

**OPEN REGULAR SESSION**

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

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

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Vice Chairperson Penny Nicholson; Mr. Dan Kuebler, Mr. Robert Wells, and Ms. Margo Green-Gale; 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.

**ABSENT**

Due to the loss of a family member, Chairperson Sumpter was excused from the meeting.

**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 adoption of the agenda as amended.

**Discussion:** The following items were added to the agenda:

- Item 13-D2, Addition of Washington Academy & High School and Ewell School Budget Priorities
- Item 14, Removal of the Public Budget Hearing Dates

**CLOSED MEETING:**

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, **General Provisions Act**, 3-305(b)

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to enter into a Closed Session at 4:10 p.m. for the following reasons:

- 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 an Open Regular Session at 6:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Kirkland Hall testified before the Board due to the need of new school uniforms for Somerset County Public School Athletes, to seek the Board's blessing to begin an initiative to improve the relationship between Crisfield and Washington Academy & High School students and to begin a Somerset County Athletic Hall of Fame Fundraiser.

Mr. Hall submitted a proposal to the Board detailing his plan to initiate fundraising under the auspices of Somerset County Public Schools and throughout the county to raise money to purchase athletic uniforms. A request was made for the Somerset County Public Schools to be the treasurer of the funds. The purpose is to recognize pioneer athletes, principals and players who excelled in athletics before and after integration. Dr. Gaddis thanked Mr. Hall for his presentation and stated that he would be scheduling a future meeting with him to discuss the submitted proposal.

### **STUDENT/STAFF/CITIZENS RECOGNITION**

#### **School Counselor's Week Recognition Sherwin Williams Outreach Committee**

Vice Chairperson Nicholson, and Dr. Gaddis presented Ms. Janice Cottman, Guidance Counselor for the Somerset Promise Academy and the J.M. Tawes Career and Technology Center, with a proclamation recognizing February 1, 2016 – February 5, 2016 as School Counselor's Week.

#### **Black History Month Recreation**

Vice Chairperson Nicholson and Dr. Gaddis presented Reverend Charles Bagley of Westover with a proclamation recognizing February 2016 as Black History Month.

#### **Career and Technical Education Month**

Vice Chairperson Nicholson and Dr. Gaddis presented Mr. Keith O'Neal with a proclamation recognizing February 2016 as Career and Technical Education Month.

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

Student Board Representatives from Crisfield and Washington Academy and High Schools were excused from the meeting. The Alternate CAHS Student Representative presented the report for the southern end of the County while Jill Holland filled in for the WAHS Representative and presented the reports for the northern end of the County.

#### **Open Regular Session Minutes**

On the motion of Board Member Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 12, 2016 as amended.

On the motion of Board Member Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to table the minutes of January 19, 2016.

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

Vice Chairperson Nicholson announced that the Somerset County Board of Education met in a Closed Session on February 16, 2016 pursuant to the General Provisions Act Section 3-305 (b) and Section 3-103 for the following reasons:

- 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)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Administrative Functions**

##### **Policy #100-3, Ethics Regulations**

On the motion of Board Member Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells the Board unanimously voted to accept the First Reader of the revisions to Policy #100-03, Ethics Regulations.

##### **Policy #200-18, Student Transportation**

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Green-Gale, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reader of the revisions to Policy #200-18, Student Transportation.

##### **Policy #700-05, Alcohol and Drug Use in the Workplace**

On the motion of Board Member Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reader of the revisions to Policy #700-05, Alcohol and Drug Use in the Workplace.

#### **B. Student Achievement**

##### **Woodson Elementary School's Dads at Work Program**

Ms. Lily Welch, WES Principal, shared a presentation with the Board highlighting the positive impact that Woodson's Dads at Work Program has had on WES students. She reported the program challenges fathers to alter their parenting roles and, like mothers, build a relationship with their children through creative and task building skills. Ms. Welch thanked Ms. Ashley Walters, Assistant Principal of WES, for introducing the Dads at Work Program to the school and Ms. Kirston Gibson for maintaining it.

Board Member Kuebler stated that the Dads at Work Program was a fabulous project and encouraged Ms. Welch to seek additional funding from the American Legion to maintain and add additional projects to the Dads at Work Program.

### **The Judy Center's Raising a Reader Program and Early Childhood Education Program**

Ms. Karen Karten, Supervisor of the Judy Center and Early Childhood Education shared a presentation with the Board highlighting the positive impact the Early Childhood Education Program has had on Somerset County students. The purpose of the program is to increase early learning skills in kindergarteners to help them meet the more demanding and rigorous performance assessment standards. She reported the following:

- The Judy Center serves children and families from birth to age 5.
- Greenwood Elementary School housed the first MSDE Accredited Early Education Program in Somerset County. Princess Anne Elementary School and Carter G. Woodson Elementary School will have completed the accreditation process by late spring.
- 47% of Somerset County Kindergarteners are meeting the rigorous performance standards.
- Partnerships have been developed with local agencies to provide preschool children with dental screenings and in-class dental hygiene practices.
- There has been an increase in the number of professional development in-services held nationally, locally and at the State level to provide early childhood education to Somerset's staff and community partners.
- The Raising a Reader Program is a Home Visiting Program through the Judy Center and Healthy Families Home Visiting that looks for ways to get books to children in the community.
- Learning parties are held to engage hands on learning for children and parents. Families are provided with meals during the learning party and given materials and books to take home for additional learning.
- After School Programs are held for Pre-K and K students called CREATIVE KIDS. This program is a dynamic and innovative literature based drama program for young students which introduces students to acting through reading activities. There are currently 60 students in the program, 40 in the Princess Anne area and 20 in the Crisfield area.

## **C. Curriculum and Instruction**

### **2016-2017 School Calendar**

On the motion of Board Member Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve the First Reader of draft calendars 1, 2 and 3 for

the 2016-2017 School Year. Copies of these calendars have been posted to the Somerset County Public Schools Website.

**FY 2017 Prioritized Budget Requests**

**Business, Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON) Report**

Dr. Gaddis shared the BEACON report with the Board. The report highlighted the impact of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) on the local school systems of the Eastern Shore Region.

At a minimum, the same amount of county funding per students must be sustained from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year. MOE does not recognize that all students do not have the same needs and costs vary depending on the student’s situation. MOE funding does not take into account of the rising operational costs of a school system. The BEACON report addresses the fact that, as a region, state funding under “Bridge to Excellence” continues to increase while local funding has not met the needs causing reallocation of funds from one category to another. The gap in funding will result in the elimination of existing positions and the deferralment of needed positions. Dr. Gaddis stated that Somerset has a great dependency on State funding and Somerset’s local elected officials need to know that Somerset is in need of their assistance. He encouraged everyone to advocate for additional funding to maintain current educational and technical initiatives.

**School Presentations – Budget Priorities**

Dr. Gaddis invited the school principals to testify before the Board listing their top three budget priority requests. Staff and parents presented the following budgetary priorities:

School	Budget Priorities
Carter G. Woodson Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Staffing</li> <li>➤ Salaries</li> <li>➤ Technology</li> </ul>
Crisfield Academy & High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 10 Interactive Learning Boards</li> <li>➤ 25 new laptops</li> <li>➤ Additional staffing</li> </ul>
Deal Island Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All day pre-Kindergarten</li> <li>➤ Funding for Materials of Instruction</li> <li>➤ High Speed Internet Access</li> </ul>

Ewell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New roof and windows</li> <li>➤ Bathroom upgrade</li> </ul>
Greenwood Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Smaller class sizes</li> <li>➤ Classroom instructional technology replacement</li> </ul>
Princess Anne Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Staffing</li> <li>➤ Safety and Security</li> <li>➤ Available class space</li> </ul>
Somerset Intermediate School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Available class space, staffing, Addition of a Family and Consumer Science class</li> </ul>
Somerset Promise Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ School Resource Officers</li> <li>➤ Cameras</li> <li>➤ Special Education Teacher</li> </ul>

The parents expressed their appreciation for the dedicated staff members within the Somerset County Public School System. Dr. Gaddis thanked the principals and parents for their presentations.

Mr. Chris Farrow, former Culinary Arts student testified before the Board that J.M. Tawes course offerings have been crucial to his career. He stated that Somerset County Public School’s Career and Technology Education Program is a great program that provides students with the opportunity to learn skills in order to excel and be successful. Mr. Farrow has been to Beverly Hills competing in top chef competitions and has had an overwhelming number of job offers from all over the country. He attended the meeting to personally thank Dr. Gaddis and the Board for providing him the opportunity to gain skills to be successful.

Dr. Gaddis thanked the staff and parents for presenting their budget requests. He stated that their requests will be considered when developing the 2016-2017 school budget.

**D. Facilities and Capital Planning**

**Facilities Update**

Ms. Daniele Haley, Supervisor of Facilities and Capital Planning provided an update on facilities. She reported the following:

- The Greenwood Elementary School’s HVAC and roof replacement are substantially complete.

- Princess Anne Elementary School's roof replacement is complete with the exception of window caulking/glazing recommended by the roofing manufacturer.
- The Crisfield Academy & High School's Athletic Stadium's Field Renovation is complete with the exception of the paving.
- The design plans are underway for the CAHS/Headstart renovation with construction expected to begin in early Spring of 2016. The Board of Public Works will be providing additional funding for the project.
- The Washington Academy & High School's Stadium upgrades will begin in the Spring of 2016. The architect and engineers have been working with the contractors and to address budget concerns.
- The Design Team for the J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center is ready to begin pending local funding availability.

Ms. Haley reported that the application has been completed for FY2016 Aging Schools' funding. The following request have been approved:

- The replacement of the existing vinyl asbestos gym floor at Princess Anne Elementary School with seamless rubberized flooring.
- The repair of Greenwood Elementary Schools' wood gym floor. She also stated that the lack of hot water throughout GES is due to the age and structure of the building but the concern is being discussed.
- The replacement of cracked front entry sidewalks at Deal Island Elementary School.
- The replacement of existing storefront entry with new frames and thermal low e-glass and new ADA hardware at Princess Anne Elementary School.

#### **E. Monthly Finance Reports**

Ms. Linda Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, presented the monthly reports to the Board and thanked the parents for attending the meeting and sharing their budget priorities with the Board.

#### **Approval of \$3,620,497 Expenditures Report through January 31, 2016**

On the motion of Board Member Wells and a second by Board Member Kuebler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the \$3,620,497 expenditures report for the month of January 2016.

#### **Food Services Report**

Ms. Johnson presented the Food Services Report to the Board. She informed the Board that the negative balance of \$112,290 is due to outstanding reimbursements not yet received.

## **F. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **Personnel Report**

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

On the motion of Board Member Kuebler and a second by Board Member Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Certificated Staffing Report.

### **Professional New Hires:**

Washington Academy & High School ➤ Detia Hilliard – English
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## **SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- Board Member Green-Gale thanked the alternate student board representative for her report. She also thanked the principals and parents for their budget presentations and informed them that their priorities will be taken into consideration.
- Board Member Kuebler stated the Board welcomes parents' input, finds their input very helpful and their concerns will be discussed. He stated that staff are doing a fabulous job and that the Board's concern is all about student achievement and transparency.
- Board Member Wells stated that he was pleased with parents' testimonies regarding budgetary priority requests.
- Vice Chairperson Nicholson thanked Mr. Chris Farrow, former Culinary Arts student, for returning to tell his success story and thanked the community for attending.
- Dr. Gaddis thanked the staff for their presentations and stated that there is a lot of passion for student achievement exhibited throughout the schools. He thanked Mr. Farrow for addressing the Board with his powerful testimony. Dr. Gaddis stated that hearing from a student's prospective, the J.M. Tawes Career and Technology Center's Program has proven to have a phenomenal impact on the success of students. He stated that community support is needed to spread the word to our local elected officials letting them know the great progress Somerset is making toward student achievements.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Board will convene in an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 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 8:30 p.m.

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Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary