

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DORCHESTER COUNTY  
May 19, 2022**

*The minutes reflect the business actions of the Board of Education of Dorchester County taken at its regular, monthly business meeting held on May 19, 2022. To view documents referenced in these minutes, please visit our website [www.dcps.k12.md.us](http://www.dcps.k12.md.us) and look for links to the Board.*

**REGULAR MINUTES**

**CLOSED SESSION ACTION**

On Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., at the Dorchester Career and Technology Center, 2465 Cambridge Bypass, Cambridge, Maryland, the Board of Education held a Closed Session meeting to discuss personnel, negotiations, legal matters, and administrative functions.

Present were Board Members: Laura H. Layton, President; Sheri R. Hubbard, Vice President; Michael D. Diaz, LeOtha N. Hull, Susan V. Morgan, and W. David Bromwell, Superintendent. Also, in attendance were Regina Teat, Director of Leadership & School Improvement; Michael Collins, Director of Curriculum & Assessment; Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services; Tim Brooke, Comptroller; and Rochelle Eisenberg, Attorney.

Absent - Beth Wilson, Director of Operations

A motion was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Dr. Morgan and unanimously carried to go into Closed Session, pursuant to Section 3-305 of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignments, promotion, discipline, demotion, removal, resignation, termination of an employee, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation, to conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations, and administrative functions.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the Closed Session of April 21, 2022, was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Diaz, and unanimously carried.

Personnel, negotiations, legal matters, and administrative functions were discussed in closed session:

- The Board discussed personnel items.
- The Board discussed administrative assignments.
- The Board discussed employees on administrative leave.
- The Board discussed personnel appealing their suspension of their teaching certificate.
- The Board discussed negotiations issues.
- The Board discussed administrative functions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business a motion to adjourn the Closed Session at 5:30 p.m., was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Diaz, and unanimously carried.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

The Regular Session of the Board of Education convened on May 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the Dorchester Career and Technology Center.

Present at the meeting were Board Members: Laura H. Layton, President; Sheri R. Hubbard, Vice President; Michael D. Diaz, LeOtha N. Hull, Susan V. Morgan, and W. David Bromwell, Superintendent. Also, in attendance were Regina Teat, Director of Leadership & School Improvement; Michael Collins, Director of Curriculum & Assessment; Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services; Tim Brooke, Comptroller; and Rochelle Eisenberg, Attorney.

Absent - Beth Wilson, Director of Operations

### **2.0 Regular Session**

#### **2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **2.02 Approval of the Regular Session Agenda for May 19, 2022**

A motion to approve the Regular Session Agenda for May 19, 2022, was made by Mr. Diaz seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

#### **2.03 Calendar**

Mr. Bromwell reviewed upcoming dates and events.

#### **2.04 Legislative Update**

Ms. Sheri Hubbard, legislative liaison to the Maryland Association for Boards of Education (MABE) for the Board reported on the following bills:

- SB 290 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2023) - Increased Funding for Public Schools: Under the FY 2023 State Budget, support for public schools will exceed \$7.9 billion. Direct aid to local school systems will increase by an estimated \$455.6 million or 6.7%, including full funding of all fiscal 2023 Blueprint mandates.
- HB 1450 (Ch.33) Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Funds – Alterations - The bill alters the dates by which (1) the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) must adopt a Comprehensive Implementation Plan (CIP) for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint); (2) MSDE must develop criteria for approval or disapproval of local implementation plans; and (3) State and local government units must submit their

implementation plans. This bill was amended to become the vehicle for the major changes in Maintenance of Effort (MOE) originally included in another bill, Senate Bill 640. The MOE provisions ensure that for FY 2023, a county government must appropriate the greater of the local share or major education aid (accounting for relief provisions) and the MOE amounts specified in the bill for each county. It clarifies that, beginning in FY 2023, 25% of the increase in the State share of major education aid over the amount provided in the prior fiscal year must be automatically withheld from a local school system for the next fiscal year.

- SB 291 Capital Budget for Public Education
- HB 1290 (Ch.32) Education – Public School Construction – Funding and Administration

## **2.05 Comments from the Student Board Representatives**

Rip Cornish, Student Board Alternate for C-SDHS, presented a PowerPoint and reported:

- Although both C-SD Girls' and Boys' Lacrosse Teams and the C-SD Baseball Team is out of the playoffs, they had a fabulous season, and have made improvements upon last year's accomplishments.
- C-SD Softball will be competing against North Dorchester to determine who will remain in the playoffs.
- C-SD Tennis Team had their Regional Championship event on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Glasgow Tennis Courts.
- C-SD Bocce Team won their District Championship and will be going to states on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- C-SD Track and Field has just competed at the Bayside Championship meet, and the girls' placed 2nd and the boys' placed 3rd. Regionals will be coming up on May 19th and 21<sup>st</sup>. There are numerous athletes that have potential to qualify for States on the 26th and 28th of May.
- C-SDHS PBIS Students of the Month - April
  - Diontay Cornish - English
  - Logan Criss - Fine Arts
  - Ay'Rhiana Harris - World Language
  - Ma'Nyah Nichols - Social Studies
  - Jocelyn Rafael - Mathematics
  - Colin Webster - P.E.
  - Bre'Na Midgett - Science
  - Casey Hart - Technology
- Ja'Niylah Kimble - Viking Way Student of the Month
- Both C-SD and NDHS sent Math teams to the 37th Annual Eastern Shore High School Mathematics Competition at Salisbury University. The members that went from C-SD were Deen Wright, Bryce Salazar-Calderon, and John Condon. It was a great experience, allowing us to demonstrate our mathematical ability outside of the classroom.
- Brooke Blades and John Condon were awarded the Bayside Scholar Athlete Awards for C-SD, and they were invited to join the Bayside Conference at the Awards Ceremony at

Mace's Lane Middle School. The speaker was a former Salisbury University football coach.

- The NextGen Scholars Program at C-SD, led by Mrs. Laurie Bell, had a college trip to UMBC. They had a great experience. It exposed the students to the numerous opportunities that UMBC has to offer.
- C-SD hosted a Career Fair in the gymnasium to allow students the opportunity to observe the numerous job options that our community exhibits. This event was open to all students in the high school.
- The C-SD Prom was a fabulous experience. The "Hollywood" themed event was a blast for everyone that attended. Samara Spriggs and Jaden Evan's were the Homecoming Queen and King.
- A shoutout to all of the Spring coaching staff for volunteering their time to make a difference in the lives of students at C-SD.
- An honorable mention for Jyrah Curry for becoming a Bayside Champion in the 400m dash, and for John Condon for becoming a Bayside Champion in the 800m and 1600m run.
- A shoutout to all teachers that are involved in state testing.
- A special thanks to Mrs. King for guiding the Senior Class all four years and working endlessly to keep us on the path towards graduation.
- Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> is the last day for Seniors at C-SD. Enjoy the moments while they last.
- C-SD Graduation will be May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Joshua Gravenor, Student Board Representative for NDHS, presented a PowerPoint and reported:

- Junior Achievement Leading Ladies participated in a business luncheon at the Hyatt Regency.
- Ms. Lamb's Science class had a field trip to Horn's Point.
- Students were able to tour the Chesapeake College, Cambridge Campus.
- NDHS National Honor Society held their annual Blood Drive.
- NDHS held their Prom on April 23.
- NDHS held their PLTW- Lab Coat Ceremony.
- Mental Health Month Fair had eight agencies and 170 students participate.

- Spring Spirit Week was May 9 - 13.
- 40 students toured Salisbury University.
- NDHS held Chesapeake Dual Enrollment and Senior Advising/Registration.
- NDHS Softball finished regular session with a 15-3, and Baseball with 11-7.
- NDHS Track North Bayside Champions - Jailen Cornish (400m), and Derek Sirmons (Discus).
- Scholar Athlete Banquet – Honoring seniors Kaitlyn Bradley and Thomas Reincke.
- NDHS Student Athletic Advisory Committee met to make final recommendations for a future NDHS Athletic Hall of Fame.
- Spring Athletic Recognition Dinner honored 88 Minds in Motion athletes who earned a 3.25 on their 3rd report card. 36 Varsity letters were also earned.
- Jaime Fonseca Gonzalez won 1st place in Discus at the Track Bayside Championships.
- Regional Play-offs will begin for Spring Sports.
- 20 students received their PLTW Lab Coats.
- 37 AP testing students.
- NDHS participated in the Highway Clean-up.
- NDHS will be having their Spring Concert.
- MCAP testing Week starting on May 10.
- NDHS will be having their Senior Sign Drive at the Hyatt.
- Raina McDonald signed for the Air Force.
- NDHS had their Senior Awards Night.
- Congratulations to Fatima Kaleem for receiving her Dual Citizenship.
- Doc Sabedra won the DASA Treasure election for 2022-2023.
- Diana Creighton is Bubba of the Week.

