

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ST. MICHAELS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL
MAY 18, 2011**

**CLOSED SESSION – 4:30 PM – CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION – 7:00 PM – CAFETERIA**

Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum

President Monica Heinsohn called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 4:35 p.m.

Closed Session

Pursuant to Section 10-503 (a) (1) (I) and Section 10-508 (a) (1), (3), (6), (7), and (8) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Ms. Juanita Hopkins, seconded by Mrs. Donna Matthews, it was unanimous to enter into Closed Session at 4:35 p.m. Present were President Monica Heinsohn, Vice President Juanita Hopkins, Board Members Dr. Norman Bowie, Ms. Gloria Farrare, Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger and Mrs. Donna Matthews. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dan Capozzi, Director – Student Programming Kelly Griffith, Board Attorney Rochelle Eisenberg, Mr. Charles Connolly, Finance Director, and Executive Assistant Judy Haddaway.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

Mrs. Matthews moved, Dr. Bowie seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the April 20, 2011 Closed Session Minutes.

Student Appeal

The Board considered a student appeal under “§4-205(c)(3) of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland”. Mrs. Eisenberg will write the decision on behalf of the Board.

Legal Report

Mr. Capozzi and Mrs. Eisenberg presented the Legal Report.

Workers Compensation Claim

Workers Compensation Commission Hearing

Notice of Claim on Behalf of RW

Appeal Under §4-205(c)(3) of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Student Appeal of Suspension

Student Appeal of Suspension

Discussion of Mr. Hollis' letter regarding the amendment to COMAR 13A.06.03.02A

Maintenance of Effort – Legal Ramifications

Development of Press Release

Personnel Report

Mr. Capozzi reviewed and updated the Personnel Report.

Certified Contract Recommendations: Heather Singley, St. Michaels Middle High School;

Patricia Wallace, Easton High School; Zeb Barlow, Easton Elementary School; Other: FY11

Budget Realignment – Salaries and Positions and FY12 Budget Cuts – Positions, Programs,
Services.

Adjournment

Mrs. Kleppinger moved, Ms. Farrare seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn the Closed
Session meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Matthews moved, Dr. Bowie seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the agenda as
amended.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Matthews moved, Dr. Bowie seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the April 20, 2011 Minutes as presented.

Recognition of the Public

Pam Clay – Outstanding Change Agent 2011 – State Award

Mrs. Griffith recognized Mrs. Clay as the Maryland State Department of Education Career and Technology Outstanding Change Agent 2011.

Linda Brown – National Award

Mrs. Pam Clay recognized Mrs. Brown as the 2010 Maryland Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of The Year who was featured at the state meeting in spring of 2010. Mrs. Brown was notified by the national organization that she had been selected as the National Merit American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year for 2011 (second place). As a top winner, she will be recognized at a special banquet at the national conference in Phoenix, AZ, where she will also be a presenter.

Talbot County Public Schools' 2011 Teacher of the Year

Dr. Salmon introduced Mrs. Angela Asmussen to the Board. She will represent Talbot County Public Schools as the 2011 Teacher of the Year. Dr. Salmon presented her with a certificate which stated: "Teacher of the Year – Awarded to Angela Asmussen for outstanding service and dedication. Thank you for continuing our tradition of excellence. You are our shining star! May 18, 2011."

2011 Service Learning Awards

Mrs. Angel recognized Jazmine Gibson (927 hours) and Alex Milutinovich (782 hours) as Talbot County Public Schools 2011 Service Learning Stars. Other students recognized for over

500 independent service hours were: Brianna Butler, Jennifer Swaine, Ashley Chroniger, Matthew Dulin, Tyler Heim, Kelly Schumacher, Shelby Swann!

Student Recognition

Dr. Salmon congratulated Emma Keswick. Ms. Keswick has been selected as a Congress-Bundestag Scholar for the 2011-2012 school year. She will live and study in Germany for ten months on a full scholarship funded by the U. S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. Ms. Keswick, who will be a junior next year, will gain world-views of current affairs and German social, economic and political life. Congress-Bundestag students are youth ambassadors of the United States, sharing their life and culture with their German hosts and building greater understanding of the United States and its diversity.

Mrs. Teresa Langluttig spoke in support of the NJROTC Program.

Mr. Larry Keyser resubmitted five questions that had been presented to the Board at the last meeting. He resubmitted the five questions under the Freedom of Information Act.

New Business

Service Learning Quality Review

Recently, the Maryland State Department of Education conducted a quality review of the TCPS revised Service Learning program. Mrs. Sue Angel shared the commendations and recommendations sent from the state.

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Mid-Term Review Reports

Mrs. Griffith presented each of the Talbot County Public Schools with the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Mid-Term Reports results. All Talbot County schools were commended for their work and approved for mid-point review of accreditation.

Special Education Monitoring

Mrs. Griffith updated the Board on the monitoring visit of all Talbot County Schools by the MSDE. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA) addresses state accountability on Part B indicators defined in the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) State Performance Plan. OSEP evaluates each state's performance on these indicators.

The IDEA also requires states to assign these same levels of determination to each local school system. Based on FY 2009 data, as well as information obtained through monitoring and complaint investigations, the Talbot County Public Schools (TCPS) system has received the rating of **Meets Requirements**. MSDE stated, "Congratulations on your hard work and commitment to excellence."

Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) 2011 Update

Mr. Capozzi presented this year's update of the EFMP for the Talbot County Public Schools 2011 Update – Board of Education of Talbot County. This document is an excellent resource for all data relating to facilities, grounds, and the enrollment statistics and trends for the next decade. Also included is historical data for the past ten years. It is submitted for Board review in preparation for approval at the June Board Meeting. Copies were distributed at the Board Meeting. Mrs. Matthews requested the number of hours it took to prepare this document from Mr. Capozzi.

Athletic Director Survey

Mrs. Matthews moved, Ms. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to remove the Athletic Director Survey from the agenda.

Unfinished Business

10.33 Policy to Address Gangs, Gang Activity, and Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior

Mrs. Matthews moved, Dr. Bowie seconded, and it was unanimous to adopt 10.33 Policy to Address Gangs, Gang Activity, and Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior.

Race to the Top (RTTT) Update

Mrs. Griffith presented the monthly Race to the Top update. The U. S. Department of Education has recently approved Maryland's State and local RTTT Scopes of Work. With this approval Maryland's \$250 million RTTT grant is now fully available. Mrs. Griffith shared that in the reform area of providing strategic help for struggling schools, Maryland's Breakthrough Center program has made progress in several key areas. Beginning this summer and continuing through 2014, MSDE will be conducting Educator Effectiveness Academies. Maryland is currently developing a new State curriculum with guidance from Maryland teachers, administrators, and higher education representatives. Mrs. Matthews requested the number of staff hours that have been used to meet this state mandated program.

FY12 Budget Cuts

Dr. Salmon shared four letters sent to the Talbot County Council in support of funding the legally required Maintenance of Effort level (Board of Education of Talbot County, PTO's from each school, the Talbot County Education Association, and the Citizens Advisory Committee).

Dr. Salmon read the following Press Release developed by the Board and Senior Staff:

"The Board of Education discussed the County Council's April Budget Letter, which stated that the Board of Education's FY12 Budget would not be funded at the Maintenance of Effort level. Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is the minimal amount legally required for funding school systems. When the school system does not receive Maintenance Of Effort funding, it means the County Council is providing less money to the Board of Education than was provided the year before, despite increases in cost of living expenses.

The County's proposed education funding for FY12 is \$1.8 million below the legally required Maintenance of Effort level. Before these cuts, the Talbot County Public Schools were already funded second from the bottom in the State in per pupil funding.

If the Talbot County Council fails to comply with the Education Law, the following measures have been proposed by the Board of Education:

Staff Position Cuts:

12 Instructional Positions

3 Support Positions

6 Mid-Level Administration Positions

This represents a total of 21 staff positions eliminated resulting in an overall budget cut of \$1,475,717.

Additional reductions include the elimination of Summer School, cuts to Extra Curricular Activities, and the institution of a "pay to play" athletic program resulting in cuts of \$490,110. The total cuts mandated by the County Council of \$1,926,827 would be realized after unemployment costs are deducted.

The Board of Education deeply regrets having to make the cuts, which are the result of reduced funding from the County Council. All schools will be severely impacted by these proposed cuts. As reported by *The Center for Public Education* (10/7/2010):

When districts have to lay off teachers, eliminate professional development opportunities, reduce support services, and end effective programs, students are bound to suffer.

Talbot County Public Schools is currently operating on its third year of a "Maintenance of Effort" (receiving level funding) budget. This means that our students do not have the same supports for their education that students in other counties have.

Of special note: Talbot Schools have already returned more than \$1.5 million to the County Council in recent yearly fund balances and savings on capital projects."

NJROTC Update

Mr. Capozzi provided an update on a meeting held with Lt. Commander Hammond, representatives from MEBA and Mr. Stofa. He also summarized the information received from Jeanne-Marie Holly, Program Manager, CTE Systems Branch, MSDE, which explains why JROTC programs are not considered Career Technology Education completer programs.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Kleppinger moved, Dr. Bowie seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the Personnel Report as reviewed and updated in Closed Session.

Monthly Budget Update

Mr. Connolly presented the Monthly Budget Update. Dr. Bowie moved, Ms. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to request a budget amendment from the Talbot County Council to transfer \$446,302 from Transportation and \$302,478 from Operation of Plant to the Fixed Charges to cover the health insurance shortfall.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent briefly highlighted the following:

1. Eastern Shore MESA Winners
2. TCPS High Schools Online Publication
3. The Pet Care Trust
4. Annual Eastern Shore Superintendents and Board Members Retreat
5. Star Democrat Article – Budget hearing – Parents, teachers back school funding
6. Email from Student
7. Democratic Forum Position on FY12 Budget
8. Monthly Attendance Update

Board Members' Reports/Remarks

Ms. TeShayla Simmons congratulated Mrs. Clay, Mrs. Brown, and Miss Keswick on their recognition.

Ms. Farrare thanked Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Brown for their dedication to students; thanked TeShayla Simmons for serving as the Student Board Member; congratulated Dr. Heaston on earning her Doctorate; congratulated all of the Student Service Stars; congratulated Emma Keswick on her awesome scholarship to Germany; congratulated all schools on their Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Mid-Term Reports; and congratulated the Special

Education Department on the results which stated, “Congratulations on your hard work and commitment to excellence.”

Dr. Bowie extended congratulations to all who had been recognized. He wished TeShalya Simmons well at Morgan State University. For the record, Dr. Bowie stated his personal feelings and not those of the other Board Members. He stated, “The Board may not be a very popular group; they have been elected - maybe some or all of us should be replaced. Be careful what you wish for; there are certain things the Board cannot change: The Board supported an amendment to have students play a sport if the sport is not offered at their home school and were voted down by the State Board of Controls; the Maryland State Department of Education has not approved any ROTC programs as CTE completers, any form of RTOC is not a state approved CTC Completer Program as stated in COMAR as one means of obtaining a high school diploma. The Talbot County Board of Education did not decide that the NJRTOC is not considered a career path; I was concerned over why we were introducing a gang policy when we do not have gang behavior in our schools and found out that the State mandated that all counties adopt a gang policy; and, another example, the mandated program Race To The Top, which is a lot of work for a little amount of money was cast upon us.”

Mrs. Kleppinger congratulated the Service Learning Stars, Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Matthews congratulated all the staff and students who were recognized; she attributed the accomplishment to a fine staff. She commended Dr. Salmon, Mr. Capozzi, Mrs. Griffith, Dr. Heaston, Mr. Connolly, and Mrs. Haddaway on their hard work dealing with the Maintenance of Effort issue. She wished TeShayla good luck in the future.

Mrs. Heinsohn stated that serving on the Board is not a popularity contest. She clarified the sports issue of attending one school and playing sports for another – a state rule, not a Talbot

County policy. She also stated that St. Michaels is not at full capacity (approximately 65%) and Easton High is at full capacity – that is why St. Michaels has an open enrollment and Easton does not have an open enrollment. She assured the NJROTC of the Board’s support and that the Board is trying to find a way to hire a second instructor. In closing she stated that she was very disturbed about an article in the newspaper stating that Board Members could be replaced and she wanted to reiterate that all elected officials could be replaced.

Adjournment

Mrs. Kleppinger moved, Mrs. Matthews seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.