

**TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
EASTON HIGH SCHOOL
AUGUST 17, 2011
BOARD RETREAT – TALBOT COUNTY EDUCATION CENTER – 2:00 PM
CLOSED SESSION – 6:30 PM – CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION – 7:00 PM - CAFETERIA**

Board Retreat

The Board of Education met in Executive Function to hold their Annual Retreat at 2:00 p.m. Present were President Monica Heinsohn, Board Members Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger, Ms. Gloria Farrare, and Vice President Ms. Juanita Hopkins. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Karen B. Salmon, Assistant Superintendents Mrs. Kelly Griffith and Dr. Pam Heaston, Executive Assistant Gayle Secrist, Judy Bresler and Board Attorney Rochelle Eisenberg.

Dr. Salmon presented the following agenda topics. Board discussion followed.

- Ethics Policy Update by Rochelle Eisenberg
- Appeal Proceedings presentation by Judy Bresler
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Strategies for the FY13 Budget/Board Work Sessions

I. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum – 6:30 PM

Mrs. Monica Heinsohn called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 6:30 p.m.

II. Closed Session – 6:35 PM

Pursuant to Section 10-503 (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 Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger, seconded by Dr. Norman Bowie, it was unanimous to enter into Closed Session at 6:35 p.m. Present were President Monica Heinsohn, Vice President

Juanita Hopkins, Board Members Dr. Norman Bowie, Ms. Gloria Farrare, Ms. Juanita Hopkins, and Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger. 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

Mrs. Kleppinger moved, Dr. Bowie seconded and it was unanimous to approve the July 5, 2011 Closed Session minutes as presented.

Legal Report

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

Workers Compensation Claim
Workers Compensation Commission Hearing
Special Education Case Easton Elementary School
Notice of Claim on Behalf of Student
Student Appeals of Suspension
YMCA Lease
Subpoena request for information

Personnel Report

Mrs. Griffith distributed a revised Personnel Report as follows:

Certified Termination Recommendations: Alison Keener, Easton High School, request to be released from contract for the 2011-12 school year; Devon Lyons-Shemory, Easton High School, voluntary resignation Note: Release from contract not recommended.

Certified Contract Recommendations: Caitlin Spurry, White Marsh Elementary; Annie Mewborn, John Strickland, Easton Middle School; Jonathan Crist, Phylcia Gregorio, Troy Hartle, Christopher Mead, Easton High School; Matthew Sevon, Laura Modlin, Easton Elementary School – Dobson Building.

Leave of Absence: Kasey West, Easton Elementary School – Dobson; Kerry Price,

St. Michaels Elementary; Lauren Rose, Easton High School.

Mid Shore Special Education Consortium Behavior Analyst Job Description

Adjournment

Dr. Bowie moved, Mrs. Kleppinger seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn the Closed Session Meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Kleppinger moved, Mrs. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the July 5, 2011 minutes.

Recognition of the Public

Doug Edsall

Mr. Edsall made comments pertinent to the appeals process in general.

Giant Teacher of the Month

The Board and Dr. Salmon recognized Cynthia Gorski, representative for Easton Giant, for supporting TCPS with the Teacher of the Month award.

Bartlett Pear Teacher of the Month

The Board and Dr. Salmon recognized Alice and Jordan Lloyd, owners of the Bartlett Pear Inn, for supporting TCPS with a monthly gift certificate awarded to a teacher.

New Business

Appointment of Trustee of ESMEC Health Insurance

Dr. Salmon recommended the appointment of Mrs. Kelly Griffith as a Trustee of the ESMEC Health Insurance Alliance Trust. Dr. Bowie moved, Mrs. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the appointment.

Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts

Dr. Heaston provided an overview of the Common Core Standards. She emphasized that the writers began with the end in mind by asking what students leaving high school need to know and be able to do in order to be ready for the next phase in life – college and career. She stated that Maryland has released draft standards which add further detail to the objectives teachers need to teach at each grade level, available on mdk12.org.

Dr. Heaston went on to say that the state is taking the traditional pathway for high school mathematics, that is, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II in that order. She shared a video which illustrated how the current Algebra I course will be shifted to the 7th and 8th grade when the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum is in place and that material traditionally taught in Algebra I, Algebra II and Probability and Statistics will make up the new more rigorous Algebra I. Dr. Heaston also noted that due to the increased rigor, far fewer middle school students will be able to take Algebra I in middle school. The focus for math this year will be to implement the Eight Mathematical Practices.

In English, Dr. Heaston highlighted the fact that the standards not only address requirements for English Language Arts but also for literacy in history/social studies, science and technical subjects. The focus this year will be to improve writing in English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.

Board members followed up with questions and comments.

Recommendation to accept proposal for Educational Facilities Master Plan and CIP updates

Mr. Connolly reported on three proposals received for the preparation of the Educational Facilities Master Plan and CIP updates. After a brief discussion, Dr. Bowie moved, Mrs. Kleppinger seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the recommended proposal.

TELL Survey

Dr. Salmon reviewed the Governor's Teaching Empowering Leading and Learning Maryland Educator's Survey. She noted that TCPS had the highest participation in the state. All percentages of agreement were significantly higher than the state average. Dr. Salmon suggested that the negative results related to whether those educators surveyed felt that the community was being supportive, could be related to funding issues.

Dr. Salmon thanked teachers and staff for participating in the survey. Each principal has received the results and they will be used in school improvement activities.

ESEA Regulatory Relief

Dr. Salmon noted remarks posted by Secretary Arne Duncan related to providing schools with relief from No Child Left Behind. With no reauthorization of NCLB, Superintendents are asking for regulatory relief. Since Maryland plans to be in compliance with Race to the Top, it is more likely regulatory relief will be received.

Unfinished Business

Race to the Top Monthly Update

Dr. Heaston presented the monthly Race to the Top Update. She noted that our Race to the Top amendment was approved by MSDE. She outlined the work for the coming year:

- Creating a transition plan for moving from the state curriculum to the common core state curriculum
- Convening a technology committee to identify technology needs of elementary, middle schools
- Developing a new evaluation system

County Council FY12 Budget Approval

Dr. Salmon reviewed the letter received from the County Manager, noting funding for FY2012 will be two million dollars below the last two school years.

Approved request for transfer of funds by County Council

Dr. Salmon reported that the County Council granted the request for transfer of funds from Transportation and Operation of Plant to the Fixed Charges category. The transfer was requested in June, a letter signed by the County Manager was received in August.

YMCA lease agreement

Mrs. Griffith reviewed approval by the YMCA Board of Directors of the current lease agreement and requested approval of the lease by the Board. Dr. Bowie moved, Mrs. Kleppinger seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the lease agreement.

2.3 Ethics Policy

Mrs. Griffith provided an updated response to the proposed policy by the State Ethics Commission. She noted that the policy is on second reader and referenced the minor changes requested by the State Ethics Commission. She also noted some items on which

clarification is being requested. Dr. Bowie stated that he believes the policy to be onerous and an invasion of privacy. Mrs. Heinsohn said that TCPS and Board Members must comply with state law; therefore a decision must be made on whether you want to serve on the Board of Education.

Update on Head Start Project

Mrs. Griffith introduced Brenden Frederick with Becker Morgan. He reviewed the design and summarized the status of the Head Start Project. The construction phase will be discussed at the September Board Meeting.

Maintenance of Effort Update

Dr. Salmon discussed a Maintenance of Effort briefing provided by MABE. She indicated that MABE, the Superintendents Association and MSEA would be pushing for a bill to be passed to address the maintenance of effort issues.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Kleppinger moved, Dr. Bowie seconded, and the Personnel Report was approved.

Monthly Budget Update

Mr. Connolly reported on the FY2011 budget results, as well as the monthly budget update for July FY2012. Although audits are not complete, it is estimated that \$14,000 will be returned to the county. Mr. Connolly noted the different format that will be provided to County Council, he hopes this format will be easier to understand. Dr. Bowie questioned a portion of the report that gave the appearance of an increase in funds, however Mr. Connolly explained that this was related to federal funds and an increase in state funds. The end result is really a flat line, with no increase.

Dr. Salmon commended Mr. Connolly for consistently clean audits and excellent management of expenses.

Superintendent's Report

Annual Eastern Shore Superintendents and Board Members Retreat Evaluation Summary

Dr. Salmon referenced the evaluation summary provided in the board packet, and noted that several board members attended the retreat.

ESEA response from First District Congressman Andy Harris

Dr. Salmon noted the letter received from Congressman Andy Harris.

Factbook 2009-2010 Maryland Pupil Transportation

Dr. Salmon highlighted the reduction in per pupil transportation costs for TCPS. She also noted this information had been corrected in the fact book. Only five counties in Maryland spend slightly less on Transportation than TCPS.

Recognition of Wrestling achievements – Coach/Students

Dr. Salmon reported that Ben Culver of EHS was named “The Star Democrat” All Mid-Shore wrestler of the year and Shawn Smith of SMHS was named coach of the year. In addition, several other students were recognized in their weight classes. Between SMHS and EHS six students made the first team out of twelve weight classes.

Talbot County Public Schools 2011-2012 School Calendar

Dr. Salmon distributed the recently mailed calendar and highlighted various components of the calendar. She commended Sally Lentz for her coordination of this project, and noted each month has a picture created by Graphic Arts students.

Selected policies are also published in the back of the calendar for easy reference. She also reminded members about Opening Day for TCPS on Friday, August 19th.

Board Members' Reports/Remarks

Dr. Bowie suggested that with the start of a new school year, we should focus on problems, but protect our children/students.

Ms. Gloria Farrare agreed with Dr. Bowie and also wished the Talbot Senior League baseball team well. She will be taking her granddaughter to college, beginning a new chapter in their lives – she also noted it is good to see the ninth graders come in. She voiced that we want to protect our children while they are in school.

Mrs. Kleppinger wished everyone a good evening.

Ms. Juanita Hopkins noted that she heard superintendents from the DC/VA area speaking on the radio station WTOP and noted 85% passing rates, as well as noting NCLB problems. She also noted that TCPS is happy to partner with the YMCA and Head Start. She is pleased that the County Council wants to schedule a work session.

Mrs. Monica Heinsohn thanked Giant and Bartlett Pear for their support of TCPS. She is looking forward to the new school year. She also noted that it is great to work with the YMCA and Head Start.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hopkins moved, Dr. Bowie seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn at 8:45 pm.