



## 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, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Tom Davis, and Director of Schools, Mrs. Tracie Bartemy; Board Attorney, Mr. Fulton Jeffers and Ms. Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary.

**ABSENT:**

Board Member Nicholson was 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 Board Member Brittingham and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve the amended agenda.

**Discussion:** The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Tabling of Item 13-A1 - #200-13, Use of School Facilities
- Addition of Item 14-A1 - #500-20, Student Athletic Eligibility (A – First Reader)

**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 4:15 p.m. for the following reasons:

- To Review and Approve the minutes of February 21, 2017
- To Perform Administrative Functions - Section 3-103
- To Discuss Personnel Matters - Section 3-305(b)(1)
- To Discuss Matters Not Related to Public Business (b)(2)
- To consult with Counsel to Obtain Legal Advice - Section 3-305(b)(7)

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

### **Student/Staff/Citizen Recognition**

#### **2016-2017 Winter Athletic Recognitions**

Chairperson Sumpter and Dr. Gaddis presented athletic awards to students attending Crisfield and Washington Academy & High Schools who participated in the winter sports. The boys and girls varsity basketball teams and the indoor track teams were recognized for their outstanding performances and excelling athletically throughout the season. A special recognition was presented to the Washington Academy & High School sophomore on the girls' basketball team for scoring 1,000 points.

The coaches, assistant coaches and managers of each team were also recognized for their leadership, commitment and dedication to the students throughout the season. The Board commended the students and staff for their outstanding performance and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

#### **Somerset Intermediate School Students National History Day Winners**

Under the leadership of Ms. Randi Merritt, Language Arts, Reading and Social Studies teacher at Somerset Intermediate School, several SIS students were recognized for winning first place in the National History Day Historical Event at Salisbury University on February 25, 2017. This event is a competition between middle and high school students in Wicomico and Somerset Counties where students create documentaries, exhibits, performances and other research to develop projects on historical topics.

## **STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ACTIVITIES REPORTS**

The Student Board Representative from Washington Academy & High School shared exciting highlights of school activities from her respective reporting area and Mrs. Jill Holland, Instructional Technology Supervisor, presented the report for the southern end of the county. The Crisfield Academy & High School representative was excused from meeting to attend a high school function.

## **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 Open Budget Work Session Minutes of March 8, 2017 as presented.

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Brittingham, the Board unanimously voted to table the minutes of February 21, 2017.

## **Announcement of Closed Meeting:**

Chairperson Sumpter announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in an Executive Session on March 21, 2017 for the sole purposes of discussion on Personnel Matters, Student Matters and Legal Matters as pursuant to Section 3-305 (b)(1), (2) and (7) 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 February 21, 2017.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS**

#### **Policy #200-13, Use of School Facilities**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS**

#### **Policy #500-20, Student Athletic Eligibility**

Dr. Gaddis submitted the First Reader of Policy #500-20, Student Athletic Eligibility. He reported that the Maryland Public Schools Secondary Sports Athletic Associate (MPSSAA), the Bayside Conference and Somerset County Public Schools are working together address the following concerns:

- Fan Behavior
- Coach Behavior
- Movement of Students (Recruitment Practices/Transfer of students)

Dr. Gaddis stated that more emphasis will be placed on addressing the recruitment and transfer practices of students from one school to another with the sole intention to play a sport outside of their attendance zone. Dr. Gaddis informed the Board Members that he was nominated and accepted the position of Superintendent of the Bayside Conference and he has had discussions with Eastern Shore Superintendents' Group to rewrite athletic policies. On the motion of Board Member Brittingham and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reader of Policy #500-20, Student Athletic Eligibility.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

### **Somerset Promise Academy Overview**

Mr. William Johnson, Principal of the Somerset Promise Academy, shared a presentation with the Board outlining the purpose, achievements, goals and challenges at the academy. The purpose of the alternative program is to provide a diverse alternative school setting where students have the opportunity to gain academic, social and emotional enrichment skills in order to transition back into their homeschool. He stated that staff are multifaceted and everyone works together collaboratively to provide the students with the skills needed to be successful. Mr. Johnson stated that students are awarded incentives when they have shown growth socially and academically.

