

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
SPECIAL SESSION
TUESDAY MARCH 29, 2016

At 2:04 p.m. the Board of Somerset County Commissioners met in Special Session with Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Jerry S. Boston. Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher was not in attendance. Commissioner Rex Simpkins briefly stepped out of the meeting.

Also in attendance were County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez, Superintendent of Somerset County Schools Dr. John Gaddis, Chief Financial Officer of Somerset County Schools Ms. Linda R. Johnson, County Finance Director Mr. Gene Adkins, and County Internal Auditor Ms. Sharon Muir.

Dr. Gaddis was called upon to present the Somerset County School Budget for FY17. He began by sharing the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) form with the board, and stated that as of January 22, 2016 the preliminary numbers from the state have increased in funding by approximately \$680,593.00. Dr. Gaddis also noted that there is still legislation that would affect funding from the state. He then moved on to discuss the details listed on the MOE.

Commissioner Boston inquired about the number of full time enrollment to which Dr. Gaddis answered it had decreased by 15, stating that Somerset County was 1 of 10 counties that were calculated below the 5 year average for MOE.

Mr. Adkins then briefly addressed the board, informing them that Pension Shift is no longer a separate line item.

Dr. Gaddis went on to say that the Somerset County Board of Education (SCBOE) is not affected by Geographic Cost for Education. He explained that \$63M was supposed to go toward the pension system this year, however the Governor has now vowed to hold that money back. Dr. Gaddis stated he submitted a letter to the Governor requesting the additional money be used for transportation to and from Smith Island, but his request was denied.

Dr. Gaddis then advised the board that the SCBOE is in its last year of 100% Capital funding for the Tawes project due to the system changing.

Commissioner Boston addressed a question to Dr. Gaddis about Pre-K. Dr. Gaddis explained that Somerset County is part of the Procreation Study and they are 1 of 8 counties preliminarily involved in that with SIS because of the gains the school has made. He explained

that there is legislation they are involved with that would increase funding or pay for Pre-K; if it's half day Pre-K they will give half, and if it's full day Pre-K they will give the full figure.

Commissioner Simpkins inquired about the proposed votec center, and a discussion ensued about the plans and what was being done with the existing building. Dr. Gaddis informed the board that they would move the programs to the new votec building; the Marian Sara Payton building would be closed, and the High Roads (18 students) and Alternative (17 Students) programs would move to the old votec building (the students would be separated amongst the building per grade level).

Mr. Taylor then briefly stepped out of the meeting to obtain the Nonrecurring Cost form needed by Dr. Gaddis and Ms. Johnson.

Commissioner Simpkins continued with the topic of the votec center, inquiring the building process. Dr. Gaddis explained that the process would span across 5 years but the actual projected construction time was 32 months. More discussion ensued on this topic as well as the proposed idea of a solar project for the center and the wetlands behind the planned building.

Commissioner Boston then asked Dr. Gaddis about Pre-K in Deal Island. Dr. Gaddis answered that the goal is to get all day Pre-K everywhere, and although a grant can be written there has to be 65% or more in free or reduced lunch; which Deal Island is the only school that doesn't meet those requirements. Dr. Gaddis assured the board that they were looking to how to make this work.

With no further business, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston, the motion carried unanimously to adjourn Special Session and enter into Closed Session at 2:30 p.m.

Approved by:

Respectfully Submitted:

Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Kimberly Lopez
Executive Secretary