

**TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
EASTON HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 14, 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 Mr. Robert Burris, seconded by Ms. Gloria Farrare, 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, Ms. Andrea Poe, Mrs. Donna Matthews and Mr. Robert Burris. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Pam Heaston, Executive Assistant Gayle Secrist, and Board Attorney Mr. David Burkhouse.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

Mrs. Matthews moved and Ms. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve Closed Session Minutes for November 16, 2011.

Legal Report

Dr. Salmon and Mr. Burkhouse presented the following report:

Workers Compensation Claim
Notice of Claim on Behalf of Student
Student Appeals of Suspension
4-205 Appeals

Personnel Report

Dr. Salmon distributed a revised Personnel Report as follows:

Leave of absence: Rachel Baron, Easton High School

FY13 Budget Development

Dr. Salmon distributed a letter from County Council related to funding of salary increases for the FY13 budget. Budget strategies were discussed and the Board provided direction to Dr. Salmon on exploring cost reduction options, with a general direction of prioritizing in a way that impacts students the least.

Adjournment

Mrs. Kleppinger moved, Mrs. Matthews seconded, and it was unanimous to adjourn the Closed Session meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Work Session

Dr. Salmon and Principals from each school outlined needs that are priorities for their schools. Dr. Salmon noted that the requests made from principals reflect the results of the budget cuts and the perception that the schools could tolerate the cuts is definitely not the case.

Regular Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Matthews moved, Ms. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Burris moved, Mrs. Matthews seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the November 16, 2011 minutes.

Recognition of the Public

Food Lion

Dr. Salmon and Mr. Redman recognized Mr. David Andrews, Store Manager of the Easton Food Lion, for Food Lion's support of Easton Elementary School's Math Night.

SONIC

Dr. Salmon recognized SONIC, for support provided to Easton Elementary School's Math Night.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Clean Water Poster Winners

Dr. Salmon recognized Meredith Lyons, Jonathan Powell, and Tim Costagliola - three Easton High School students, for awards won for their submissions in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation clean water poster contest.

Talbot County Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee

Ms. Underwood presented an overview of SECAC (Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee)

Recognition of White Marsh School Volunteers

Dr. Salmon and Dr. Sprankle recognized Diane Thomas, Leslie Hamburger and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Quidas; community members who volunteer at White Marsh Elementary School.

New Business

Career Path Initiative

Dr. Salmon provided an overview of the Career Path Initiative, in which TCPS partners with the Rotary, YMCA and Chesapeake College. The first stage, a Career Fair was a huge success. The second stage will be visits to businesses in the community. The third stage – internships, will take place next year.

Policy 1.2 Non-Discrimination

Dr. Heaston introduced changes to Policy 1.2 Non-Discrimination.

Milestone Communications

Mr. Connolly provided information related to public safety towers/wireless carriers with potential for revenue generation. A video from the Milestone website was viewed. It was decided that a presentation by Milestone Communications be made at the January Board meeting.

Parent Survey

Dr. Salmon provided an update regarding the Parent Survey. Over 200 responses have been received, deadline for submission is January 5th. A summary report on the results will be presented at the January Board meeting.

2012 – 2013 School Calendar

Dr. Heaston reviewed a draft calendar proposal for the school year 2012 – 2013. She indicated that there would be changes to the calendar. Dr. Salmon noted that consideration was being given to extending the Winter Break by two days. Mrs. Kleppinger noted that it is difficult to keep students focused for a Monday and Tuesday before a long holiday break.

FY13 Draft Budget - First Reader

Dr. Salmon discussed the FY13 Draft Budget, which is in first reader. Dr. Salmon noted that a letter had been received from the Talbot County Council indicating that the salary increase and step increase would not be funded for FY13. Following discussion, Mrs. Donna Matthews moved to remove the salary and step increase from the budget and add the needs identified by principals. Mrs. Kleppinger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Burris – yes, Mrs. Kleppinger – yes, Ms. Poe – abstain, Mrs. Heinsohn – yes, Ms. Hopkins – yes, Mrs. Matthews – yes and Ms. Farrare – yes. The motion was approved.

Unfinished Business

Race to the Top Monthly Update

Dr. Heaston presented the monthly Race To the Top Update. She noted that the work of the teacher evaluation work group was ongoing. Invitations to teachers that will join the group have been sent. The first meeting will take place at the end of January. The group will review the current TCPS evaluation, the direction provided by MSDE and documentation by MSEA. Ms. Farrare asked what the time frame was; Dr. Heaston stated she expected a pilot to be ready by August.

Policy 7.5 Staff Criminal Background Check

Dr. Heaston reviewed Policy 7.5 in third reader. She noted that no comments had been made during second reader. Mr. Burris moved and Mrs. Matthews seconded that Policy 7.5 be approved. A roll call vote was taken with the results: Mr. Burris – yes, Mrs. Kleppinger – yes, Ms. Poe – yes, Mrs. Heinsohn – yes, Ms. Hopkins – yes, Mrs. Matthews – yes, and Ms. Farrare – yes. It was unanimous to approve the motion.

Letter Regarding Social Security Tax/Article: Payroll Tax Cut

Dr. Salmon noted a letter of support for the extension/expansion of the Social Security payroll tax holiday and also an article on the same topic from the Star Democrat (12/6/11). Mrs. Kleppinger moved and Mr. Burris seconded a motion to send a letter of support for the extension/expansion of the Social Security payroll tax holiday, and it was unanimous to approve the motion.

Personnel Report

Dr. Salmon recommended approval of the Personnel Report. Mr. Burris moved, Ms. Hopkins seconded, and it was unanimous to approve the Personnel Report.

Monthly Budget Update

Mr. Connolly reported on November financials.

Superintendent's Report

Articles:

Online Disclosures

Article: Education lobby 'winning' MOE argument in Annapolis

Article: Millionaires call these towns home

Article: Sending Kids the Bill for the Mess Left By Wall Street

Dr. Salmon shared highlights from the articles listed above.

Letter from County Council regarding FY13 Capital Improvement Program

Dr. Salmon apprised the Board of the receipt of a letter from County Council approving the Capital Improvement Program, subject to availability of adequate County funding.

Notice of Non-Compliance with Maintenance of Effort

Dr. Salmon noted that TCPS was copied on a letter sent to Talbot County Council regarding non-compliance with maintenance of effort.

Invitation to Talbot County Council to Tour Schools with Superintendent

Dr. Salmon made the Board aware that invitations have been mailed to each County Council member, inviting them to join her in a tour of TCPS. No commitment to take a tour by any Council member has been received to date.

Annual Report

Dr. Salmon provided an update regarding the printing and online availability of the Annual Report. She has received many positive comments regarding the publication.

November Attendance

Dr. Salmon reviewed attendance statistics for the month of November.

Winter Holiday

Dr. Salmon advised the Board and the community that the schools would be closed over the winter holiday break.

Letter from County Council

Dr. Salmon shared a congratulatory letter from the Talbot County Council.

Board Members' Reports/Remarks

Michaela Beggins congratulated all on the success of Math Night.

Mr. Robert Burriss wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs. Sandra Kleppinger welcomed Andrea Poe. She also thanked the principals for their presentations.

Ms. Andrea Poe thanked everyone for her warm welcome.

Ms. Gloria Farrare thanked principals for their presentations. She thanked the community for attending meetings. She also thanked students for giving back to the community, citing a food drive sponsored by the EHS cheerleaders. She wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Mrs. Donna Matthews noted that she was very impressed with the presentation by principals during the work session. They were well spoken, persuasive and made legitimate requests. Tough decisions will need to be made regarding the budget and she appreciates public support.

Ms. Juanita Hopkins noted that the principal requests were related to just one year of cuts. She described an advocacy toolkit available from MABE that provides helpful tips for the Board and community to lobby the legislature. She also commended Mr. Dave Andrew of Food Lion on the great job with Math Night. She wished all Happy Holidays.

Mrs. Heinsohn noted that school board districts two, five and six are up for election this year. The filing deadline for candidates is January 11th. She thanked principals for their presentations, but is not hopeful that their requests will be funded. She said someone from the Talbot County Council asked her “if teachers are given \$100 raise will we get \$100 more work?” Mrs. Heinsohn observed that staff at Chapel Elementary are already at work by 7:00 am, when she drives past the school – hours before their start time! She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Adjournment

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