### **Somerset Transition Program**

Mr. Sidney Hankerson, Administrator of Student Support at Marion Sarah Peyton, shared a presentation with the Board on the Somerset Transition Program. He stated that the mission of the program is to provide an alternative school population setting where students can foster academic, social and emotional growth in a Twenty First Century world. Mr. Hankerson reported that the program is similar to Mr. Johnson's SPA Program, but most of the students in the Somerset Transition Program do not transition back to their homeschool. Mr. Hankerson thanked administration and staff for their assistance in making the transition to the Somerset Transition Program from the High Roads Program flow efficiently. He stated that he is looking forward in developing more community partnerships, offer students field trips, STEM Projects, meditation time and hands on assignments.

Dr. Gaddis and the Board Members thanked Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hankerson for their detailed presentations.

### **Somerset Intermediate School Data Analysis**

Mrs. Brandy Brady, Principal of the Somerset Intermediate School, shared a presentation on the steps she and her staff have taken to improve instruction, implement professional development and planning time, assessing student data and analyzing the student data to create a plan to help students be successful.

Dr. Gaddis thanked Mrs. Brady for her presentation and thanked her for taking ownership of the Somerset Intermediate School Building. He stated that vertical articulation and intervention should be modeled. Chairperson Sumpter also thanked her for her exhibition of great leadership.

### **Princess Anne Elementary School and Greenwood Elementary School Reconfiguration Report**

Mr. Davis presented a report that included reconfiguration data for Princess Anne Elementary School and Greenwood Elementary School. He stated that due to the increase in class sizes, precipitated by the increase in Somerset County residents, classroom space is limited. He stated that the Board has two options, either stay the same or reconfigure. Mr. Davis reported that redistricting was examined, and is not an option at this time. There will be community meetings held at Greenwood Elementary School on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 and one held at Princess Anne Elementary School on Thursday, March 23, 2107 to get community input.

Dr. Gaddis thanked Mr. Davis for the information. Board Member Wells expressed concern about siblings attending different elementary schools. Dr. Gaddis informed Board Member Wells that this concern has been addressed.

## **MONTHLY FINANCE REPORTS**

### **February 2017 Budget Expenditures Report**

Mrs. Linda Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, was excused and her report was presented by Mr. Davis. He stated that 85.3% of the budget has been spent.

### **Approval of February 2017 Expenditures Report - \$3,923, 995**

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Brittingham, the Board unanimously voted to approve the \$3,923,995 expenditures report for month of February 2017.

### **Food Services Report**

Mr. Davis presented the Food and Nutrition Services report to the Board. He reported that the current deficit is \$24,255, which will be reduced once State reimbursements have been received. Mr. Davis reported that there has been an increase in breakfasts served, but there is a slight decrease in lunches served compared to this time last year.

## **Inter-Category Transfers**

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Brittingham, the Board unanimously voted to approve the submitted Inter-Category Transfers request.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

### **Personnel Report**

Ms. Beth Whitelock, Supervisor of Human Resources presented the personnel report to the Board for informational purposes only.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Sumpter made the following announcement:

The Somerset County Board of Education will convene in an Open Regular meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 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 Board members thanked the staff for their well organized and detailed reports and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Dr. Gaddis thanked the staff for their presentations and expressed concern that new State Bills were hindering the progress of the Somerset County Public School System. He stated that education is a State chartered right and encouraged the community and staff to contact local delegates and request support for Somerset County Public Schools.
- Chairperson Sumpter stated that the Senate and House will be going into Conference Committee and will be deciding what House Bills will be approved and which ones will not. He thanked everyone for attending and wished a “Happy Birthday” to Board Member Brittingham.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Vice Chairperson Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Brittingham, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary