

**Minutes of Open Work Session  
Westover, Maryland  
May 09, 2016**

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**TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

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

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Chairperson Warner Sumpter, Vice Chairperson Penny Nicholson, Mr. Dan Kuebler, and Ms. Margo Green-Gale; Superintendent, Dr. John B. Gaddis; Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Tom Davis Director of Schools, Ms. Tracie Bartemy and Ms. Linda Johnson, Chief Finance Officer; Board Attorney Mr. Fulton Jeffers and Miss Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary.

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

**EXECUTIVE MEETING:**

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, **General Provisions Act**, 3-305(b) it was the consensus of opinion of the Board to enter into an Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. for the following reasons:

- To Discuss a Personnel Matter - Section 3-305(b)(1)
- To Discuss a Matter Not Related to Public Business – Section 3-305 (b)(2)
- To Consult with Counsel to Obtain Legal Advice - Section 3-305(b)(7)

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FY2017 BUDGET**

Dr. Gaddis reported that the Senate and House approved the State Governor's budget which includes the restoration of educational funding. The FY2017 SCPS budget will be developed based on the current budget figures.

The Board thoroughly reviewed and discussed each line item of the Proposed Budget.

Dr. Gaddis reported that:

- The State would be providing funding for Pre Kindergarten and Scholars Programs for the FY2018 School Year and Somerset County Public Schools will be having a summer school program this year.

Chairman Sumpter stated that the PSSAM managed to eliminate public school leadership from being required to attend the Board of Public Works Beg-a-thon. At the meeting school superintendents make their cases for more school construction funding, with the hope that their requests will be granted. A House Bill is being put in place to eliminate these actions. He also stated that a new school construction measure will require buildings to last for a total of twenty-five years. Chairman Sumpter informed the Board that a House Bill has been introduced to PSAAM to create an Adequacy Study to evaluate 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Construction.

- There is a Monarch School in Anne Arundel and he invited the Board to accompany him on his visit to the school. He stated that the new J.M. Tawes Career & Technology Center will be the first technical school being built under the State's new guidelines.
- The High Roads Program was funded by a grant which initially paid the costs to run the program. He reported that due to the decrease in funding, the Somerset Promise Academy and the High Roads Program can be combined and duties can be reallocated to SCPS staff to educate the High Roads students. This will eliminate the need to have a separate High Roads Program.
- There are several SCPS buses that need replacement and a three routes are going to be advertised.
- The Comptroller of Maryland will be presenting Deal Island Elementary School the Silver Hammer Award. A school identified to receive this award is one that has demonstrated a commitment to fiscal responsibility through superior school maintenance.

Ms. Linda Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, presented a line by line summary of the Proposed FY2017 School Budget. She reported that:

- The FY2017 Budget has been decreased by \$95,263.00
- The chrome books that the students are using have been working fine and that she would be paying the leasing buyout on those chrome books. The leasing option was not cost effective to the Somerset County School System.
- Dr. Gaddis stated that they would be looking into the cost savings of retiree and resignation salaries by realigning staff responsibilities in areas to be best utilized in the school system.
- A chart of accounts will be developed for each school which will detail the expenditures at the schools. It will also allow Ms. Johnson to actually see what schools are spending. Board Member Kuebler agreed that schools should operate their own budget with the allocated categorized amounts.

The Board continued discussion on the following topics:

- Mr. Davis reported that for the 2016-2017 school year, principals will be required to manually check the ratio of students to teachers to address the issue of students being overpopulated in the classroom.
- Chairman Sumpter stated that Dr. Gaddis should look into government surplus for equipment. He also requested that bus drivers be informed of the fuel refund tax.
- Board Member Kuebler stated that drug testing efforts need to be equally performed on all bus contractors. He also requested that Dr. Gaddis consider using SKYPE for classroom instruction.

The Board continued to discuss and review the presented budget. Ms. Johnson informed the Board that if the government releases fenced in money, SCPS will have a balanced FY2017 Budget. Dr. Gaddis requested to be excused from the June 21, 2106 Board meeting. The Board granted his request and Mr. Davis will lead the June 21, 2016 Board Meeting.

Chairman Sumpter thanked Ms. Johnson and her staff for the budget information. He stated that the document's layout made the information more understandable.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Board Member Kuebler and second by Vice Chairperson Nicholson, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at **1:18 p.m.**

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Dr. John B. Gaddis, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Board Secretary