

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DORCHESTER COUNTY  
June 16, 2022**

*The minutes reflect the business actions of the Board of Education of Dorchester County taken at its regular, monthly business meeting held on June 16, 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, June 16, 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; Beth Wilson, Director of Operations; Tim Brooke, Comptroller; and Rochelle Eisenberg, Attorney.

A motion was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Hull, 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:

- Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) the appointment and assignment of administrative, certificated, and non-certificated employees, an employee on Administrative Leave, compensation for the Directors and attendance at meetings, transfers, and resignations of certificated and non-certificated employees, leaves of absences of certificated and non-certificated employees, and a reclassification of a non-certificated employee.
- Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on the interpretation of the new Open Meetings Act.
- Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(9) to consider matters relating to bargaining with the DASA, DE-Teachers, and DE-ESP bargaining units.
- Pursuant to Section 3-101(b)(1) to consider matters relating to administrative functions: potential Special Board of Education Meeting, Board Retreat, ARP Emergency Education Update, and Invitation to SIT Retreat.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the Closed Session of May 19, 2022, was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

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

- The Board discussed the appointment and assignment of administrative, certificated, and non-certificated employees, an employee on Administrative Leave, compensation for the Directors and attendance at meetings, transfers, and resignations of certificated and non-certificated employees, leaves of absences of certificated and non-certificated employees, and a reclassification of a non-certificated employee
- The Board consulted with counsel to obtain legal advice on the interpretation of the new Open Meetings Act.
- The Board discussed matters relating to bargaining with the DASA, DE- Teachers, and DE-ESP bargaining units.
- The Board discussed matters relating to administrative functions: potential Special Board of Education Meeting, Board Retreat, ARP Emergency Education Update, and Invitation to SIT Retreat.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business a motion to adjourn the Closed Session at 5:29 p.m., was made by Dr. Morgan, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

The Regular Session of the Board of Education convened on June 16, 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; Beth Wilson, Director of Operations; Tim Brooke, Comptroller; and Rochelle Eisenberg, Attorney.

### **2.0 Regular Session**

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

#### **2.02 Approval of the Amended Regular Session Agenda for June 16, 2022**

A motion to approve the amended Regular Session Agenda for June 16, 2022, to include 4.11 Compensation for Directors was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

#### **2.03 Recognition – Middle School STEM Festival – First Place Winners and Project of the Year**

Dr. Paula Turner-Coleman, Supervisor of Science, Health, P.E., & STEM, stated that 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. Dr. Turner-Coleman presented the students with certificates on behalf of the Board of Education.

- First place in Grade 6 went to:
  - Averie Smith; Jerriah Kimble; and Jazmine Butler-Taylor (Model of the Gastrointestinal Tract)
  - Zaylee Seaman (Model of the Heart)
- First place in grade 7 went to:
  - Anthony Wingfield (Bridge)
  - Avery Johnson and Jaidyn Holland (Tower of Power)
- First place in grade 8 went to:
  - Matthew Suggs and Clay Wilson (Egg-O-Naut)
  - Kylie Langrall (Wind Turbine)

The Project of the Year went to Avery Johnson and Jaidyn Holland, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from North Dorchester Middle School.

#### **2.04 Recognition - Winners of the Young Authors Elementary/Middle School Awards Program**

Dr. Mike Collins, Director of Curriculum & Assessment, stated that 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. Dr. Collins presented the students with certificates on behalf of the Board of Education.

- Madelyn Bierley, Grade 8, South Dorchester School. Madelyn won **SECOND PLACE** for her poem, *Why Storms are Named after People*
- Aubrey Glynn, Grade 2, South Dorchester School. Aubrey won **FIRST PLACE** for her poem (unnamed poem)
- Lizzie Hesson, Grade 6, South Dorchester School. Lizzie won **FIRST PLACE** for her short story, *Demon's Demise*

#### **2.05 Recognition – DCPS Winners – “A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words” Maryland Council on Economic Education Poster Contest**

Ms. Monique Giddens, Supervisor of Social Studies/History & World Languages, stated that the Maryland Council on Economic Education held their annual Student Achievement Awards on May 18, 2022. At that event, three DCPS students were honored as Top 20 Winners in the “A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words” Poster Contest for Personal Finance. Ms. Giddens presented the students with certificates on behalf of the Board of Education.

- Kendall Bradford, Grade 6, North Dorchester Middle School
- Kyla Jones, Grade 6, North Dorchester Middle School
- Addison Maier, Grade 3, South Dorchester School

## **2.06 Recognition of Maryland State Champions – Sa’Mara Spriggs and John Condon**

Dr. Derek Sabedra, Supervisor of Athletics, presented Sa’Mara Spriggs and John Condon with certificates on behalf of the Board of Education.

- Sa’ Mara Spriggs won the Gold Medal at the Maryland State Division 1A Spring Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the Girls’ 100 Meter Hurdles.
- 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.

## **2.07 Recognition of Published Article by Mr. Chris Hauge in the Maryland Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) News Journal**

Ms. Beth Wilson, Director of Operations, presented Mr. Chris Hauge, Facilities and School Safety Planner, the framed article he wrote and submitted to the Maryland ASBO news journal titled “*School Safety in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What Does it Look Like*” that highlights the safety protocols that Dorchester County Public Schools (DCPS) has put in place and the fact that DCPS is leading the state in such protocols. The article was accepted and published in the Spring/Summer edition.

## **2.08 Calendar**

Mr. Bromwell reviewed upcoming dates and events.

## **2.09 Legislative Update**

Ms. Sheri Hubbard, legislative liaison to the Maryland Association for Boards of Education (MABE) for the Board reported that the Maryland Eastern Shore Counties can continue to use APEX for online learning.

## **2.10 Comments from the Public**

Dr. Theresa Stafford expressed her concern regarding a textbook that is used in 11<sup>th</sup> grade English that has offensive racial remarks. She asks that the DCPS textbooks and curriculum be vetted. She stated that is why she keeps asking to have diversity in the leadership, and in our county. She asked the Board to have sensitivity training, and to review textbooks and curriculum before approving.

Shelia Jones shared her concern regarding the previous candidate’s forum when the question came up about CRT, Critical Race Theory. She stated that some of the members of the Board said that there was no place in the Dorchester County School System for CRT. She conveyed that the Board needs to understand what CRT means, whether good or bad – it is history, and understanding what CRT is will help you make an informed decision regarding textbooks and curriculum. Ms. Jones asked the Board to work with the City of Cambridge to establish a student resource officer at MLMS.

Leah Green, just graduated from NDHS and DCTC, and is speaking on what Dr. Stafford shared. She stated that being in school and hearing racist remarks made her feel different, and she feels everyone is the same. She stated that she will be going to UMES but was told by her teacher that that was something she was not ready for, and it made her feel degraded and made her feel that she couldn't do something.

Breana Clark, student, had an experience in a classroom this past January where she said she was humiliated by the teacher in front of the class. She was moved to another class. She stated that she is going to Garrett Community College for two years then transfer to Frostburg to major in Psychology.

**2.11 Educational Equity Task Force Presentation – Mr. Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services**

Mr. Howie presented a PowerPoint on the Educational Equity Task Force's presentation on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity.

**2.12 DCPS Virtual Learning Day Plan 2022-2023 School Year - Dr. Mike Collins, Director of Curriculum & Assessment**

Dr. Collins, Director of Curriculum & Assessment, presented a PowerPoint on DCPS's 2022-2023 Virtual Learning Day Plan.

**2.13 DCPS Blueprint for Maryland's Future Update – Ms. Regina Teat, Director of Leadership & Schools**

Ms. Teat, Director of Leadership & Schools, presented a PowerPoint on DCPS Blueprint for Maryland's Future Update.

**2.14 Instructional Update – iReady Update – Dr. Michael Collins, Director of Curriculum & Assessment**

Dr. Michael Collins, Director of Curriculum & Assessment, presented a PowerPoint on Math and ELA Data.

**3.0 Consent Agenda**

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda for June 16, 2022, was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

**3.01 Personnel Items for June 16, 2022 – approved by Consent Agenda.**

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

**Clarissa Cooper**, Assistant Principal  
Choptank Elementary School  
Effective: July 1, 2022

**Alan Burkhardt**, Assistant Principal  
Sandy Hill Elementary School  
Effective: July 1, 2022

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

**Wendi Bleyer**, Early Childhood Education Teacher  
Sandy Hill Elementary School  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Monick Conway**, School Social Worker, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Aubree Harding**, School Social Worker, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Julie Harp**, Science Teacher  
New Directions Learning Academy  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Christy Lantz**, School Psychologist  
Central Office  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Voncia Molock**, Interactive Media Production Teacher  
Dorchester Career & Technology Center  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Victoria Tinsley**, Early Childhood Education Teacher, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**Nathan Weis**, Science Teacher  
North Dorchester Middle School  
Effective: August 8, 2022

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

**Vonette Wright**, School Counselor, TBD  
Effective: August 8, 2022

**3.02 Approval of Minutes – Regular Session Minutes of May 19, 2022 – Approved by Consent Agenda.**

**3.03 Second Read/Approval of BOE Policy 110.01 Board of Education: Board Ethics; Code of Conduct**

Approved BOE Policy 110.01 Board of Education: Board Ethics; Code of Conduct.

**3.04 Jeep Latitude Plus for Food Service Manager – CarMax – Emergency Approval**

Approved authorization of expenditures to CarMax not to exceed \$28,343.94 for the Food Service Manager.

**3.05 Additional Grants Acceptance**

Approved request to include these MSDE grants, totaling \$49,755.00 in the FY 2022 Operating Budget:

- MSDE grant for \$47,775.00 to be used for the Early Childhood Advisory Council Program.
- MSDE grant for \$2,000.00 to be used for the Pathways to STEM Apprenticeship Program

**4.0 Items for Board Action**

**4.01 Proposed 2022-2023 Table of Rates for Bus Contractors**

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Table of Rates for Bus Contractors was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

**4.02 Food Bid – MD’s Shore Seven (7) Educational Consortium (MSEC) Bid Award**

Motion to award the Food Bid to Sysco Eastern MD for the initial year at \$1,000,000.00 and \$1,000,000.00 for each of the four (4) one-year renewals for a total of \$5,000,000.00 was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

**4.03 Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2023 (Amended)**

Motion to approve the amended proposed FY 2023 Categorical Budget totaling \$72,673,423; FY 2023 Restricted Grants totaling \$9,286,489; FY Food Services Fund budget of \$3,353,224; and the FY 2023 Capital Budget of \$6,143,292 was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

**4.04 Purchase 450 Student Acer TravelMate 83 Notebooks – Year 2 of 2 ESSER II Funds**

Motion to approve purchase of 450 Acer TravelMate 83 Notebooks from CDW-G LLC with four (4)-year extended service agreement in the amount of \$172,800.00, was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Diaz, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.05 Purchase of iPads and Apple Pencils**

A motion to approve purchase of iPads and Apple Pencils from Apple Education in the amount of \$29,100.00 was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.06 Soliant Contract – Sign Language Interpreter**

Motion to approve payment of the Soliant Contract for a sign language interpreter in the amount of \$102,000.00 was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

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

Motion to approve the Specialized Education of Maryland, Inc. Contract for summer school services in the Therapeutic Support Program (TSP) in the amount of \$80,000.00 was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

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

Motion to accept first read of BOE Policy 180.06 Board of Education: Meetings; Public Comments was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.09 First Read – Review of BOE Policy 100.01 Board of Education: Board Policy; Board Policy**

Motion to accept first read of BOE Policy 100.01 Board of Education: Board Policy; Board Policy was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.10 First Read – Review of BOE Policy 100.02 Board of Education: Board Policy; Boardmanship**

Motion to accept first read of BOE Policy 100.02 Board of Education: Board Policy; Boardmanship was made by Mr. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Hubbard, and unanimously carried.

#### **4.11 Compensation for Directors**

Motion to approve a 2% increase and a mileage stipend of \$280.00 a month for in county travel for Directors was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

### **5.0 Items for Information**

#### **5.01 Lead 4 Life MOU**

Mr. Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services, presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Lead 4 Life.



**5.02 Harvesting Hope Youth & Family Wellness, Inc. MOU**

Mr. Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services, presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Harvesting Hope Youth & Family Wellness, Inc.

**5.03 Maple Shade Youth & Family Services MOU**

Mr. Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services, presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Maple Shade Youth & Family Services.

**5.04 Recognition of Deceased BOE Employees**

Ms. Laura Layton, BOE President; and Ms. Alice Mitchell, Dorchester County Retired Educators Association (DREA) President, read the names of all deceased BOE employees from July 1, 2021, to June 16, 2022:

Colvin Camper - January 11, 2021	Bonnie Baker Keplinger – August 2, 2021
William Potter - January 31, 2021	Betty Lloyd – February 12, 2021
Ellen Parks Ruark - May 22, 2021	Calvin Manokey – October 29, 2021
Ronald Thorpe - September 22, 2021	Madeline Marine – December 1, 2021
Henry Wagner - August 8, 2021	Margaret Morrison – September 17, 2021
Pat Abbott - December 13, 2021	Virginia Murphy – December 1, 2021
Linda Allen – October 17, 2021	Janet Todd – April 8, 2022
Sharon Hughes – August 7, 2021	Brenda Yeatman – August 4, 2021
Herschel Johnson – November 9, 2021	

**5.05 Appropriations and Expenditures Report**

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

**5.06 Capital Projects Reports**

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

**6.0 Other Business**

**6.01 Board Comments**

- LeOtha Hull stated that this was a very good meeting and we have covered and approved a lot of 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 commended the students on their achievements and was appreciative of the recognitions of deceased BOE employees.

- Susan Morgan thanked everyone for attending in person and virtually. She thanked everyone who spoke and enjoyed seeing the students receiving their recognitions.
- Sheri Hubbard was happy to see so many talented students being recognized. DCPS has a lot to be proud of and she is proud of all that DCPS has accomplished. She was happy to see the positive uptick in our local assessment data. She thanked Ms. Layton and Ms. Mitchell for recognizing the DCPS deceased employees.
- Mike Diaz commended all the students for their recognitions. He thanked the building staff and administrators who run the buildings for all their hard work. He thanked the Directors for all their presentations. He stated that he feels that all school buildings should have a deputy or police officer. He stated that the Board cannot hire sheriff deputies, that's the County Council level. He challenged anyone in the community to make your voice heard in the County Council meetings and ask for support.
- Laura Layton attended the Board of Education Candidate Forum, and a question really struck her, do you represent the community, the district or yourself when you sit on the Board of Education, and her answer would have been I represent the students at their best interest. She implores the City Council and County Council to do the right thing, as Mr. Diaz just said, help us keep our students safe by putting a school resource officer in every building and giving DCPS compensation on the Weapons Detection Systems that have been installed in our middle and high schools. She thanked the Directors for all their hard work and congratulated all the students who were given recognition. She thanked Mr. Bromwell for all his hard work which is so often overlooked.

## **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:

- The 2021-2022 school year has officially come to an end for our teachers, our students, and of course our parents and community. He thanked everyone for their perseverance, patience, and thoughts during a very trying year as we worked out of the pandemic.
- While the school year ends for some it moves into a different phase for many others. Our operations staff moves onto projects scheduled for the summer, custodians begin our summer cleaning process, bus contractors and our own transportation team will be having busses inspected and routes reviewed, our guidance counselors review this year and continue to review student files for next year, student services personnel are verifying student addresses, HR/Principals/Administrators are finalizing SIT plans, filling staff openings, and tweaking next year's school year initiatives. It will be a busy summer! He thanked these vital staff members as well, for everything they did this school year and what we are beginning to partake this summer.

- He congratulated all those that were recognized this evening, he is very proud of their accomplishments.
- He thanked his Directors for all the planning that went into this year and our many meetings after hours to make the best possible decisions for our students and staff.
- He thanked those impassioned speakers for their attendance and effort.
- He implored the community to ask the candidates and incumbents in our upcoming elections in July and moving toward November what their thoughts are on DCPS, their thoughts on the DCPS budget, their thoughts on student learning, and their thoughts on school safety as these topics are going to be center front this summer and the next school year.
- DCPS will be moving into reviewing and revamping the DCPS strategic plan next year. More information will be coming out over the summer on this topic.
- DCPS is in the preliminary stages of looking at our school system's website and he encourages those interested to give feedback to Cindy Houghtaling at the Central Office.
- He thanked the Equity Task Force Team and Mr. Howie for their presentation, and he is looking forward to DCPS next steps with our equity discussions and actions.
- He thanked Ms. Teat for the Blueprint review which will be an ongoing topic of conversation this summer and next year.
- He thanked Dr. Collins for the DCPS data discussion which all our schools will use next week at their School Improvement Team Retreats.
- He thanked Ms. Wilson, for all she has done as Operations Director, and he looks forward to the advancement of our Human Resources Department with her position.
- Parents, please continue to communicate with your child's home school regarding summer learning opportunities. DCPS has a myriad of learning opportunities taking place and he encouraged parents and students to take advantage of them.
- He met with the Wyatt Foundation representatives and the Striving for Grade Level Reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. It was a great meeting and he continues to be encouraged by their efforts and our collaboration with them.
- Our thoughts continue to be with the DCPS deceased members and of course their families, our thoughts are with you. Thank you, Dorchester Educators, for recognizing them this evening.

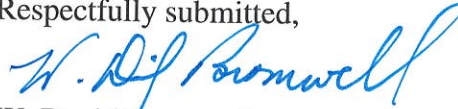
Stay Safe and have a great summer!

**7.0 Adjournment**

**7.01 Adjourn**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:55 p.m., was made by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Hull, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



W. David Bromwell  
Secretary