Katelyn Masden, Student Board Alternate for DCTC, presented a PowerPoint and reported:

- DCTC's current Maryland Youth Apprenticeship students spoke to DCTC students about the program and what they have gained from our business partners.
- Fifth graders from Maple, Choptank, Hurlock, Sandy Hill, and Vienna Elementary Schools toured DCTC, and many have already decided which program they are going to take when they enter high school. DCTC is looking forward to seeing the Warwick Elementary and SDS fifth grade students in the coming weeks.
- Cambridge-South Dorchester's 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will be also touring DCTC.
- Students in the Cosmetology program at DCTC hosted Ms. Daubert's Anatomy and Physiology class from C-SDHS. The students discussed how a good diet and skin care regimen are critical.
- On April 10<sup>th</sup>, DCTC hosted Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Our students in the Teacher Academy of Maryland Program offered games and planned activities for children and there was an all you can eat breakfast from the Culinary Students.
- Students from the DCTC Construction Design and Management class along with DCTC Carpentry students, designed and created picnic tables for the outdoor classroom at New Directions Learning Academy. Students completed this task under the direction of Mr. Mark Preziosi, Construction Design and Management teacher and Mr. Pete Pietras, Carpentry teacher.
- The Medical Services I class at DCTC collected items to be donated to the following community organizations: Mid Shore Council of Family Violence, Pleasant Day Adult Daycare, New Beginnings Youth & Family Services, Bayside Animal Shelter, and the Food Bank.
- Representatives from MSDE came to DCTC to present to the students in our Teacher Academy of Maryland program. Amy Stoops, DCPS Teacher of the Year, was the guest speaker. Representatives from Notre Dame of Maryland University, Salisbury University, McDaniel College, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore were present to talk to our students about college opportunities.
- The following businesses came to DCTC to speak to our afternoon students about careers in construction: Adex Electrical, Lywood Electric, Inc., Simmons Welding, Stone Concrete. Chaney Enterprises, C. Albert Matthews, Real HAVC Services, Delmarva Veterans Builders, GMB Architects/Engineers, Crosby and Associates, AIA, LLC, Harkins Builders, and Dicarolo Precision Instrument.
- Ms. Sorrells, our Career Counselor, worked collaboratively with the State Highway Administration to provide our students with the opportunity to visit the facility and explore careers with this organization.

- The Dorchester Career and Technology Center Chapter of SkillsUSA has been nationally recognized as one of 24 SkillsUSA Chapters to achieve Models of Excellence status. The award recognizes Chapters for exemplary work in supporting the SkillsUSA Framework of developing personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics.

## **2.06 Introduction of Student Board Representatives and Alternates for the 2022-2023 School Year**

The Board was introduced to the new Student Board Representatives and Alternates for the 2022-2023 school year.

### **From Cambridge-South Dorchester High School:**

Rip Cornish, Student Board Representative  
Wilhelm Reinbold, Alternate

### **From North Dorchester High School:**

Avlynn Bennett, Student Board Representative  
Dylan Ruppert, Alternate

### **From Dorchester Career and Technology Center:**

Katelyn Masden, Student Board Representative  
Austin Shorter, Alternate

## **2.07 Comments from the Public**

Chad Travers, father of a fourth grader who attends South Dorchester PK-8, stated that on Tuesday May 10th parents and guardians of the entire 4th Grade class were informed that three students tested positive for COVID and that the entire class would have to quarantine for five days unless vaccinated and all students in the class would be forced to wear a mask for 10 days. He stated the State Board of Education voted 12 - 2 on February 22nd that masks would no longer be required in Maryland public schools but are now optional. It was then codified by our Maryland General Assembly and signed into law on February 25th by a vote of 17-1. He asked why are we now forcing children to wear masks in schools and quarantining healthy children simply because they may have been in proximity to a child who tested positive for COVID by a home test, not even administered by a health care professional. I was told by the school nurse to contact the Dorchester County Board of Education and was connected to an administrator who honestly knew absolutely nothing about the current protocols and referred me to Dorchester County Health Department whose story changed several times upon talking with her. First these were only recommendations passed down from the CDC and it was at the discretion of each school whether or not to follow them, then it turned into guidelines that were meant to be followed. After asking the Health Department where this authority came from to override written legislation, she said the Maryland State Health Department. When I asked her who I could contact to confirm that information she informed me that I could acquire that information online. No name or number could be given. I called the State Board of Education and the woman I spoke to seemed completely oblivious and assured me that she would have someone reach out to me

and no such person ever made contact. I then asked to speak to an administrator at the Dorchester County Board of Education again and asked her where this authority came from, and she assured me that she would get back to me with an answer and I have yet to hear from her as well. I then reached out to my district representative at the Dorchester County Board of Education, Mr. Mike Diaz, and he assured me that he would look into the matter and get back to me with an answer and I have yet to hear back from him. Mr. Travers stated that if people ignore me long enough that he will go away but he is not going anywhere. He is going to continue to fight for his right as a parent. At the time of this reading there are currently 40 active cases in a County of over 30,000 residents and zero hospitalizations from COVID. Furthermore, studies have shown paper masks to be less than 30% effective if worn properly which we know our kids are not doing and on top of that cloth masks may be worn by students and they are found to be less than 10% effective. Why is this being treated as some sort of Public Health Emergency and these feel-good measures that are completely ineffective are still in place and who is claiming that they have the authority to implement them above legislation which denies them the right to do so? He is tired of these unelected bureaucrats thinking that they run this Country and our State and our County. It's time to give the power back to the people where it belongs.

Dr. Theresa Stafford stated that she is curious as to why minorities are not being hired in DCPS when neighboring counties are hiring minorities. She understands that DCPS is having a difficult time hiring one minority to fill the director's position. She believes Queen Anne's County has appointed a minority for Assistant Superintendent. Why can our neighboring counties be able to find minority candidates and hire them, but Dorchester County cannot do that. She realizes that the Board does not handle day to day operations, but the Board has one employee, Superintendent Bromwell. She stated that the job of the Board is to make sure the policies and things that are set in place are followed. DCPS continues to not hire qualified minorities. She informed the Board that Mr. Bromwell is their only employee, and they need to start asking some tough questions, you need to ask for evidence-based answers. She stated that DCPS is going to other areas to try to find minority candidates, but when local minority candidates apply, they don't hire them. We need to see minority candidates hired in Dorchester County, especially on the Executive Team. Dr. Stafford stated that the Board and Superintendent have received signed letters from the community asking to please fill the Director vacancy with a qualified minority candidate. She stated that another concern she has is the enrollment at DCTC. She attended the breakfast for graduates at DCTC and noticed that there are programs that have four graduates or less. She stated that there are DCTC programs that are being closed because of lack of enrollment, yet DCPS has a policy that let seniors take two classes and go home. She stated that DCTC is not anywhere near its capacity. She informed the Board members they are in charge of making sure policies are implemented fairly and equability and ask those questions as to why DCTC is not to capacity. She charged the Board members to start taking their job seriously and put more teeth in what we expect our school system to look like.

Donald Walker stated that representation is the action of speaking or acting on behalf of someone or state of being thereof. Representation allows minorities to feel validated and allows us to express our opinions comfortably. Mr. Walker conveyed he would feel more comfortable with someone who does some of the same things he does, live some of the same experiences he lives. He explained that some of our children could have post-traumatic stress with all the gun shots going on. He said that our children are dying, yours are not. We do not act the same and we do not have the same issues, it would be a little more difficult for you to represent him. When we see the need for love, you see the need for discipline. You see a budget or budget cuts; we see that there is no greater asset than our children. We need to look at what is working or what does



not work and not continue to collect data on what's wrong, the neighborhood will tell you what's wrong, we have to look at what's there. Minorities make up half of the population of the school.

Harmonie Sisco, student at Sandy Hill Elementary School, stated that a boy was mean to her in her physical education class and hopped on her back and broke something that belonged to her, and he choked her.

Shay Lewis-Sisco, advocate for parents, teachers, and students at Sandy Hill Elementary School (SHES), has had conversations with educators who have left SHES and who are still there, and they expressed concerns that they do not feel supported by the administration at the school. They stated that Superintendent Bromwell came and meet with the staff, but it was a one-side conversation, and the staff could not share their concerns. She understands that Mr. Bromwell is scheduling follow-meetings with smaller groups of staff so that they can share their concerns. She clarified that as a parent of students at SHES the educators and administration need support. Ms. Lewis stated that she has not gotten a phone call from the SHE administration concerning the incident that happened to her daughter today, but she did hear from her daughter's teacher who did not share details of the incident but did say that her daughter was choked in Gym. She is concerned that the information did not come from the administration, but she heard about it at 6:00 p.m. that night when the incident occurred at 10:00 a.m. She is concerned that students see the tragic events happening in the community and then come to school and experience events that could trigger additional trauma and only increases negative behaviors and the student is then sent home or suspended. The students do not understand Restorative Practices. We need to do something with these students in the school building or in the place they are to go.

