



**Minutes of Open Regular Sessions
Somerset County Board of Education
July 15, 2025**

TIME: 4:30 p.m. Location: Somerset County Board of Education

BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Matthew Lankford, Vice Chairman Andrew Gleason, Mr. William McInturff Jr, Mrs. Mary Beth Bozman, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ava Tasker-Mitchell and Mrs. Tracie Bartemy, Director of Schools; Ms. Melissa Tilghman, Recording Secretary and Board Attorney, Mrs. Gordana Schifanelli, Chief Finance Officer, Mrs. Meagan Sneeringer and Director of Finance, Mrs. Christina South.

EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, **General Provisions Act**, 3-305(b), on the motion of Vice Chairman Gleason and a second by Mrs. Bozman, the Board voted to enter into an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. to conduct the following business:

- Tabled April 15, 2025 and June 17, 2025 closed meeting minutes
- Approved the closed meeting minutes of May 13, 2025, May 20th, 2025 and July 7, 2025
- Discussed Personnel Matters – Section 3-305 (b)(1)(i)(ii)
Reviewed and discussed the personnel report which consisted of six professional hires, three professional resignations, fifteen professional transfers, four classified resignations and two classified retirements
 - Discussed other confidential personnel and staffing matters
- Received advice and updates on confidential legal matters confidential legal matters – Client Attorney Privileged - Section 3-305 (b)(7)
 - SEA Grievance Issues
- Discussed negotiated contract agreements – Section 3-305 (b)(9)
 - Unit I - Unit III negotiations update
- Discussed confidential administrative matters

CALL TO ORDER - RECONVENED IN OPEN REGULAR SESSION – 6:02 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF

AMENDED AGENDA - APPROVED

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2025 Special Called Meeting

May 20, 2025 Open Regular Meeting

June 3, 2025 Special Called Meeting

June 16, 2025 Open Budget Meeting

July 7, 2025 Special Called Meeting

June 17, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes - Tabled

Motion: Vice Chairman Gleason; Second: Mrs. Bozman

Final Resolution: The motion carried 4:0.

Public Comments

- Dr. Kirkland Hall addressed the Board to express his concerns regarding racial disparities within the community and what he described as a “per semper diem” attitude on the Eastern Shore. He emphasized the importance of acknowledging and addressing inequities to ensure fairness, inclusivity, and equal opportunities for all individuals. Bill urged the Board to adopt a proactive and sustainable approach, moving beyond short-term or day-to-day solutions, to foster lasting change and community improvement.
- A SCPS student addressed the Board, requesting respectful collaboration and civility among members, noting that students are paying attention to their behavior.
- Chairman Mr. Lankford reinforced this message by reading **Policy 100-21: Civility**, encouraging all participants to adhere to respectful and constructive discourse.

Administrative Report:

- Dr. Tasker-Mitchell presented her monthly report to the Board, highlighting ongoing efforts by small teams to develop and refine administrative procedures aligned with newly adopted policies.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy Discussions and approvals:

- Vice Chairman Gleason expressed appreciation for the structural clarity and thoroughness of the administrative procedures for Policy 600-12 (Student Dress Code) and Policy 200-29 (Flag Policy), stating that they appeared to be well-developed.
- Both Mr. Lankford and Mr. Gleason requested that dress code enforcement mechanisms be built into procedures and include control measures, with updates to be provided following implementation.

On the motion of Vice Chairman Gleason and a second by Mrs. Bozman, the Second Reader of Policy 600-12, the Student Dress Code was approved. The motion carried 4:0.

- Administrative procedures on Policy 600-47, Equity, Policy 800-14, Parental Rights and Responsibilities, and Board feedback on questions relating to Policy, 100-06, School Board-Superintendent Relationship.
- Mr. Lankford emphasized the importance of prioritizing work on the Behavior Policy, Cell Phone Policy, and Media Selection Process administrative procedures, requesting the superintendent direct

focused attention to these areas.

GMP2 (Guaranteed Maximum Price 2): Crisfield Academy & High School Renovations - Approved

Mr. Jon Hill, Director of Facilities and Operations shared details of the CAHS renovation for the Board's approval. On the motion of Mr. McInturff and a second by Mrs. Bozman, the Board voted 4:0 to approve the GMP2 request.

ELA Curriculum Presentation & Deliberation:

- Ms. Welch and Dr. Tasker-Mitchell presented the Secondary ELA Curriculum for Board review and approval.
- Mr. Gleason raised concerns about the media materials included in the curriculum, asserting that selections lacked a formal vetting system and that previous communications with the superintendent had flagged these issues post-May 2025 meeting and requested that media selections be reviewed in tangible blocks and advocated for a phased-in, unit-by-unit approach rooted in oversight rather than daily management.
- Ms. Welch clarified the pilot curriculum had been developed over the past year, defended the rationale behind professionally curated materials, and requested Mr. Gleason's justification for his proposed removal of 25% of the curriculum's media content.
- Dr. Tasker-Mitchell highlighted that the curriculum aligns with State Department standards, and that students are expected to engage with diverse literary texts. She noted that the Board had ample time (January 2024–June 2025) to engage with the pilot process and provide feedback.
- Ultimately, the motion to approve the curriculum failed due to a 2:2 split vote, with Mr. Gleason and Mr. Lankford voting against it.
- Ms. Welch requested Board guidance for further improvement of the curriculum.

NEW BUSINESS

FY2026 Educational Facilities Master Plan

This item was removed from the agenda.

Negotiations & Financial Overview:

- Mr. Gleason expressed concern over rising costs within Unit II negotiated agreements and requested that detailed updates be shared with the Board prior to seeking the Board's approval for future negotiations.

On the motion of Mr. McInturff and a second by Vice Chairman Gleason, the Board voted 4:0 to approve and ratify the Unit II Negotiated agreement. The motion was carried unanimously.

Administrative Personnel Report

Mrs. Christina South presented the personnel report to the Board for their approval of certificated staff. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gleason and a second by Mrs. Bozman to approve the report. The motion unanimously carried 4:0 p.m.

Ms. South seeks the Board's approval of the presented Human Resources Report.

Professional Hires

- Crystal Caldwell - Special Education Teacher (SIS)
- Christine Monsees - Special Education Teacher (SIS)
- Nicholas Means - Social Studies Teacher (SIS)
- Haley Snyder - Social Studies Teacher (SIS)
- Sheena Trader - Special Education Teacher (WES)
- Stephanie Flowers - ELA Teacher (SIS)
- Bethany Fosque- ELA Teacher (CAHS)
- Courtney Collins- ELA Teacher (WAHS)
- Danielle Pall- Assistant Principal (WES)
- Kimberly Ferguson- School Counselor (WAHS)

Professional Resignations

- Zachary Bartemy - Pre-Engineering Teacher (SCTHS)
- Lindsay Lines - School Counselor (WAHS)
- Jennifer Copenhaver - Social Emotional Learning Teacher (GES)
- Anna Powers - 1st Grade Teacher (DIS)

Professional Transfers

- Alyson Justice - Elementary Teacher (PAES to DIS)
- Amanda Barnes - Special Education Teacher (CAHS to DIS)
- Tyshika Bonneville - Math Teacher (SIS) to Elementary Teacher (PAES)
- Crystal Handy - Math Teacher (SIS to WAHS)
- Lisa Asano - Special Education Teacher (WAHS to CAHS)
- Deanna Dodge - Media Specialist (SIS) to ELA Teacher (CAHS)
- Theresa Perdue - PK3 Teacher to Special Education Teacher (WES)
- Joseph Sabo - Math Teacher (WAHS) to HVAC Teacher (SCTHS)
- Alec Meintzer - Health Teacher to ELA Teacher (WAHS)
- Jennifer Bennett - Special Education Teacher (WES) to Early Intervention Teacher (BOE)

Professional Appointment

- Jensen Long- Assistant Principal to Acting Principal (WES)
- Chief Finance Officer, Mrs. Meanan Sneeringer presented financial information and committed to sharing the complete audit report once finalized.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board will conduct an Open Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 17, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. to immediately consider voting to convene in a Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 3-305(b) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Board will reconvene in the Open Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be streamed live to **TownHallStreams** at https://townhallstreams.com/towns/Somerset_County_PS_MD Additional information can be found on the Somerset County Public Schools' website.

Closing:

- With no more business to report, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Gleason and a second by Mrs. Bozman to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The meeting concluded with acknowledgments from the superintendent and Board members to all attendees.

Dr. Ava Tasker-Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools
Superintendent of Schools
Recorded and Prepared by
Recording Secretary, Melissa Tilghman

Matthew Lankford
Board Chairman