



OPEN REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

Location: J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center

Mr. Charles Horner, Clerk of Court swore in newly elected Board Member, Mr. Troy Brittingham, Jr. Mr. Warner Sumpter, who ran unopposed, was sworn in earlier.

PRESENT: Board Members: Mr. Warner Sumpter, Ms. Margo Green-Gale, Mrs. Penny Nicholson, 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 Wells was excused from the meeting for medical reasons.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

On the motion of Ms. Green-Gale and a second by Mr. Brittingham the Board unanimously voted to approve the election of Mr. Warner Sumpter as the Board Chairperson.

On the motion of Mr. Brittingham and a second by Mrs. Nicholson the Board unanimously voted to approve the election of Ms. Green-Gale as the Board Vice Chairperson.

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 Nicholson, the Board voted to approve the following amendments to the agenda:

Discussion: The following items were added to the agenda:

- Item 15-B2, Policy #600-34, Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation
- Item 15-B3, Approval of the Construction Management Firm (Oak Contracting, LLC)

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 Nicholson and passed to enter into an Executive Session at 4:10 p.m. for the following reasons:

- To Review and Table the closed minutes of December 20, 2016
- To Perform Administrative Functions - Section 3-103
- To Discuss Personnel Matters - Section 3-305(b)(1)
- To Discuss Matters Not Related to Public Business - Section 3-305 (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

All State and All Bayside Conference Athletic Recognitions

Crisfield Academy & High School's Fall All Conference and Honorable Mention Athletic Team members for Field Hockey, Soccer and Cross Country were presented certificates of achievement for their athletic accomplishments. The Board Members congratulated the students on a job well done.

Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP)

Mrs. Ashley Walters, Greenwood Elementary School's Principal, was presented a recognition award for her efforts in obtaining a Family Involvement Grant from the MAESP. Each year, MAESP awards six Family Involvement Grants, each in the amount of \$500. This year GES was one of six schools awarded the grant. The grants are awarded to schools that wish to create and implement programs and activities that encourage families to become more involved in students' education. Mrs. Walters' main focus is the implementation of a "Male Family Involvement with Fathers and other Male Role Model Initiatives". Special events will be held within the school to give male role models an opportunity to positively interact with students while participating in various school activities. The goal of the program is to get the participation and involvement of as many families from the school community as possible. The program is expected to have a direct and positive impact on the Greenwood Elementary School students and their education. As a stipulation of being a grant award recipient, the schools are expected to share the results

of their project with the MAESP membership with a poster display at the Annual Principals' Conference in Cambridge, MD.

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 Nicholson and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to table the Regular Open Session Minutes of December 20, 2016.

Announcement of Closed Meeting:

Chairperson Sumpter announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in an Executive Session on December 20, 2016 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 closed session minutes of December 20, 2016 were tabled until the February 21, 2017 Board Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

2017-2018 Academic School Calendar

Dr. Gaddis presented Draft #1 of the 2017-2018 Academic School Calendar for the Second and Final Reader. He reported that Somerset County Public Schools will not be eligible for an inclement weather waiver next year. He stated that if Somerset uses all five inclement weather days that have been added to future academic calendars, holiday vacations and teacher professional days will be reduced in order to meet Governor Hogan's requirement to end the school year by June 15. Dr. Gaddis expressed concern that parents and the community should be mindful that the 2020-2021 Academic School Calendar does not leave room to add in snow days if school starts Post Labor Day.

Chairperson Sumpter thanked Mr. Leo Lawson, Supervisor of Public Relations, for the academic calendar information as well as the staff and community input data.

On the motion of Vice Chairperson Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Nicholson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the 2017-2018 Academic School Calendar Draft #1. Somerset County Public Schools will begin post Labor Day on September 5, 2017. A copy of the calendar can be found on the Somerset County Public Schools website.

NEW BUSINESS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

5th Grade Band Initiative

Mrs. Kirstin Gibson, Carter G. Woodson's Elementary School Principal and Music Teacher Corrin Jones, shared highlights on the success of the 5th grade band initiative. Several students were introduced and the group played several musical selections at the meeting. Mrs. Jones informed the Board that the initiative was made possible by the donation of 49 instruments from individuals and community groups as well as small grants awarded to the school in support of the program. The fifth grade students have had the pleasure to perform with the Crisfield Academy & High School Band and were also given the opportunity to perform several selections on the Ocean City Boardwalk.

Greenwood Elementary School's Community Partners

Mrs. Ashley Walters, Greenwood Elementary School's Principal, shared a presentation with the Board highlighting the positive impact community partnerships have had on the educational achievement of the students at Greenwood Elementary School. As research shows, building collaborations with community partners and connecting students to these outside agencies has become an integral part of student achievement, student wellness and life skills development. Mrs. Walters has partnered with over a dozen outside agencies that provide medical services, tutoring, student incentives and community service activities.

Student Services Update

Mrs. Tracey Cottman, Student Services Supervisor, Ms. Chari Jones, Student Services Coordinator, and Mrs. Rachel Abbott-Gray, Project Aware Coordinator shared a presentation with the Board highlighting the positive impact the work of the Student Services Department has had on the students. Mrs. Cottman informed the Board that the following statements outline the mission and goals of the Students Services Department.

They are:

- To remove the barriers that students face in order to improve student learning and promote student achievement
- To implement prevention and intervention strategies that address the issues students are having that may deter them from achieving socially, emotionally and academically

- To assist schools and staff with the training needed to ensure all students are provided a safe and nurturing learning environment
- To ensure that staff are provided with the necessary training tools needed to provide support for those students in an emotional, social, or financial crisis situation
- To use social, emotional and wellness initiatives to help increase student achievement

Dr. Gaddis thanked the Student Services Department for the informational report. He stated that students have significant needs throughout Somerset County and commended Mrs. Cottman and Mrs. Ashley Walters for their efforts in collaborating with the community, outside agencies, churches and other various organizations to promote student achievement and wellness.

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

Policy #300-14, Fundraising (First Reader)

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

Policy #600-34, Student Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation (First Reader)

On the motion of Board Member Nicholson and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reader of the revisions to Policy 600-34, Student Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation.

J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center's Construction Management Firm/\$39 Million Contract Approval

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Board Member Nicholson and seconded by Board Member Brittingham, to approve awarding Oak Contracting, LLC as the Construction Manager at Risk Firm to provide professional services for the new J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center project and the awarding of the overall \$39 million contract for the project. The motion carried unanimously.

Representatives from Oak Contracting firm stated they were honored to be awarded the contracts and were looking forward to building a quality technical facility that will make Somerset County proud.

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORTS

December 2016 Budget Expenditures Report

Mrs. Linda Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, presented the January 2017 monthly expenditures report to the Board. She reported that, to date, a little over 50% of the current budget has been spent. Mrs. Johnson informed the Board that the budget planning process is ongoing. She complimented the principals on their well thought out budget requests.

Approval of December 2016 Expenditures Report

On the motion of Chairperson Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Nicholson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the \$3,488,850 expenditures report for month of December 2016.

Food Services Report

Mrs. Johnson presented the Food and Nutrition Services report to the Board. She reported that the current deficit is \$47,669, which will be reduced once State reimbursements have been received.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Personnel Report

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Sumpter made the following announcement:

The Somerset County Board of Education will convene in an Open Regular meeting on Tuesday, February 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

- Vice Chairperson Green-Gale and Board Member Nicholson welcomed everyone back from the holidays and welcomed Mr. Troy Brittingham, Jr. to the Board. The staff and student board members were also thanked for their informative reports.
- Board Member Brittingham thanked the community for attending and the staff for the informational reports.

- Dr. Gaddis welcomed Mr. Brittingham to the Board. He stated that it is budget time and encouraged the Board, staff and community members to get involved and reach out to the delegates to promote the good things happening within our schools and the need for continued State funding.
- Chairperson Sumpter expressed his satisfaction with the overall presentation of the staff reports. He thanked the staff and the faith-based organizations for their support. Chairperson Sumpter recognized Dr. Gaddis for the information that he has shared with the Board and the community. The community was encouraged to remain after the meeting to attend the social gathering to meet and introduce themselves to the new Board Member, Mr. Troy Brittingham, Jr.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Vice Chairperson Green-Gale and a second by Board Member Nicholson, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary