

**TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
ST. MICHAELS MIDDLE HIGH  
JULY 5, 2011**

**CLOSED SESSION – 5:00 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 5:00 p.m.

**Closed Session**

Pursuant to Section 10-503 (a) (1) (I) and Section 10-508 (a) (1), (3), (7), and (8) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Mr. Robert Burris, seconded by Mrs. Donna Matthews, it was unanimous to enter into Closed Session at 5:15 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 Board Attorney Rochelle Eisenberg, Executive Assistants Gayle Secrist and Judy Haddaway.

**Student Appeals**

The Board discussed and voted on two Student Suspension Appeals. The students' parents will receive a written decision from the Board Attorney within a few weeks. Following the appeals, Dr. Salmon and Dr. Heaston joined the Closed Session.

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes**

Mrs. Matthews moved, Mrs. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the June 15, 2011 minutes.

### **Legal Report**

Dr. Salmon and Mrs. Eisenberg reviewed the following:

Workers Compensation Claim  
Workers Compensation Commission Hearing  
Special Education Case Easton Elementary School  
Notice of Claim on Behalf of Student

### **Personnel Report**

Dr. Salmon distributed a revised Personnel Report as follows:

Certified Contract Recommendations: Alison Keener, Easton High School; Leave of Absence: Jennifer Saunders, Easton Elementary School; Other: Michael Butler and Lakisha Sampson, Easton Elementary School; and Request to transfer Assistant Superintendent of Support Services position to a certified position – Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

Dr. Salmon presented a letter to President Heinsohn with copies to Members of the Board and Mr. Connolly, Director of Finance, declining the raise dictated in her contract for the 2011-2012 school year.

### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Matthews moved, Mrs. Kleppinger seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn the Closed Session Meeting at 6:50 p.m.

### **Regular Meeting**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **Approval of Agenda**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Matthews moved, Mrs. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the June 15, 2011 minutes.

## **Recognition of the Public**

### **Dr. Kelly Lane**

Dr. Lane, School Psychologist, was recognized by the Board, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Kelly Griffith for receiving a Doctorate of Psychology. Dr. Lane received her Doctorate from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

### **Judy Haddaway**

Mrs. Haddaway was recognized for 30 years of dedicated service to Talbot County Public Schools.

## **New Business**

### **Talbot County Public High Schools Online Publication**

With the help of technology, Dr. Salmon shared a newly created online student newspaper. Students will post articles on this site, which is housed on the student resource page that they access daily on their laptops. Mrs. Annie Livingstone (SMMHS) and Mrs. Terry Callahan (EHS) will provide the leadership for this new publication.

The Superintendent also noted an online summer reading program implemented by Mr. Tom Callahan, Curriculum Specialist.

### **Online Excellence By Design**

Dr. Salmon reviewed the first online *Excellence By Design*. To date she reported that the site had received 1,475 hits. This technology saved the Board approximately \$7,000 in printing and postage costs. Dr. Salmon thanked all of the businesses that advertised in the publication. Hard copies are available upon request.

### **Request for Proposals for a Contract for the Capital Improvement**

Mr. Connolly presented the Request for Proposals dated July 5, 2011. It seeks proposals for the provision of professional consulting and planning services including, but not limited to facility strategic planning, development of educational specifications required for school construction projects, development of the annual Maryland Public School Construction Program Facility Master Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan. Dr. Bowie moved, Ms. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the Request for Proposals.

### **Educator Effectiveness Academies**

Dr. Heaston reviewed a summary of the material covered at the Educator Effectiveness Academy held June 27-29 at Queen Anne's County High School. Seven of our eight school teams have completed the academy for the summer. School teams have six weeks to finalize their plans that delineate how the academy information will be shared with the rest of the staff.

### **Cohort/Graduation Rate**

The cohort and graduation rates will be calculated differently this year. Dr. Heaston explained that all states are required to report graduation rates in the same manner that is a method called the Adjusted Cohort Rate. She indicated that in all cases Talbot County Public Schools' data exceeds the rate of the State of Maryland.

### **2.3 Ethics Policy**

Mrs. Griffith presented the revised Ethics Policy to the Board on first reader. The revised policy mirrors the new state requirements. Some Board Members expressed concern over the reporting requirements. Mrs. Eisenberg agreed that it is an onerous new law; however, one with which the Board must comply.

### **2012 FARM'S Data**

Dr. Heaston provided information about the tentative 2012 FARMS (Free and Reduced Price Meals) numbers. A new formula for determining eligibility for FARMS may impact federal funding. The percentage of students receiving free and reduced price meals in the school system rose from 35.9 percent at the beginning of the year to 40.7 percent by the end of the year. She concluded by stating, "Poverty does impact achievement. We are looking at, again, decreased resources and more needs as we go toward next year."

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **County Council Capital Fund Balance**

Mr. Connolly reviewed the Talbot County Council's Committed Capital Fund Balance and the Capital Fund Activity During FY2011. He indicated that a total of \$2.2M was available and undesignated.

#### **Race to the Top Monthly Update**

Dr. Heaston presented the monthly Race to the Top Update. Funding was dropped that would have hired a social worker for Easton Middle School. The money from this project has been redirected to improve the funding of two other projects. A data technician has been funded solely through this grant. Funds have been added to the technology project because elementary and middle school needs are great in order to implement the online assessment system the State is proposing.

#### **Calendar Adjustment**

The 2011 – 2012 school calendar has been modified to reflect the reduced number of teacher workdays due to the table agreement with TCEA. Dr. Bowie moved, Mr. Burris seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the 2011-2012 school calendar.

## **Personnel Report**

Dr. Bowie moved, Mr. Burris seconded, and the Personnel Report was approved.

## **Monthly Budget Update**

The monthly budget update was not available due to the early date of the July Board meeting and the volume of end of year closing out transactions. The June and July reports will be available at the August Board meeting.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **9.14 AR Administrative Rules and Regulations for Interscholastic Sports**

Dr. Salmon reviewed the proposed changes made to 9.14 AR Administrative Rules and Regulations for Interscholastic Sports. Ms. Hopkins referred to III. New Sports Programs J. and IV. Discontinuation of Programs, indicating that both should read approval by the Superintendent and Board of Education. Ms. Hopkins moved, Mr. Burris seconded, Mrs. Matthews abstained, and it was approved to make the additions to 9.14 AR Administrative Rules and Regulations for Interscholastic Sports.

### **Maryland Council Issues Recommendations For A Statewide Educator Evaluation System – State Receives Federal Approval for Two-Year Pilot**

Dr. Salmon reviewed the press release received from the Maryland State Department of Education. The Maryland Council for Educator Effectiveness gave approval to initial recommendations for a Statewide Educator Evaluation System. This system will be piloted for both teachers and principals in seven school systems this fall, piloted Statewide in the fall of 2012, and fully operational in the fall of 2013 (Talbot was not chosen to pilot this fall).

### **Thank You Note to Board**

Dr. Salmon shared a thank you note from student Emma Keswick. Miss Keswick was recognized at a previous Board Meeting for receiving a scholarship to study in Germany for the 2011-2012 school year.

### **Year to Date Attendance**

Talbot County Public Schools' year to date attendance is 94.66, which is a slight improvement from last year and remains above the state average.

### **Board Members' Reports/Remarks**

Dr. Bowie thanked Ms. Hopkins for representing the Board at the MABE Conference on June 24, 2011. He also thanked Mrs. Haddaway for her past 30 dedicated years of service to TCPS.

Mrs. Matthews thanked Mrs. Haddaway and wished her well on retirement. She commented on her concerns regarding the financial reporting requirements of the new Ethics Policy. She voiced her opinion in reference to the overwhelming demands on the school system related to required reports and audits.

Mr. Burris expressed his hope that Mrs. Haddaway would enjoy retirement and that she will be missed. He also congratulated Dr. Lane for her achievement.

Mrs. Kleppinger echoed Mr. Burris' remarks about Mrs. Haddaway. She encouraged everyone to attend the parade honoring the St. Michaels High School Baseball Champions.

Ms. Hopkins welcomed Mrs. Secrist. She shared that the new Ethics Policy was discussed at the MABE Conference and that concerns were expressed that the policy would discourage potential candidates/appointees. She commended Dr. Salmon and staff on the online publication.

Mrs. Heinsohn stated she will miss Mrs. Haddaway but is positive that Mrs. Secrist can fill her shoes. She thanked Senior Staff for completing additional tasks that have been added to their

job descriptions. She concluded by stating that TCPS cannot shut their doors because of less funding, they are obligated to educate everyone.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Burris moved, Mrs. Matthews seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn at 8:25 pm.