash involving approximately twenty SCPS students on January 4, 2016. Mr. Brittingham accepted the award and was greeted with a standing ovation from the Board and the audience. No students were injured during the incident.

Dr. Gaddis and Chairman Sumpter also presented Ms. Kerry Palakanis, CRNP of the Crisfield Health Clinic, with a “Distinguished Service Award” to express SCPS appreciation of the clinic’s staff members’ prompt medical assistance provided to the students occupying the bus involved in the January 4, 2016 bus incident. Dr. Gaddis stated that the staff members of the clinic are to be commended for their dedicated commitment ensuring the well-being of their patients and making SCPS students a priority.

### **Student Activities Reports**

Miss Elmore, Washington Academy & High School’s Student Representative and Miss Bell, Crisfield Academy & High School Representative presented highlights from their schools’ prospective reporting area. Chairman Sumpter thanked them for their reports.

### **Open Regular Session Minutes**

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the December 15, 2015 Open Regular Meeting Minutes.

### **Announcement of Closed Meeting:**

Chairman Sumpter announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in a Closed Session on January 19, 2016 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 15, 2015 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**

##### **#800-11, Title I – Parent Involvement**

On the motion of Board Member Kuebler and a second by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reading of the Title I, Parent Involvement policy.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Student Achievement**

##### **National Junior Honor Society**

Ms. Brandy Brady, Somerset Intermediate School's Principal, shared a presentation highlighting the positive effects the National Junior Honor Society has on the students at Somerset Intermediate School. The NJHS is a way to recognize students who are positive leaders and are excelling academically. The Society is based on five concepts: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character, and Citizenship. The eligibility requirements to become a member of the NJHS requires 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders to maintain a 3.5 g.p.a during the school year.

Several of Ms. Brady's 7<sup>th</sup> grade students shared information pertaining to their experience as a member of the NJHS and enlightened the Board members with a brief presentation and an overview of their future academic plans. Ms. Brady thanked Ms. Pam South, Media Specialist and Student Advisor, for her dedicated assistance contributing to the success of the National Junior Honor Society. The Board thanked the SIS students and staff for their report and commended them on a job well done.

## **Deal Island Elementary School – Genius Hour**

Mr. Ted Gibson, Deal Island Elementary School's Principal, shared a presentation on the impact that Genius Hour has on teacher professional development. Genius Hour was developed by the search engine giant, Google. Google allows its employees to spend 20% of their time to work on any pet project that they are passionate about. Google's methodology was simple, allow employees to work on something that interests them and their work productivity will increase. Mr. Gibson stated that the concept of integrating technology into instruction will allow teachers to focus on a subject matter that they are passionate about and integrate that particular concept into classroom instruction. Teachers are given the opportunity to work on "passion" projects two to three hours a month throughout the year and integrate the passion project into a professional development program that can be utilized within their classroom, keep students interest and help increase student achievement. The Board thanked Mr. Gibson for sharing the presentation.

## **Elementary PARCC Assessments**

Mr. Tom Davis, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, shared a presentation with the Board that contained scoring data from the Elementary PARCC Assessments for grades 3 – 8 in English Language, Literacy and Mathematics. He stated that PARCC replaces the MSA and HSA Assessments. PARCC places emphasis on critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, reading and interpreting skills and writing skills. Student achievement will depend on the student's attitude, attendance standards, study habits, behavior, assessment knowledge and work ethics.

Mr. Davis reported that the data shows the area where a student is strong, moderate or weak. Board Member Wells expressed concern that PARCC Testing Data did not specify a child's exact area of weakness. Mr. Davis reported that testing data reflects the students' performance on the following levels:

Level 1 – Did Not Yet Meet Expectations

Level 2 – Expectation Partially Met

Level 3 – Approaching Expectations

Level 4 – Meeting Expectations (College and Career Ready)

Level 5 – Exceeding Expectations (College and Career Ready)

Board Member Kuebler expressed that he was concerned that testing data does not provide the student data needed to assist in developing a student achievement plan. Mr. Davis responded that collaboration between the elementary supervisors and teachers have led in the development of local assessments that will be used to monitor students' progress to ensure student success. He also stated that elementary supervisors will collaborate with teachers during the summer and share skills and strategies used and teachers will receive increased professional development to improve their instructional tools in the classroom.

The Board continued to discuss Somerset County testing data compared to the State’s data. Chairman Sumpter stated that some Maryland jurisdictions did not participate in PARCC Assessments.

There was a meeting held at Carter G. Woodson Elementary School in which parents were invited and provided with PARCC Assessment information. Future meetings will be held on January 20, 2016 at Somerset Intermediate School and Princess Anne Elementary School. Another informational meeting will be held on January 27, 2016 at Greenwood Elementary School. PARCC Assessment data and additional information links can be found on the Somerset County Public Schools’ website.

**Monthly Budget Reports**

**Finance Report**

Ms. Linda Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, presented the December 2015 Expenditures Report. She reported that as of December 31, 2015 the expenditures report for the year totals \$16,724,705.

**December 2015 Budget Expenditures**

On the motion of Board Member Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve the \$3,323,314 expenditure report.

**Food Service Report**

Ms. Johnson presented the Food Services Report to the Board. She informed the Board that the negative balance of \$98,418 is due to outstanding reimbursements not yet received by the State for the month of December 2015.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

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

**Professional New Hires**

Princess Anne Elementary School ➤ Ashley Daniels – Comprehensive Special Education Teacher
Washington Academy & High School ➤ April Bagwell – Spanish Teacher

**Professional Promotions:**

Sebastian Cartwright	From Somerset Promise Academy Teacher	To WAHS Special Education Teacher
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**Professional Transfers:**

Paula Fisher	From WAHS School Nurse II	To JMT Health Occupations Teacher
Michele Messick	From GES 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	To DIS 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading/Social Studies Teacher
Scott Toner	From SPA Teacher	To SIS 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher

**SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- Vice Chairman Nicholson thanked the Board for their support and for voting her in as the Vice Chairman of the Board.
- Board Member Wells thanked the principals for their reports and thanked everyone for attending.
- Board Member Green-Gale thanked the staff for their reports, the community for attending the meeting and commended the Student Board Representatives and the National Junior Honor Society members.
- Superintendent Dr. Gaddis thanked the community and staff for their attendance and support. He shared with the Board and community that:
  - Adult Education Courses are being held at the J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center with focus on certifications in Health Administration and Food Services. He stated that other courses will be offered in the future.
  - Due to the recent bomb threats in the surrounding counties, Somerset County Public Schools' administrators have developed a security plan that has been shared with staff.
  - Updates regarding the recent security concerns have been and will continue to be uploaded to the SCPS website and anyone with additional questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the central office.
- Chairman Sumpter thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also wanted to extend an additional recognition to Mr. Troy Brittingham and the Crisfield Academy & High School staff for their efforts in hosting the CAHS basketball tournament.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chairman Sumpter announced that the Board will convene in an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 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 Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary