

**TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ST. MICHAELS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 16, 2011**

**CLOSED SESSION – 5:00 PM – CONFERENCE ROOM
WORK SESSION – 6:00 PM - CAFETERIA
REGULAR SESSION – 7:00 PM - CAFETERIA**

Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum – 5:00 PM

Mrs. Monica Heinsohn called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 5:00 p.m.

Closed Session

Pursuant to Section 1—503 (a) (I) (I) and Section 10-508 (a) (1), (3), (6) and (7) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Ms. Juanita Hopkins, seconded by Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger, it was unanimous to enter into Closed Session at 5:05 p.m. Present were President Monica Heinsohn, Vice President Ms. Juanita Hopkins, Board Members Ms. Gloria Farrare, Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger and Mr. Robert Burris. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon, Assistant Superintendents Mrs. Kelly Griffith and Dr. Pam Heaston, Executive Assistant Gayle Secrist, and Board Attorney Rochelle Eisenberg.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

Mr. Robert Burris moved and Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger seconded, and it was unanimous to approve Closed Session Minutes for October 19, 2011.

Legal Report

Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Eisenberg presented the following report:

Workers Compensation Claim
Notice of Claim on Behalf of Student
Student Appeals of Suspension
Subpoena request for information
4-205 Appeals
Parent Request

Personnel Report

Mrs. Griffith distributed a revised Personnel Report as follows:

Leave of absence: Rebecca Cerritos, Sara Hopper Easton Middle School.

Classified hires: Ronald Beasley, Jr. and Donald Thrift, Bus Drivers Talbot Education Center.

Adjournment

Mr. Robert Burris moved, Ms. Gloria Farrare seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn the Closed Session Meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Work Session

Special Education staff presented an overview of Special Education programs, interventions and training. It was noted that 377 students are provided services this year, 11 less than last year. Federal funds have been significantly reduced.

The following areas were presented: Michelle Steelman – Infant and Toddler; Christine Redman – Reading Intervention/Technology/Training; Anne McCaulley – Behavior Counseling; and Heather Wallace – Transition to Work.

Regular Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Robert Burris moved, Ms. Juanita Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Robert Burris moved, Ms. Juanita Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the October 19, 2011 minutes.

Recognition of the Public

Calhoon M.E.B.A.

Dr. Salmon and Mr. Tom Callahan recognized the Calhoon M.E.B.A. Engineering School Director, Mr. Chuck Eser for allowing TCPS students to use the indoor pool at their facility for the annual third grade Water Safety Program. This service was provided free of charge.

NJROTC Cadets

Dr. Salmon and Commander Jon Hammond introduced the NJROTC cadets who attended a summer leadership conference. The cadets (Nathan DeGuzman, Kelsey Shull, Chris Doyle, Amber Zink, John Collins, Hall Jump and Nick White) spoke briefly about their experiences.

Easton FFA National team Bronze emblem winners

Dr. Salmon and Mrs. Beth Majchrzak recognized EHS students (Emily Carney, Royce Geist, Tyler Majchrzak, and Angel Powell) who were members of the award winning team at the 84th National FFA Convention.

Recognition of School Volunteers

Dr. Salmon and Mrs. Tracy Elzey recognized community members Gillian Wyman, Sara Walker and Kathleen Frankie, who volunteer at SMES.

Recognition of Dr. Karen Salmon – 2012 Superintendent of the Year

President Monica Heinsohn recognized Dr. Salmon for receiving the 2012 Superintendent of the Year award for the state of Maryland. President Heinsohn read parts of her nomination letter; a video of congratulations by students was played.

New Business

Maintenance of Effort Amendments

Dr. Salmon reviewed the proposed amendments for which The Maryland Association of Boards of Education is urging support.

Appointment of Ethics Panel Members

Dr. Salmon recommended reappointment of David Weise to another three-year term on the TCPS Ethics Panel. She also recommended the appointment of Bertha Wilson to replace Dorothy Palmer for a three-year term on the TCPS Ethics Panel. Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger moved, Mr. Robert Burris seconded and it was unanimous to approve the appointments.

State Rated Capacity and Enrollment Trends

Mrs. Griffith discussed state rated capacities and enrollment trends for TCPS. She cited the impact of redistricting.

Trend Data for Free and Reduced Priced Meals (FARMS)

Mrs. Griffith reviewed FARMS trend data. She noted that not one school has less than 30% of student population classified as FARMS. Easton Elementary is at 50.5%.

Dr. Salmon noted studies reflect that poverty impacts achievement.

Trend Data for Student/Staff Ratio

Mrs. Griffith presented trend data for ratio of students to certified staff. She noted that we have more students and less staff. Fact Book comparisons to Worcester County reflect that TCPS would need to hire over 200 teachers to have a similar ratio of students to certified staff.

Math Transition Plan for Common Core

Dr. Heaston discussed the Math transition plan for Common Core. Mrs. Kleppinger questioned whether new textbooks would be needed in the lower grades and Mrs. Heinsohn questioned why Pre-Calc was not in the documents.

Approval of bid for Water Heater Replacement at Easton Elementary Moton Building

Mr. Connolly recommended approval of a bid to replace the water heater at the Easton Elementary Moton Building. Mrs. Kleppinger questioned the labor costs and Ms. Hopkins asked about the warranty. Mrs. Kleppinger moved, Mr. Burris seconded and it was unanimous to approve the bid proposal.

