Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN) Unofficial Notes on Dorchester County Board of Education (DCBOE) Monthly Meeting, Thursday, June 16, 2022

Submitted by Tom Puglisi

lote: * Supporting documents may be found on the CAN website at <u>CambridgeCan.org</u> and the DCPS Board Docs website at https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/dcps/Board.nsf/Public

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

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

- 5.01 Pledge of Allegiance
- 5.02 Approval of the Regular Agenda for June 16, 2022
- 5.03 **Recognition Middle School STEM Festival** First Place Winners and Project of the Year: The DCPS Middle School STEM Festival was held the week of April 25, 2022. This event is designed to offer an arena to showcase and celebrate middle school students' superior achievement and interest in the content areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The projects demonstrated an extraordinary amount of effort on the part of the students and expert guidance from their teachers. WINNERS: Averie Smith; Jerriah Kimble, Jazmine Butler-Taylor, Zaylee Seaman, Anthony Wingfield, Avery Johnson, Jaidyn Holland, Matthew Suggs, Clay Wilson, Kylie Langrall (Wind Turbine), Avery Johnson, and Jaidyn Holland.
- 5.04 **Recognition Winners of the Young Authors Elementary/Middle School Awards Program.** The annual Young Author's writing contest is sponsored by the State of Maryland Literacy Association. The following DCPS students were honored at the Young Authors Elementary/Middle Schools Awards Program held on May 16, 2022: Madelyn Bierley, Aubrey Glynn, and Lizzie Hesson.
- 5.05 **Recognition DCPS Winners** "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" Maryland Council on Economic Education Poster Contest. The Maryland Council on Economic Education held their annual Student Achievement Awards on May 18, 2022. Three DCPS students were honored as Top 20 Winners: Kendall Bradford, Kyla Jones, and Addison Maier. *
- 5.06 **Recognition of Maryland State Champions** Sa'Mar Sa' Mara Spriggs, Senior at Cambridge- South Dorchester High School, won the Gold Medal at the Maryland State Division 1A Spring Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the Girls' 100 Meter Hurdles on May 28, 2022. John Condon won the Gold Medal at the Maryland State Division 1A Spring Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the Boys' 1,600 Meter Run on May 28, 2022.
- 5.07 **Recognition of published article by Mr. Chris Hauge** in the Maryland Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) News Journal. *

5.08 Calendar:

- 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.
- Thursday, July 21, 2022, Regular July Meeting of the Dorchester Count Board of Education.
- 5.09 **Legislative Update:** Ms. Sheri Hubbard, legislative liaison for the Board, provided a short report of the impact of the Maryland General Assembly on public education in the State of Maryland and highlighted the controversy surrounding the use of contractors by school systems on the Eastern Shore, a practice that has now received official legislative approval.

5.10 Comments from the Public

- Speaker #1 spoke about a textbook that included offensive racist language and urged the Board to review textbooks carefully before approving them, to recruit a more diverse staff, and to institute meaningful sensitivity and diversity training.
- Speaker #2 expressed concern about the candidate debate last week which included a very superficial discussion of Critical Race Theory(CRT). The speaker stressed the importance of teaching history in a way that honestly recognizes the racial discrimination practiced in the United States and the societal inequities resulting from that history.
- Speaker #3 a recent DCPS graduate, spoke about the distress experienced personally by the speaker and other students who have been exposed to offensive racist language that was not treated in a serious and respectful manner in their classes. The speaker also reported that a teacher discouraged her from applying to colleges because she "was not college material" although she has been accepted by, and will attend, a 4-year college in the fall.

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- Speaker #4 also spoke about the distress she personally experienced as the result of a teacher laughing about offensive racist language that the speaker heard in class. In addition, the speaker reported that, when she asked permission to go to the Media Center, a teacher said they would have to pay the Media Center to take her, and another teacher referred to her as a slave.
- 5.11 Educational Equity Task Force Presentation Mr. Kirk Howie, Director of Operations. DCPS teaching staff makeup does not adequately represent the DCPS student population that is 58% African American. Strategies for increasing teacher diversity are being implemented. Average teacher pay in Dorchester County lags behind other counties on the Eastern Shore, which hinders recruitment. Disciplinary and restorative practices, diverse community collaboration, and student and staff support need to be strengthened to foster diversity and equity. *
- 5.12 **DCPS Virtual Day Plan 2022-2023 School Year -** Dr. Michael Collins, Director of Curriculum and Assessment. DCPS has devices available for all students and teachers. Hot spots are available, but paper copies will be provided if hotspots do not work. IEPs for special education students will continue to be honored. This plan will be put out for public comment and presented for approval by the Board at a later date. *
- 5.13 **DCPS Blueprint for Maryland's Future Update** Ms. Regina Teat, Director of Leadership & School Improvement. The State Planning Board requirements will be released in December 2022 and District plans will be due in March 2023. Recruitment and teacher salary requirements, student tracking systems, Career Tech Education, and student and pre-school support programs must meet the Blueprint's requirements. *
- 5.14 **Instructional Update ELA and Math Data Update** Dr. Michael Collins, Director of Curriculum & Assessment. State level assessments are not available yet, but local level data are summarized in the attached presentation. Data suggest that in-school instruction has been effective this past year. Student improvement was clearly related to the individual student's level of usage of instructional program materials. *