Lajan Cephas, parent of a current graduating child, shared that when she moved back to Cambridge in 2017, MLMS was not a good experience for her children and the bullying. The different school districts they lived in had a welcoming environment, they felt like they were going to be listened to and did not feel like they were going to be bullied and become victims. She does not know if it is the lack of adversity, but her personal opinion is if you are going to be a cook and you open your cabinet what spices are you going to have. If you only have salt, what do you think you will end up with. She asked the Board to look in their cabinet to see what spices they need to put in so we can have the best product.

## **2.08 Proclamation of Pupil Personnel Worker Month**

Mr. Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services, informed the Board that May is Pupil Personnel Month. There are currently five full-time Pupil Personnel Workers and one supervisor in Dorchester County Public Schools. They provide many services to schools, students, and families. County Pupil Personnel Workers are:

Ashley Eberspacher- SHES, MES, NDMS  
Dr. Charles Pinkett, C-SDHS  
Shamya Johnson, MLMS, CES  
Jovita Adams, NDHS, HES  
Renee Warfield, SDS, VES, and WES

Ms. Regenna Jalon is Supervisor of Student Services and over sees the PPWs.

Mr. Howie read the Proclamation from the Governor.

## **2.09 Instructional Update – Gifted and Talented Education**

Ms. Erin Fitzgerald, Local Accountability Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint on Gifted and Talented Education.

## **3.0 Consent Agenda**

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda for May 19, 2022, was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Diaz, and unanimously carried.

### **3.01 Personnel Items for May 19, 2022 – approved by Consent Agenda.**

#### **A. Appointments – Administrative (Action Item)**

**Jodi Colman**, Director of Curriculum and Assessment  
Central Office  
Effective: July 1, 2022

**Beth Wilson**, Employee Relations/Benefits Coordinator  
Central Office  
Effective: July 1, 2022

#### **B. Appointments – Certificated (Action Item)**

**Corrine Almeida**, Early Childhood Education Teacher (TBD)  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Amanda Brooks**, Elementary Education Teacher, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Shelby Craig**, Mathematics Teacher, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Deweese Davis**, Early Childhood Education Teacher, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Christina Edwards**, Art Teacher  
Hurlock Elementary School  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Marissa Grosso**, Early Childhood Education Teacher, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Sarah Hopkins**, School Social Worker, TBD  
Effective: July 2022

**Anna Knight**, Music Teacher  
Mace's Lane Middle School  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Casey O'Bier**, Science Teacher  
Cambridge-South Dorchester High School  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Annie Plumkey**, School Counselor, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Richard Reed**, Science Teacher  
Mace's Lane Middle School  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Carlynn Rodrigueq-Bartolon**, Spanish Teacher, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Rebecca Skinner**, School Social Worker, TBD  
Effective: July 2022

**Brock Weaver**, English Teacher  
North Dorchester High School  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Hayden Williams**, History Teacher  
North Dorchester High School  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Jenna Wright**, English Teacher  
North Dorchester Middle School  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**3.02 Approval of Minutes – Regular Session Minutes of April 21, 2022 – approved by Consent Agenda.**

**3.03 Second Read/Approval – New BOE Policy 420.06 Students: Admission Requirements; Student Registered Sex Offender; Entry of School Property**

Approved new BOE Policy 420.06 Students: Admission Requirements; Students Registered Sex Offenders; Entry of School Property.

**3.04 Second Read/Approval – New BOE Policy 430.08 Students: Student Attendance; Pregnant and Parenting Policy**

Approved new BOE Policy 430.08 Students: Student Attendance; Pregnant and Parenting Policy.

**3.05 Second Reading/Approval – HealthSmart Elementary (K-5) Health Curriculum**

Approved the HealthSmart Elementary (K-5) Health Curriculum.

**3.06 Second Reading/Approval – HealthSmart Middle School (6-8) Health Curriculum**

Approved the HealthSmart Middle School (6-8) Health Curriculum.

**3.07 Additional Grants Acceptance**

Approved request to include these MSDE grants, totaling \$38,765.00 in the FY 2022 Operating Budget:

- MSDE grant for \$24,869.00 to be used for the Rural Schools program.
- MSDE grant for \$13,13,869.00 to be used for the Rural Schools program.

**3.08 Soliant Contract – Speech Teleservices – Emergency Approval**

Approved the Soliant contract in the amount of \$26,250.00 for speech language services at Sandy Hill Elementary School.

**4.0 Items for Board Action**

**4.01 School Calendar for SY 2022-2023**

Motion to approve the School Calendar for SY 2022-2023 was made by Dr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Diaz, and unanimously carried.

**4.02 Award of the FY 2023 Food Related & Cleaning Products Bid**

Motion to award the Food Related & Cleaning Products bid to FPC Distribution for the three (3) additional one year renewal periods based on satisfactory performance, pricing in the estimated amount of \$90,000.00 per school year was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

**4.03 Award of the FY 2023 Ice Cream Bid**

Motion to award the FY 2023 Ice Cream bid to Hershey Ice Cream in the amount of \$50,000.00, using Anne Arundel Public Schools RFP, was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Diaz, and unanimously carried.

**4.04 Award of the FY 2023 Milk Bid**

A motion to award the FY 2023 Milk bid to Cloverland Dairy, through the Eastern Shore Consortium pricing, in the estimated amount of \$200,000.00 was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.05 Health-e Pro Menu Planning & Nutrient Analysis Software**

Motion to award the contract with Health-e Pro for initial year at \$6,446.70 and \$5,101.20 each year for additional four (4) years for a total cost of \$26,851.50 for all five (5) years was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.06 Approval of Purchase of Instructional and Assessment Materials in Mathematics for Imagine Learning**

Motion to approve the contract with Imagine Learning in the amount of \$141,245.00 for the purchase of instructional and assessment materials for K-12 Mathematics. was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.07 STAR Autism Support Contract**

Motion to approve the STAR Autism Contract in the amount of \$68,620.00 was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.08 Specialized Education of Maryland, Inc. Contract**

Motion to approve the Specialized Education of Maryland, Inc. Contract in the amount of \$105,000.00 was made by Mr. Hull, seconded by Mr. Diaz, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.09 First Read – Review of BOE Policy 110.01 Board of Education: Board Ethics; Code of Conduct**

Motion to accept first read of review of BOE Policy 110.01 Board of Education: Board Ethics; Code of Conduct with recommended revisions was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Diaz, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.10 First Read – Review of BOE Policy 180.06 Board of Education: Meetings; Public Comments**

Mr. Diaz felt that this policy is too restrictive and asked that it be tabled and sent back to the Policy Committee for more discussion.

### **5.0 Items for Information**

#### **5.01 Weapons Detection System Update**

Presented by Mr. Chris Hauge, Facilities and School Safety Planner, for information

#### **5.02 Appropriations and Expenditures Report**

Presented by Mr. Tim Brooke, Comptroller, for information.

#### **5.03 Capital Projects Reports**

Presented by Mr. Tim Brooke, Comptroller, for information.

## 6.0 Other Business

### 6.01 Board Comments

- Mike Diaz stated that the weapons detection system is new and a lot to get used to, and he asked the community to be patience as they work through the challenges. He thanked everyone for their hard work and realizes that there are still a lot of questions regarding the budget at both the state and county level, there will be a lot of changes forthcoming. He informed the community that there will be additional discuss on the policy that was deferred. He stated that the citizens of this county hired the Board to represent them, and he does not want to be so restrictive.
- LeOtha Hull stated that we have had a very good meeting and have covered a lot of material, and approved material to help move our school system along. He thanked those who spoke during the public comments segment and assured them the Board will take the comments into consideration. He thanked the Student Board Representatives for their presentations. He always looks forward to hearing what they are doing in their schools. He wished the current Student Board Representatives the best, and he knows the new Student Board Representatives will do a great job next year.
- Susan Morgan shared a quote from Audre Lorde, *I am trying to become the strongest person I can become to live the life I have been given and to help effect change toward a liveable future for this earth and for my children.*”  
She stated: I quote Lorde because I believe she embodies many of my thoughts and beliefs. I will say to you tonight that I am trying to become and do all that I can to make our community and our school system the best it can be for our children. I believe that education is a way that we can improve our lots in life. Learning all that we can about the world, our country, our community, and the people with whom we interact daily. We’ve seen a lot of hate lately. Hate is the absence of love and love for one another is a lesson found in every religion on this earth. If only we practiced it for everyone. 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. In Florida, there’s now a law to prevent people, especially in schools, from say the word “gay.” Restrictions such as this, along with banning books, only make children either ignorant and willing to accept anything someone in power tells them, or it makes them go underground to find out what it is and why it’s being banned. Encourage your children to read. If you secure in your beliefs, you will demonstrate that in 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. Be the strongest person you can be, live the life you have been given, and effect change that will make this community of ours better.
- Sheri Hubbard stated that she had the opportunity to pass through the weapons detection system and is very proud DCPS has these. She hopes DCPS is able to get more for other schools. She conveyed that it is very disturbing that two items were found that have been threats. She thanked everyone for coming and joining by

livestream. She thanked the Student Board Representatives for a job well done this year

- Laura Layton attended two Student Equity Recognition programs, one in Hurlock and one in Cambridge. It is very important for every student to be recognized and she feels DCPS does a good job. She will be attending an Education Support Personnel Recognition, a DCPS Retirement Celebration, and most important the two high school graduations. She emphasized that the mental health of our students is very important and DCPS makes every effort to help our students. She feels that the mental health of our teachers is just as important. The mental health of the teachers will be reflected in the student. We need to make a strong effort to help our teachers and administrators, without them we do not have a school system. The mental health of teachers is something we need to begin addressing.

## **6.02 Announcements from the Superintendent**

Mr. Bromwell thanked everyone who attended tonight's meeting and those who have watched our livestreamed event, and reported on the following:

- NDHS and C-SDHS senior activities are in full swing, and he has enjoyed the following: NDHS Senior Awards, the Jacket and Pinning Ceremonies at both high schools, the Hyatt Senior Portrait drive-through, and he is looking forward to more events in the very near future. Additionally, he thanked the Hyatt and our DCPS Operations Staff for taking the senior blow-away signs down on Monday, then replacing them the next day due to this week's weather event.
- He wished the senior BOE representatives well with their future endeavors by thanking:  
Samara Spriggs, Josh Gravenor, and John Condon for their service to the BOE this year. Good Luck!
- He looks forward to the new BOE representatives next year and what they will bring to our meetings. All of them were here this evening.
- He thanked those impassioned speakers this evening for their attendance and effort.
- Calendar comments, while a concern was brought to the BOE last month and the opportunity for further public comment was given, very few concerns with the calendar were brought to the BOE members attention this month. He shared them with everyone this evening and wants to remind everyone about the number of information seeking opportunities we provided for comments and/or concerns.
- He thanked Mr. Hauge our school safety officer and our Weapons Detection Teams throughout the county. We have had virtually little to no issues; they are doing what they are supposed to do as advertised. Administrators and teachers have shared how they feel safer in their work environment. Students have shared the same information with their respective school staff.

- He thanked the DCPS Pupil Personnel Workers and all they do to increase communication between students, parents, and our schools.
- He thanked Ms. Erin Fitzgerald for her Gifted and Talented presentation this evening.
- He had the pleasure of attending the Rotary Scholarship and Service Above Self Awards and congratulated the students and parents, and of course the Rotary for all they do for our students.
- He thanked the New Teacher Mentor Team for the support they provide to our new teachers throughout the year.
- He thanked our community for providing Career days to our elementary schools with the Chamber of Commerce.
- He thanked the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office personnel and Sheriff Phillips for providing Rita's Ice to our elementary schools for DARE completion.
- He shared information from Monday's weather event, and he realizes that there were some grumblings from parents, but after witnessing the devastation in the northern part of our county, he hopes you understand the "why." Predictions of 60+ mph winds, with a bus returning children home from school in the open fields made it a no brainer for him. Just imagine what the hail would have done to a school bus as the pictures showed of resident's homes, it was essential for him to get students and staff home early before the storm hit.
- As we move through our last 20 days of school, parents, please continue to communicate with your school about your child and ask questions about learning opportunities this summer.
- We have seen a COVID uptick in our community and he wanted to thank parents and students for their cooperation in dealing with another new variant as Dorchester County has not seen such COVID numbers since January.
- He is looking forward to all of the end of year activities taking place in our schools during the rest of May and June for our students and community.

Thank you and stay safe.

## **7.0 Adjournment**

### **7.01 Adjourn**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:05 p.m., was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

W. David Bromwell  
Secretary