

Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN)
Unofficial Notes on Dorchester County Board of Education (DCBOE)
Monthly Meeting, Thursday, May 19, 2022

ubmitted by Tom Puglisi

****Note:** These supporting documents may be found on the CAN website at CambridgeCan.org.

Note: All supporting documents may be found on the DCPS Board Docs website at <https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/dcps/Board.nsf/Public>.

1. Closed Session, 4:00 p.m.

2. Regular Session, 6:00 p.m.

- 2.01 Pledge of Allegiance
- 2.02 Approval of the Regular Agenda for May 19, 2022
- 2.03 Calendar

Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 6:30 p.m.	C-SDHS Graduation
Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 6:30 p.m.	NDHS Graduation
Monday, May 30, 2022	Schools/Offices Closed, Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 31, 2022, 5:00 p.m.	DCPS Retirement Celebration, East New Market Firehouse
June 13 -15, 2022	Half-Days for Students, Report Card Prep
Wednesday, June 15, 2022	Last Day for Students
Thursday, June 16, 2022	Last Day for Teachers
Thursday, June 16, 2022	June Meeting of the Dorchester County Board of Education
Monday, June 20, 2022	Office Closed, Juneteenth
Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 8:30 a.m.	Annual Eastern Shore Superintendents and Board Members Education Conference at Chesapeake College
Monday, July 4, 2022	Office Closed, Independence Day

- 2.04 Legislative Update **
- 2.05 Comments from the Student Board Representatives **
- 2.06 Introduction of Student Board Representatives and Alternates for the 2022-2023 School Year **
- 2.07 Comments from the Public

Speaker 1. The speaker has a child attending South Dorchester K-8 and asked why certain children are still being quarantined and required to wear masks.

Speaker 2. (a) The speaker questioned why one neighboring county had three minority applicants for superintendent, one of whom was hired, and another neighboring county has recently hired a minority candidate as assistant superintendent, but Dorchester County cannot seem to find qualified minority candidates. The superintendent should be required to explain why minority candidates have not been identified here, but are being identified and hired in neighboring counties. (b) The speaker questioned why DCTC is operating so far under capacity. The speaker challenged the Board members to address these issues forcefully.

Speaker 3. The speaker stressed that representation of minorities in the school system is essential but is severely lacking. Minority children are dying and minority children are being disproportionately affected by violence and trauma, but are not being represented equitably or adequately within DCPS.

Speaker 4. The speaker is a student at Sandy Hill elementary school who today experienced inappropriate actions from another student during gym class. Another student was also treated inappropriately. The gym teacher was working with other students at the time, did not witness the behavior, and thus was not able to intervene. The superintendent promised to pursue this incident with the school.

Speaker 5. The speaker recounted issues raised by parents and teachers at Sandy Hill indicating that administrative support at the school is insufficient and needs to be addressed quickly and meaningfully.

Speaker 6. The speaker, who has a son about to graduate from C-SD High School, indicated that positive changes are needed to address the disruption and bullying in the schools that have increased markedly since her child attended middle school.

- 2.08 Proclamation of Pupil Personnel Worker Month. There are currently five full-time pupil personnel workers and one coordinator in Dorchester County Public Schools. They provide many services to schools, students, and families.
- 2.09 Instructional Update - Gifted and Talented Education **

3. Consent Agenda

- 3.01 Approval of Personnel Items for May 19, 2022
- 3.02 Approval of the Minutes of the April 21, 2022, Regular Board of Education Meeting **
- 3.03 Second Read/Approval – New BOE Policy 420.06 – Students: Admission Requirements; Student Registered SexOffender – Entry of School Property
- 3.04 Second Read/approval – New BOE Policy 430.08 – Students: Student Attendance; Pregnant and Parenting Policy
- 3.05 Second Reading/Approval - HealthSmart Elementary (K – 5) Health Curriculum. ** The HealthSmart K – 5 curriculum is an interactive, skills-based program that builds health literacy and promotes healthy behavior outcomes. The curriculum is organized by grade level and each grade covers key health content areas and teaches developmentally appropriate concepts and skills. \$27,736. See <https://www.etr.org/healthsmart/lessons/>
- 3.06 Second Reading/Approval - HealthSmart Middle School (6 – 8) Health Curriculum. ** The HealthSmart Middle School curriculum is an interactive, skills-based program that builds health literacy and promotes healthy behavior outcomes. The HealthSmart Middle School curriculum is organized by taking a modular approach to health content with separate units for each key health topic: Abstinence, Puberty, and Personal Health; Emotional & Mental Health; HIV, STI & Pregnancy Prevention; Nutrition & Physical Activity; Tobacco, Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention; and Violence & Injury Prevention. \$56,238. See <https://www.etr.org/healthsmart/lessons/>
- 3.07 Additional Grants Acceptance. The grant from MSDE for \$24,869 will be used for the Rural Schools program. The grant from MSDE for \$13,896 will be used for the Rural Schools program.
- 3.08 Soliant Contract – Speech Teleservices – Emergency Approval. This contract is to provide speech therapy through teleservices at SHES for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. \$26,250.