Unfinished Business

Race to the Top Monthly Update

Dr. Heaston presented the monthly Race To the Top Update. She noted that Master Plan timelines are being met. The Principal/Teacher evaluation system is currently on track. Members of the development group include Dr. Heaston, Mrs. Griffith, Dr. Donmoyer and Mr. Burke.

Policy 7.5 Staff Criminal Background Check - Second Reader

Mrs. Griffith reviewed Policy 7.5 in second reader. There were no comments; the

policy will proceed to third reader.

Whiting-Turner Contract for Head Start Project

Mrs. Griffith reviewed the Whiting-Turner contract for the Head Start Project and recommended approval. Mr. Burris moved, Ms. Hopkins seconded and it was unanimous to approve Whiting-Turner as the contractor.

Policy 2.3 Code of Ethics

Mrs. Griffith updated the Board on the decision of the State Ethics Commission. The Commission will not approve removal of the “copying” language from the policy. The language was changed to the original wording and Mrs. Griffith recommended approval. President Heinsohn requested a roll call vote: voting in favor were Ms. Farrare, Mrs. Kleppinger, Mrs. Heinsohn and Mr. Burris – Ms. Hopkins abstained. The motion to adopt Policy 2.3 Code of Ethics was approved.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Griffith recommended approval of the Personnel Report. Mrs. Kleppinger moved, Mrs. Farrare seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the Personnel Report.

Monthly Budget Update

Mr. Connolly reported on October financials.

Superintendent’s Report

Letter from Executive Director of Avalon Foundation

Dr. Salmon shared a letter from Alexander Bond, Executive Director of the Avalon

Foundation, related to a presentation of Preservation Hall Jazz Band, as part of its outreach initiative. The Avalon Foundation has planned 4 performances of this nature for this school year in conjunction with school workshops by the same performers.

Letter from Tim Kagan

Dr. Salmon shared a letter from Tim Kagan complimenting the Career Path Initiative, a program developed by TCPS, Rotary and the Y of the Chesapeake. The first phase is a Career Fair that will take place at the Y. If the program works well, it will be introduced to the St. Michaels Rotary.

Maryland State Retirement and Pension System

Dr. Salmon shared a press release that indicates an excellent return on investments for the fiscal year that just ended June 30, 2011. The return of 20.04% far exceeded the assumed 7.5% and resulted in a total gain of 6 billion dollars.

Master Plan Update to County Council

Dr. Salmon noted that the 2011 Bridge to Excellence Master Plan Update was sent to the Talbot County Council and that Dr. Heaston shared a power point presentation of the Master Plan with the County Council at their meeting on 11/8/2011.

ACE Mentor Program on Today Show

Utilizing the TCPS website, Dr. Salmon highlighted a recent segment (October 24th) on the Today Show that describes the achievements of Charles Thornton and the ACE Mentor Program. Easton High School students Scott Bell, Ryan Goldberg and Rachel Whiting appeared in the segment.

October Student Attendance

Dr. Salmon updated the Board on student attendance rates for the month of October.

Common Ground Video

Dr. Salmon played a video that promotes the upcoming statewide Common Ground Conference. (April 20, 2012) Joanne Laskowski and Eric Mosley developed the video, which is being used across the entire state to advertise the conference.

Ramifications of Expiration of the Tax Relief Act 2010

Dr. Salmon apprised the Board that unless provisions of the Tax Relief Act of 2010 are extended by Congress, we will return to the 6.2% withholding rate on January 1, 2012, which is a 2% increase in employee deductions for taxes. This will be in addition to the increased pension costs already experienced by staff this year. Dr. Salmon plans to draft a letter to members of congress in support of an extension.

Dirck Bartlett letter to the editor

Dr. Salmon noted a letter submitted to the Star Democrat from a member of the Talbot County Council.

Policy 10.2 – AR Student Attendance

Dr. Salmon updated the Board on changes to the Student Attendance policy administrative regulations.

Maryland Leadership Workshops

Dr. Salmon highlighted a letter received from Conner Dorbin related to his participation in Maryland Leadership Workshops at Washington College.

December Holiday Concerts

Dr. Salmon noted the Holiday Concerts from the various schools taking place in December.

Pennies for Polio

Dr. Salmon reported that a total of \$6,508.13 was raised by TCPS in the Pennies for Polio campaign.

Board Members' Reports/Remarks

Mr. Robert Burris thanked NJROTC for the outstanding Veterans Day program and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Juanita Hopkins thanked Calhoun M.E.B.A. for use of their pool and also for the help they have provided to NJROTC. She encouraged all board members to review the "green sheet" from MABE each Friday and to keep track of proposed amendments and maintenance of effort legislation. She wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and congratulated Dr. Salmon on her achievement.

Ms. Michaela Beggins, student member, noted that she has received feedback from students attending college that the laptop program at TCPS provided a great advantage for them.

Ms. Gloria Farrare thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She stated that the Special Education presentation was especially informative. She thanked Calhoun M.E.B.A. for the use of the pool and support of NJROTC. She congratulated NJROTC cadets and commented on the important role of grants. She mentioned that the bank was happy to receive all the pennies! She expressed her congratulations to Dr. Salmon on her award and thanked her for her dedication. Happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger commented on the Special Education work session and how amazing it is to see all the services provided to these children. She congratulated Dr. Salmon and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Monica Heinsohn congratulated FFA and thanked Special Education staff for their excellent presentation.

Adjournment

Mr. Robert Burris moved, Ms. Junaita Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.