

**TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
EASTON HIGH SCHOOL
JUNE 15, 2011
CLOSED SESSION – 5:15 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 5:15 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 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 Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon, Board Attorney Rochelle Eisenberg, Administrative Assistant Kari Overington, and Executive Assistant Judy Haddaway who arrived at 6:25 p.m.

Mrs. Heinsohn announced the two student appeals had been rescheduled for July 5, 2011.

July 5, 2011 Board Meeting

Mrs. Heinsohn informed the Board that Mrs. Eisenberg would be unable to attend the July 13, 2011 Board Meeting. Following a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to change the meeting date to July 5, 2011, at St. Michaels Middle High School.

Board Retreat

Due to the change of the July Board Meeting, the Annual Board Retreat was rescheduled for August 17, 2011. The Retreat will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Talbot County Education Center. It

was also discussed and decided to move the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation to the August Board Meeting.

Student Appeal

After hearing a student appeal under “§4-205(c)(3) of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland” at the May 18, 2011 Board Meeting, Board Members signed the decision. (Mr. Burris was absent when the appeal was heard.)

Mrs. Eisenberg led a dialogue relative to the misuse of email. A lengthy discussion ensued. No action was taken.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

Mrs. Matthews moved, Mrs. Kleppinger seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the May 18, 2011 Closed Session Minutes.

Legal Report

Dr. Salmon and Mrs. Eisenberg presented the Legal Report.

Workers Compensation Claim
Workers Compensation Commission Hearing
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

Personnel Report

Dr. Salmon reviewed and updated the Personnel Report.

Certified Terminations: Shannon Hinman – released from contract; Certified Contract

Recommendations: Robert Blackwell, Aaron Morrida, Easton High School; Joanna Cain, Easton Elementary School; Shawn Leffler, White Marsh Elementary School; Leave of Absence: Jolyn Thompson, Chapel District School; Heather Orr, Easton Elementary School; Callie Chester,

Easton Middle School, Vicki Gramil and Cheryl Long, Elementary Teachers; Other: TCEA Table Agreement; Eliminated Positions for FY12: Administrative Intern, St. Michaels Middle/High; Mathematics Teacher, Social Studies Teacher, Easton High; Media Specialist, Easton Elementary; Physical Education Teacher, Easton Middle; Reading Intervention Teacher, Easton Middle; FY12 Budget Cuts – Positions, Programs, Services.

Regular Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2011

Ms. Farrare moved, Mrs. Matthews seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the June 15, 2011 minutes as presented.

Recognition of the Public

Brian Femi

Mr. Femi was recognized for being an inductee into the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches' Hall of Fame at Oriole Park at Camden Yards and for coaching the St. Michaels High School Class 1A State Champions for the last three out of four years. Mr. Burris also presented Mr. Femi with a prestigious 15-Year Certificate from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association for outstanding leadership.

St. Michaels High School Baseball Team

Members of the St. Michaels High School Baseball Team and coaches were recognized for becoming the Class 1A State Champions. The Saints have won this title three out of the last four years.

Easton High School Softball Team

Members of the Easton High School Softball Team and coaches were recognized for becoming the Class 2A State Champions. The Warriors have won this title six times since 2000.

EHS Tennis Athletes

Kristen Treat, Sarah Potosnak and Abby Tondin were recognized for participating in the MPSSAA State Tennis Championships.

MD State Class 2-A High Jump Champion

Calvin Murray was recognized as the Maryland State High Jump Champion (6'5"). Other Track and Field participants in the State Championships were: Lyric Seymore, A.J. Gibson, Craig Williams, JaHad Mills, Bambo Fofana, and Angela Saddler.

Certificates were presented to all athletes.

TeShayla Simmons

On behalf of the Board, the Superintendent presented TeShayla with a \$200 gift card to the Morgan State Book Store to thank her for her service as the 2010-2011 Student Board Member.

New Business

Local Application for Special Education Federal Funds

Mrs. Kristin Mentges, Coordinator of Special Education, presented the Local Application for Special Education Federal Funds. Mrs. Matthews moved, Dr. Bowie seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the Local Application for Special Education Federal Funds.

Resolution Concerning Regulatory Relief for American's Schools

The Superintendent shared a copy of the American Association of School Administrators Resolution Concerning Regulatory Relief for American's Schools. Mr. Burriss moved, Dr. Bowie seconded, and it was unanimous for President Heinsohn, on behalf of the Board, and Dr. Salmon

to sign a Resolution supporting the Regulatory Relief for American's Schools. The Resolution will be sent to the U.S. Secretary of Education and Members of Congress.

Talbot County Board Of Education Meeting Schedule 2011-2012

Mr. Burris moved, Mrs. Matthews seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the Talbot County Board Of Education Meeting Schedule 2011-2012. The schedule will be posted on the www.talbotschools.org website.

Pension Reform

A letter written by Thomas A. Carr, President of MABE, which opposes Senator Miller's proposal to shift a significant portion of the state's teachers' pension costs to local governments as a good fiscal and public policy was discussed. Dr. Salmon also highlighted portions of a letter written to Governor Martin O'Malley from Senator Miller regarding the pension reform.

Summer Reading/Writing Assignments in English Courses

Dr. Heaston presented information about the increased expectations for student writing this year. She also discussed the Secondary Suggested Summer Reading list.

Theatre Guidelines

Dr. Heaston presented a brief overview of the Theatre Guidelines, which were created with the assistance of principals and drama teachers. Dr. Heaston explained the need for establishing the guidelines was for consistency throughout the school system.

Update on Fine Arts Grant

Dr. Heaston discussed the fiscal implications of the reduction of money awarded to Talbot County Public Schools (TCPS) for art education. TCPS' funding from the Maryland State Department of Education – Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel has dropped from \$25,603 in FY07 to \$2,188 in FY12; a 91% decrease in funding.

Unfinished Business

Race to the Top Update

Dr. Heaston presented the monthly Race to the Top Update. She explained that the State has combined the Master Plan and the Race to the Top update. The year two Race to the Top portion of the Master Plan must include a checklist that outlines month by month the steps we will take to achieve our goals.

FY12 Revised Budget

Dr. Salmon presented the FY12 Revised Budget for Board approval. She briefly discussed a press release without mentioning personnel decisions due to the fact that specific personnel would not be notified until the following morning. The press release will be sent to the newspaper after members of the staff have been contacted. Dr. Salmon stated, “The cut of \$2M will have an impact on our school system that will have a lasting affect.”

She briefly highlighted correspondence received from County Manager John Craig and the response received from Mr. Craig relative to the Board’s request to transfer funds. Mr. Connolly attended the County Council meeting on Tuesday, June 14 to address questions about the transfer. Following a discussion about the budget, Mrs. Matthews moved, Mr. Burris seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the FY12 Revised Budget.

Dr. Bowie shared his concern for the loss of after-school programs, summer school, environmental education, the Echo Hill outdoor education experience (5th grade program), etc.; no implementation of elementary foreign language and the fact that TCPS only offers ten Advanced Placement courses. He stated to the Superintendent that he would like to locate the funds to continue the Echo Hill program; she assured him that staff would be researching grants to obtain funds.

Dr. Bowie voiced his opinion that the County Council and the School Board should communicate more openly. He stated that when the budget process begins, it would be important for the County and School Board to sit down and have a mutual conversation; an effort has to be made to have a dialogue. Mrs. Heinsohn reminded the Board that meetings between the Board and the County Council had been held this past year.

Mrs. Matthews addressed the Star Democrat article that stated the Board of Education had waited until the end of June to request a fund transfer. She clarified that when the Board met with the County Council in January (on Bay Street) a discussion was held about the issue with health insurance. She stated her concern over the drastic cuts that the County Council has made to the Board of Education's budget. The question was asked, what if a major boiler explodes? Mr. Connolly explained that the Board would have to go back to the Council and ask for the funding. Mrs. Matthews thanked Dr. Salmon, Dr. Heaston, Mr. Connolly, and Mrs. Griffith for working so diligently on the budget.

Facilities Master Plan

Mrs. Matthews moved, Mr. Burris seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the Educational Facilities Master Plan for the Talbot County Public Schools – 2011 Update. Mrs. Matthews also commended the staff that worked on the Facilities Master Plan and stated that the Board will probably have to redistrict again due to the continuing growth in the Easton schools. Dr. Salmon answered Mrs. Matthews question from the last Board meeting; it took approximately 40 hours to complete the Facilities Master Plan.

Personnel Report

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Burris moved, Mrs. Matthews seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the Personnel Report as presented and updated in Closed Session.

Monthly Budget Update

Mr. Connolly presented the Monthly Budget Update.

Federal Grants Update

Mr. Connolly briefly updated the Board on the status of Federal Grants. He reported that funds through the Federal Government have been reduced drastically: IDEA - \$28,720 less; Perkins Grant - \$10,220 less; Title IIA - \$35,479 less; this represents approximately \$70,000 less in federal programs.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent briefly highlighted the following:

- *Learning Leadership* by Daniel A. Domenich
- Update on Linda Seymour - St. Michaels graduate
- 2011 Best Schools in America
- Agenda for the Annual Eastern Shore Superintendents and Board Members Retreat - July 7, 2011
- *Public Schools Charge Kids for Basics, Frills* (The Wall Street Journal)
- Building African American Minds Brochure (BAAM)
- Year to Date Attendance
- Miles River Sail and Power Squadron
- ACE Mentor News
- Supporting What Works for Rural Education - Senator Barbara Milkulski
- Maryland Public Schools – Preparing World-Class Students – State of Education 2011

Board Members' Reports/Remarks

All Board Members wished Mrs. Haddaway a happy and healthy retirement and thanked her for her 30 plus years of dedication to Talbot County Public Schools.

Mr. Burris congratulated all of the athletes, coaches, and parents who were recognized; all Board Members echoed his sentiments.

Ms. Farrare congratulated Dr. Heaston on obtaining her Doctorate. She extended kudos to Dr. Donmoyer for doing an impressive job at Chapel. As the students left the last day of school all the staff came out dancing and singing and waving goodbye to the students. Dr. Sprankle and Mrs. Baynard were commended for making a great impression by giving parents and a new student who are moving to the Trappe area a tour of White Marsh Elementary School. They were specifically impressed with the interactive smart boards. She thanked her colleagues for their hard work on the budget and stated that during this next fiscal difficult year, the Board will need to work together. She assured everyone that our students will not be allowed to suffer due to the budget crisis.

Ms. Hopkins commended the Senior Staff for their accomplishment on the budget. She echoed Dr. Bowie's remarks about the need to work with the County Council. Ms. Hopkins will attend the MABE Summer Leadership Conference on June 23- 25 at Rocky Gap. She noted that Mrs. Eisenberg will be making a presentation at the conference and that she is paying her own way. On behalf of the Board she congratulated all the 2011 graduates.

Mrs. Matthews stated all had been said. She commended the staff for working magic on the budget.

Dr. Bowie shared his thoughts for the future that included the fact that public education is under attack. He encouraged everyone to read The World is Flat.

Mrs. Heinsohn commended Linda Seymour for her 4.0 final grades at M.I.T.

Adjournment

Mr. Burris moved, Mrs. Matthews seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.