4. Items for Board Action

- 4.01 School Calendar for SY 22-23. The Superintendent summarized the 10 responses received by DCPS in response to its request for comments on the calendar. The Superintendent indicated that the high number of half days (13) reflected a one-time need for additional, highly structured professional development activities. Proposed calendar approved. **
- 4.02 Award of the FY 2023 Food Related & Cleaning Products Bid. \$90,000. Approved.
- 4.03 Award of the FY 2023 Ice Cream Bid. \$15,000. Approved.
- 4.04 Award of the FY 2023 Milk Bid. \$200,000. Approved.
- 4.05 Health-e Pro Menu Planning & Nutrient Analysis Software. \$26, 851 total for five years. Approved.
- 4.06 Approval of Purchase of Instructional and Assessment Materials in Mathematics from Imagine Learning. \$141,245 from grant funding. Approved.
- 4.07 STAR Autism Support Contract for Staff Professional Development and Coaching. \$68,620. Approved.
- 4.08 Specialized Education of Maryland, Inc. Contract for Summer High Roads Program. \$105,000. Approved.
- 4.09 First Read – Review of BOE Policy 110.01 - Board of Education: Board Ethics; Code of Ethics. Approved.
- 4.10 First Read – Review of BOE Policy 180.06 – Board of Education: Meetings; Public Comment. Tabled pending receipt of additional information and discussion.

5. Items for Information

- 5.01 Weapons Detection System Update - Chris Hauge, Facilities and Schools Safety Planner. Implementation has been successful and has been completed. Each school required two days for practice and deployment. Electronic contact systems are being developed for notification of school administration, central administration, and first responders, as appropriate. The system collects data from every person passing through, records threat objects vs benign objects, and aggregates the data for each school. Students and staff have been very supportive about the system. DCPS is the only school system in Maryland to implement the system and the first school system in the county to integrate the system with its camera system.
- 5.02 Appropriations and Expenditures Report. No substantive variances were reported except for transportation fuel costs. Savings in other areas will cover these transportation cost variances.
- 5.03 Capital Projects Report. No substantive variances were reported.

6. Other Business

6.01 Board Comments.

Mr. Diaz noted the importance of full discussion of the Public Comment Policy. He thanked those involved with implementation of the Weapons Detection System

Mr. Hull thanked all who participated this evening.

Dr. Morgan: “. . . Education recently has been an institution being changed out of fear. Fear of anyone and anything that is different. We should hope that our children are curious enough, and encouraged by us, able to seek out information so that they will be better prepared for this world. . . . Encourage your children to read. If you are secure in your beliefs, you will demonstrate that to your children. If you aren't, nothing you can do to ban books, topics, words or anything else in education will stop them from searching. . . . See attached **

Ms. Hubbard stated that she is proud of and pleased with implementation of the Weapons Detection System. She thanked everyone who attended, watched on live stream, of spoke.

Ms. Layton indicated that she recently attended two academic recognition events that she considers very significant and important. She looks forward to various upcoming recognition events and, especially, to the upcoming graduation ceremonies. She also noted the importance of addressing the mental health needs of teachers

6.02 Announcements from the Superintendent. Mr. Bromwell summarized the issues discussed during the meeting. He thanked all those who attended or watched virtually, the presenters, and the student representatives.

7. Adjournment – 8:06 pm