



## OPEN REGULAR SESSION

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

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

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Chairperson Warner Sumpter, Mr. Robert Wells, 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. Vice Chairperson Margo Green-Gale entered during the closed meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Chairperson Sumpter declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Nicholson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda as presented.

### EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, **General Provisions Act**, 3-305(b), a motion was made by Board Member Nicholson, seconded by Board Member Brittingham, and passed to enter into an Executive Session at 4:10 p.m. for the following reasons:

- To Review and Approve the minutes of March 21, 2018
- 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

Ms. Shannon Lynch, parent of a special needs student attending Somerset County Public Schools expressed concern in regards to the elimination of comprehensive classrooms and requested that the Board reconsider the action.

Two students at Washington Academy & High School expressed their concerns in regards to the conditions of the athletic fields and the maintenance of the athletic facilities at the school. Dr. Gaddis thanked the students for reporting their concerns to the Board and asked them to develop a list of their issues. He stated that a future meeting will be scheduled with the students to address their concerns. Dr. Gaddis also stated that once funding has been

received from the State, the athletic fields and facilities will receive much needed improvements.

### **STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ACTIVITIES REPORTS**

The Student Board Representative from Washington Academy & High School and Crisfield Academy High School shared exciting highlights of school activities from their respective reporting area. The Board members thanked the representatives for their reports.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Nicholson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Open Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2017 and March 21, 2017 as amended.

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

Chairperson Sumpter announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in an Executive Session on April 18, 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 March 21, 2017 as amended.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS**

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

Policy #200-13, Use of School Facilities remained tabled.

#### **Policy #500-20, Athletic Eligibility and Participation (Second Reader)**

Dr. Gaddis presented the Second Reader of Policy #500-20, Athletic Eligibility and Participation, to the Board. He stated that revisions to the policy were needed to address 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. The revised policy states that students transferring to a school in another attendance zone and in Somerset County, will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic sports for period of 365 days from the date of the transfer.

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second and Final Reader of Policy #500-20, Athletic Eligibility and Participation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS**

#### **Approval of New Bus Contract**

On the motion of Board Member Nicholson and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve awarding the contract for route #55 to James “Bunny” Reese.

#### **Approval of New Paid Spare Bus Purchase**

On the motion of Board Member Brittingham and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve Mr. Raymond “Koley” Ward’s New Paid Spare Bus Purchase request.

#### **Approval of New Special Education Bus Purchases**

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve Mr. James Reese, Bus #55 and Mr. Brian Laird, Bus #35, requests to each purchase a new air conditioned, seventy-two passenger, special education bus with wheelchair accessible lifts installed.

#### **Approval of School Resource Officer’s Memorandum of Understanding**

On the motion of Board Member Brittingham and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the School Resource Officer’s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Officer Lee Love will be operating out of Washington Academy & High School and Officer Ray Johns will continue at Somerset Intermediate School.

#### **Policy #500-13, Semester Examinations for High School Students**

On the motion of Board Member Nicholson and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First and Final Reader of revised Policy #500-13, Semester Examinations for High School Students.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

### **Overview of STEM Initiative**

Mrs. Karen Karten, Early Childhood Supervisor, shared a presentation with the Board on the new Bee-Bot Program. Bee-Bot is an exciting new robot designed for use in the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms. Bee-Bot can be used as a motivator for students and allows teachers to expand their range of subjects being taught in the classroom, as well as, strengthen students' academic and social skills. Bee-Bots were distributed to the Board Members so they could experience how the small robots operated.

### **Project Lead the Way Update**

Mrs. Tracie Schneider, Elementary Math and Science Supervisor and Taylor Estes, Coordinator of Project Lead the Way, shared a presentation with the Board updating them on the Project Lead the Way Launch. Project Lead The Way (PLTW) prepares students to be the most innovative and productive leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and to make meaningful, pioneering contributions to our world. PLTW partners with middle schools and high schools to provide a rigorous relevant STEM education.

Dr. Gaddis informed the Board that he would be testifying before the State Board requesting funding to expand Project Lead the Way.

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

Mr. Davis presented his PAES/GES reconfiguration recommendation to the Board. He recommended that Princess Anne Elementary School house students in grades Pre K through First Grade and Greenwood Elementary School house students in Second – Fifth grades. Mr. Davis reported that the comprehensive classrooms will be located at Princess Anne Elementary School. The Board Members expressed concern about transportation costs. Mr. Davis informed the Board that transportation costs will not have a significant increase. He also stated that if additional space is needed to accommodate an increase in the student population at the elementary level, more space could be created at Greenwood Elementary School or expanded to Deal Island Elementary School.

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to accept the reconfiguration of Greenwood and Princess Anne Elementary Schools. Pre K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will now be housed at Princess Anne Elementary School and 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will attend Greenwood Elementary School.

## **MONTHLY FINANCE REPORTS**

### **March 2017 Budget Expenditures Report**

Mrs. Linda Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, presented the March 2017 Expenditures Report. She reported that 97.23% of the budget has either been expended or obligated. Mrs. Johnson informed the Board that a new House Bill passed in Annapolis that will provide an additional \$449,354.00 in funding to the Somerset County Public Schools Budget. The State has agreed to include Pre K students in State reimbursements. Chairperson Sumpter thanked Dr. Gaddis, staff and the Board for reaching out to Legislation to get funding.

### **Approval of March 2017 Expenditures Report - \$3,030, 656**

On the motion of Board Member Brittingham and a second by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the \$3,030,656 expenditures report for the month of March 2017.

### **Food Services Report**

Mrs. Johnson presented the Food and Nutrition Services report to the Board. She reported that the current deficit is \$9,300, which will be reduced once State reimbursements have been received. Mrs. Johnson stated that there have been 18,046 more meals served compared to this time last year.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

### **Personnel Report**

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

On the motion of Board Member Nicholson and a second by Vice-Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the certificated Human Resources report.

### **Professional Separations:**

Washington Academy & High School
➤ Victoria McMahon – School Counselor
➤ Gwendolyn Hicks – School Counselor
➤ Christine Vargas – Science Teacher

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Sumpter made the following announcement:

The Somerset County Board of Education will convene in an Open Regular meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 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**

- Board Member Brittingham thanked Dr. Gaddis and staff for all their hard work.
- Board Member Nicholson stated that she was impressed with the Early Learning Stem Initiative.
- Board Member Wells thanked the students that expressed their concern about the athletic fields and the maintenance of the school facilities. He stated that he appreciated their professionalism and their concern for their school.
- Vice Chairperson Green-Gale thanked the staff and students and encouraged them to keep up the good work. She stated she was impressed with the Bee-Bots and asked the staff to continue to bring the Board good news.
- In response to the students concern about the tennis courts, Dr. Gaddis informed the Board that a company has been scheduled to address that issue, but he was more concerned with the maintenance upkeep concern with the facilities.

Dr. Gaddis thanked Mr. Davis and staff for all their hard work with the reconfiguration process. He also reported that:

- ✓ The Green Engineers are going to Georgia Tech to participate in the National SeaPerch Competition.
  - ✓ The SCPS system needs change and the county must be willing to accept change in order to provide the students with the best educational experience.
  - ✓ Outside maintenance has been scheduled
  - ✓ He appreciated the Board's support.
- Chairperson Sumpter thanked the presenters and staff for everything they do for the students of Somerset County.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Board Member Brittingham and a second by Vice Chairperson Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.



Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary