

**Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN)  
Unofficial Notes on Dorchester County Board of Education (DCBOE)  
Monthly Meeting, Thursday, August 18, 2022**

Submitted by Tom Puglisi

Note: \* Supporting documents may be found on the CAN website at [CambridgeCan.org](http://CambridgeCan.org) and the DCPS Board Docs website at <https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/dcps/Board.nsf/Public>

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**1. Closed Session, 5:00 p.m.**

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

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Approval of the Regular Agenda for August 18, 2022

**2.03 Calendar**

Monday, August 22, 2022 - All Teachers Report to Work for School Year 2022-2023

Monday, August 29, 2020 - Grades 1-5, 6 and 9 Report for School (All Grades Report to SDS)

Tuesday, August 30, 2022 - Grades 1-12 Report to School

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 - PreK and K Report for the First Day of School

Monday, September 5, 2022 - Schools/Offices Closed - Labor Day

Thursday, September 15, 2022 - Regular Meeting of the Dorchester County Board of Education at DCTC

**2.04 Comments from the Public**

There were no in-person comments from the public.

Comment #1: Submitted on line. The comment noted that the materials required to be supplied by the parents of students were extensive and beyond the means of many parents. They were also confusing and varied across the system.

**2.05 Electric Bus Discussion.** Although the application has been prepared and is ready to send, the recommendation from staff (see presentation attached) was not to pursue the current federal grant opportunity to support the purchase of electric buses and infrastructure. The negative recommendation cited uncertainty about infrastructure costs, trip capacity, maintenance, and replacement part costs, as well as problems with one electric bus in Frederick. It was further recommended that DCPS wait until next year to apply for grant support when more information about electric busses is available. It was noted that each electric bus purchased under the federal grant must replace an existing non-electric bus and that DCPS does have one such bus that will be retired regardless of the Board's decision about the proposed grant application. Dr. Morgan pointed out that purchasing one bus under the grant would cost DCPS virtually nothing and would give DCPS the benefit of experience before buying additional busses. She noted the advantages of electric busses and asked when legislation requires conversion to an electric bus fleet. The response was that conversion is to occur by 2025, but there are many exceptions that would allow DCPS to postpone conversion. Dr. Morgan made a motion to submit the grant application for at least one bus. The motion was not seconded and did not advance. \*

**2.06 DCPS COVID-19 Guidance Update.** Mitigation strategies, maintenance practices, and changes to COVID guidance will be implemented for the coming school year in accordance with current public health recommendations. Parents will be notified if a positive case is identified in their child's classroom. Outbreaks must be reported to public health authorities, as well as to parents.\*

**2.07 Instructional Update** – The Lexia Language Arts Assessment and Intervention program targets Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Structural Analysis, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Reading Comprehension for individual students and facilitates school, grade, and systemwide monitoring and tracking. \*

**2.08 DCTC Summer Career Enrichment Program** offered two sessions with over 200 middle school students participating from three counties, all free of charge. Programs were offered in Creative Animation, Media Arts and Video Editing, Digital Teen Forensics, Graphic Presentation and Design, Drones/GIS Tracking/Animation Cyber and Drone Technology, App Development, Youth Cyber Security, and Chess Immersion. DCPS is exploring possibilities for offering some of these courses during the school year.\*

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**3. Consent Agenda (Approved)**

3.01 Approval of Personnel Items for August 18, 2022

3.02 Approval of the Minutes of the July 21, 2022, Regular Board of Education Meeting \*

3.03 Second Read/Approval of BOE Policy 430.00 Students: Student Attendance; Attendance Philosophy \*

3.04 Second Read/Approval of BOE Policy 430.02 Students: Student Attendance; Lawful Absences \*

3.05 Second Read/Approval of BOE Policy 430.05-Students: Student Attendance; Grade Reduction/Retention Consequences for Unlawful Absences \*

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- 3.06 Approval of obligation and payment to The Benedictine School #1. The IEP team determined that a nonpublic school was the least restrictive environment for this student. Total DCPS contribution is \$61,552. The MSDE contribution is \$65,872, following approval of the nonpublic tuition assistance grant.
- 3.07 Approval of obligation and payment to The Benedictine School #2. The IEP team determined that a nonpublic school was the least restrictive environment for this student. Total DCPS contribution is \$61,552. MSDE contribution is \$65,872 following approval of the nonpublic tuition assistance grant.
- 3.08 Approval of obligation and payment to The Benedictine School #3. The IEP team determined that a nonpublic school was the least restrictive environment for this student. Total DCPS contribution is \$61,552. MSDE contribution is \$65,872 following approval of the nonpublic tuition assistance grant.
- 3.09 Additional Grants Acceptance. Grants received by the school district during the month of July 2022, but not included in the approved Operating Budget. Board approval is needed to accept these grant awards and incorporate them into our operating budget. (a) Grant from MSDE for \$14,800 for student services and homeless children services. (b) Grant from MSDE for \$208,889 for kindergarten readiness professional development. (c) Grant is from MSDE for \$5,038.02 for gifted and talented educational services.
- 3.10 Replacement Fleet Vehicles – Authorization of expenditures to Criswell Chevrolet Gaithersburg, MD for three tradesman vans in the amount \$41,085.21 each and totaling \$123,255.63 – Emergency Approval
- 3.11 Dish Machine for Cambridge-South Dorchester High School – Authorization of expenditures to Alto Hartley, Ind for dish machine at Cambridge-South Dorchester High School in the amount of \$26,282 – Emergency Approval
- 3.12 Soliant Contract - Approval of Soliant contract for a Special Education Teacher for CES in the amount of \$105,300.00 – Emergency Approval
- 3.13 Textbook Adoption: Hole’s Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology, McGraw-Hill © 2021 - Emergency Approval. The Hole’s Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology textbook offers a more modernized textbook and electronic resources. Students will have access to the hardcopy textbook as well as the eBook. The eBook is equipped with (a) animations to help explain complex topics and processes; and (b) other e-tools to accommodate the learning of our special needs population. Students will also have access to the interactive cadaver dissection tool used to enhance lectures and labs. The textbook integrates with the district’s Learning Management System (LMS), Schoology.
- 3.14 Textbook Adoption: Inspire Physics, McGraw-Hill © 2020 - Emergency Approval. The Inspire Science textbook is a replacement of an antiquated Physics textbook. Students will not only have access to the hardcopy textbook but also to the eBook. The eBook has built-in accommodation tools for our special needs population. Videos are embedded in the eBook and the textbook integrates with the district’s Learning Management System (LMS), Schoology.

#### **4. Items for Board Action**

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- 4.01 **NorthBay Contract** - Contract with NorthBay in the amount of approximately \$78,750 for 5-Day/4-Night, Grade 5 Overnight Experience at NorthBay. Approved.
- 4.02 **Construction Design Management - Data Networks** - Purchase of materials of instruction from Data Networks for DCTC CTE Construction Design Management Program not to exceed \$46,473.00. Approved.
- 4.03 **Goalbook Toolkit** - Renewal of 75 teacher licenses and professional development for the Goalbook Pathways Toolkit for the 2022-23 school year. Online application guides educators to develop evidenced based specially designed instruction at a high level of rigor. \$36,295. Approved.
- 4.04 **AMN HealthCare - Teleservices Contract**. Contract to provide a school psychologist through teleservices to cover one school and 504 meetings for all schools for the 2022-23 school year. This is warranted due to a school psychologist vacancy for this year. The projected amount is based on the hourly rate of \$90 per hour. Dr. Morgan noted that the costs in this contract are extremely high and that she knows from personal experience that accurate assessments require interpersonal interaction that would be difficult to perform via teleservices. Ms. Layton requested confirmation that qualified retired persons were approached without success to fill the vacancy. \$121,500. Approved.
- 4.05 **Emmajane Olinde Contract**. Recurring contract with Ms. Olinde for SY22-23 coaching support in DCPS early childhood classrooms. Support focuses around accreditation, increasing teacher capacity, and working towards a Level 5 EXCELS rating. \$40,000. Approved.

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- 4.06 **Specialized Education of MD Contract – TSP.** Provide students during the school year with Therapeutic Support Program (TSP) rooms. The TSP rooms are housed at MLMS, CES, HES, MES, and SHES. This is a four-year contract which will renew automatically through June 2026 with a 3% annual increase. Dr. Morgan noted the cost for 40 students seems extreme, and that DCPS needs to explore different alternative education programs in the future. She also indicated that the Board needs to receive all such contracts much earlier than August each year. Mr. Diaz echoed these comments, and Ms. Hubbard wondered if we are really getting our money's worth with such contracts. \$1,211,280. Approved
- 4.07 **Duron Expenditure - HES Media Center.** Renewal for the remodeling of Hurlock Elementary School's media center using Concentration of Poverty grant. \$81,511.35. Approved.
- 4.08 **Mid Shore Community Mediation Center Contract.** One year agreement with Mid Shore Community Mediation Center. Continuation of services provided last school year. Ms. Hubbard and Ms. Layton confirmed the effectiveness of this program. \$56,000 provided through grant funding. Approved.
- 4.09 **Move This World Contract.** Social emotional program to be used by students to enable them to establish and maintain healthy relationships with peers and staff. \$41,494. Approved.
- 4.10 **Naviance Expenditure - Naviance services through PowerSchool.** The guidance departments use this to track students. \$29,978.94 provided through grant funding. Approved.
- 4.11 **Athletico Contract.** Physical therapy personnel during athletic team practices and games for the 22-23 SY in the amount of \$84,000. It was noted that costs have increased substantially since Athletico acquired Pivot (the previous contract holder). Approved.
- 4.12 **Award of Preventive Maintenance Renewal Contract** on all Chillers, Cooling Towers, at C-SD, NDLA, VES, WES, SHES, MES. \$37,734. Approved.
- 4.13 **Choptank Elementary School (CES) Roof Replacement** - Change order to support Davis-Bacon federal wage rates as required by law for the Choptank Elementary School (CES) roof replacement contract to Apex Business Solutions of Ocean City, MD in the amount of \$88,765. Approved.
- 4.14 **FY2024 Update – Capital Improvement Plan.** FY2024 update to the Capital Improvement Plan for Board of Education budget support and presentation to the County Council and Public School Construction Program. Weapons detection systems for elementary school have been removed pending further information on employee impact. Mr. Diaz indicated his belief that elementary schools need to be included. Motion to approve as proposed was not supported. Motion approved to table pending additional information on elementary school weapons detection systems.

## **5. Items for Information**

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- 5.01 Special Education Handbook, Revised August 2022 to comply with new State requirements on restraint.\*
- 5.02 Appropriations and Expenditures Report. Normal activity with no variances. Hiring required staff remains a concern. \*
- 5.03 Capital Projects Reports. Normal activity. \*

## **6. Other Business**

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### 6.01 Board Comments

Mr. Diaz noted that school starts in 6 days and welcomed new teachers and staff. He indicated that weapons detection systems for elementary schools are essential and need to be moved forward.

Dr. Morgan. Shirley Chisholm said: *Don't listen to those who say you can't. Listen to the voice inside yourself that says, I can* – Want a wonderful saying, spoken by a truly amazing individual. Before she went into politics and was elected to Congress from NY, she worked as a teacher. She held a Master's Degree in Education. She was the first African American Congresswoman in the US House of Representatives. She also made history again when she competed for the Democratic Presidential Nomination in 1972. She served in Congress for seven terms. She remains a great role model for all young girls, regardless of their ethnicity. Women such as Shirley Chisholm should inspire women and girls now as she did in the mid 20th Century. Her spunk and her continued push to achieve are admirable. She wasn't born with a silver spoon in her mouth. She certainly didn't get help along the way. If she can do it, others in similar circumstances can, too. That is what Education is all about. That's why I ran for this seat and why I push for things that will make our students' lives better. Thank you for coming tonight. Remember that I am reachable via email at MorganS@dcpsmd.org.

Mr. Hull expressed good evening to all and noted that we need to move forward as the next school year begins. There is strength in unity, and we can accomplish much if we work together.

Ms. Hubbard indicated children and teachers are anxious to get the new school year under way. She looks

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forward to a very successful and more normal school year.

Ms. Layton stated that she was very pleased to see the enthusiasm of this year's new teachers, many of whom are former DCPS students returning as teachers. She thanked the local police departments for training DCPS teachers in current tactical strategies.

6.02 Superintendent Comments. The Superintendent --

- Stated that all DCPS schools this year are striving for gold status performance.
- Asked the community to question candidates at all levels regarding their support of schools.
- Stressed that DCPS will ensure that all students have needed supplies if parents cannot provide the requested items.
- Noted that DCPS will focus this year on enforcing cell phone policies within the schools in order to encourage learning. This may be challenging for some students.
- Indicated that parents will be notified of how they can be informed of school messages in Spanish.
- Pointed out that new camera systems have been installed in buses to ensure complete coverage.
- Noted that open houses will occur at all schools and urged all parents to attend.
- Welcomed new and returning teachers, staff, and students.

**7. Adjournment**

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The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.