6. Consent Agenda

- 6.01 Approval of Personnel Items for June 16, 2022.
- 6.02 Approval of the Minutes of the May 19, 2022, Regular Board of Education Meeting *
- 6.03 Second Read/Approval of BOE Policy 110.01 Board of Education: Board Ethics; Code of Ethics *
- 6.04 Jeep Latitude Plus for Food Service Manager CarMax Emergency Approval.
- 6.05 Additional Grants Acceptance. Approval to include these grants, totaling \$49,775 in our FY 2022 Operating Budget: Grant is from MSDE for \$47,775 and will be used for the Early Childhood Advisory Council program. Grant is from MSDE for \$2,000 and will be used for the Pathways to STEM Apprenticeship program.

7. Items for Board Action

- 7.01 Proposed 2022-2023 Table of Rates for Bus Contractors. Rate = \$24.48 per hour (2% increase). Approved.
- 7.02 Food Bid MD's Shore Seven (7) Educational Consortium (MSEC) Bid Award. Year 1 = \$1,000,000 Projected. Approved.
- 7.03 Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2023 (Amended). The County Council did not fund the initial DCPS budget request but has provided only maintenance of effort for the DCPS operating budget and a reduced amount towards DCPS capital projects. Based on these developments DCPS amended its initial proposed budgets for FY 2023. Attached are the final proposed budgets. The General Operating Budget which includes unrestricted, restricted, and Food Service funds, totals \$85,313,136. The Capital Budget totals \$6,143,292. Approved.*
- 7.04 Purchase 450 Student Acer TravelMate B3 Notebooks -Year 2 of 2 ESSER II Funds. \$ 172,800. Approved.
- 7.05 Purchase of iPads and Apple Pencils. \$29,100. Approved,
- 7.06 Soliant Contract Sign Language Interpreter. \$102,600 (\$76/hr.). Approved.
- 7.07 Specialized Education of Maryland, Inc. Contract. \$80,000. Approved
- 7.08 First Read Review of BOE Policy 180.06 Board of Education: Meetings. Approved. *
- 7.09 First Read First Read of BOE Policy 100.01 Board of Education: Board Policy; Board Policy. Approved. *
- 7.10 First Read First Read of BOE Policy 100.02 Board of Education: Board Policy; Boardmanship. Approved. *

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7.11 Compensation for Directors. Presented in closed session. 2.2% salary increase plus milage allocation. Approved.

8. Items for Information

- 8.01 Lead 4 Life MOU. Same as last year. Must be renewed annually.
- 8.02 Harvesting Hope Youth & Family Wellness, Inc. MOU. Same as last year. Must be renewed annually.
- 8.03 Maple Shade Youth & Family Services MOU. Same as last year. Must be renewed annually.
- 8.04 Recognition of Deceased BOE Employees:

DRSPA Members: Colvin Camper, William Potter, Ellen Parks Ruark; Ronald Thorpe, and Henry Wagner. **School Personnel:** Pat Abbott, Linda Allen, Sharon Hughes, Herschel Johnson, Bonnie Baker Keplinger, Betty Lloyd, Calvin Manokey, Madeline Marine, Margaret Morrison, Virginia Murphey, Janet Todd, and Brenda Yeatman

- 8.05 Appropriations and Expenditures Report. Minor variances. *
- 8.06 Capital Projects Report. Minor variances. *

9. Other Business

- 9.01 Board Comments: Mr. Hull thanked all who attended and congratulated all who received awards. Dr. Morgan thanked all those who attended and delivered comments and congratulated all who received awards. Ms. Hubbard noted the uptick in student scores this year and expressed appreciation for the work that went into compiling the student data. She remembered those who passed away this year. Mr. Diaz thanked all those who participated and noted the importance of getting funding from the County Council for a police resource officer for every school. Ms. Layton noted that recent Board Candidates were asked who they represented she answered that members should represent the children. She reiterated Mr. Diaz's comments about the need for police resource officers in every school and stressed the need for the County Council to fund weapons detectors for all schools.
- 9.02 Announcements from the Superintendent. The Superintendent thanked and congratulated everyone who contributed to making this a successful school year. He noted that although the school year is over for students and teachers, many in DCPS will continue their work during the summer and list the many projects and programs that they will continue to advance in preparation for the next school year.

10. Adjournment