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>

# 1. Closed Session, 3:30 p.m.

# 2. Open/Work Session, 5:00 p.m.

# 2.01 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - Weapons Detection System (WDS) and other security measures \*

# The Superintendent noted that three CIP proposals have been developed to implement safety measures at the elementary school level. These proposals have raised questions about the relative effectiveness of the WDS vs security vestibules vs security fences, and various combinations of these three measures. The Superintendent noted that the three proposed CIPs do not include fencing because an estimate of cost and effectiveness would require significant additional study and planning. It was noted that discipline problems are prevalent in our elementary and middle schools and that elementary and middle schools around the country are reporting students entering or trying to enter with guns and knives. Concerns were expressed that many schools have multiple entrances, making it hard to ensure that all doors are locked at all times. It was noted that all temporary classrooms are currently surrounded by fencing. The Superintendent made clear that adoption of any of the three CIPs does not reflect a final decision on building, which would require feasibility studies and community consultation. The Board requested that the Superintendent include information about these feasibility and consultations in his next message to the DCPS community. See Section 6.05 (below) for the Board’s vote on the proposed CIPs.

# 2.02 DCPS Committees. The Board requested information about existing DCPS committees that affect DCPS

# as a whole, including scope, membership, outcomes, and verification that all committees are in compliance with the Maryland Open Records Act. The Superintendent will provide the Board with the requested information.

# 2.03 Data Request. The Board has requested monthly updates on attendance and discipline and bimonthly

# reports on achievement.

# 2.04 Get to Know Your Board Members - Meet & Greet Sessions. The Board wants to provide the

# community with the opportunity to meet and greet members of the Board informally in non-decision-making settings. The Board will consider holding meet and greet opportunities at community events, as well as before and after Board Meetings and Work Sessions.

# 3. Regular Session, 6:00 p.m.

# 3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

# 3.02 Approval of the Regular Agenda for September 15, 2022

# 3.03 Calendar

# \* Thursday, September 21, 2022: Virtual Learning for Students in am, Prof Dev for Teachers in pm

# \* Thursday, September 28, 2022: No School for Students, Parent Conference Day

# \* October 6-8, 2022: MABE Annual Conference

# \* October 10-14, 2022: National School Lunch Week

# \* Friday, October 14, 2022: Early Dismissal for Students, Professional Development Half-Day

# \* Thursday, October 20, 2022, 6:00 pm, October Meeting, Dorchester County Board of Education, NDHS

# \* Monday, October 31, 2022: Early Dismissal for Students, Professional Development Half-Day

# Comments from the Student Board Representatives \*

# \* Rip Cornish - Cambridge-South Dorchester High School, Alternate - Wilhelm Reinbold

# \* Avlynn Bennett - North Dorchester High School, Alternate - Dylan Ruppert

# \* Katelyn Masden - Dorchester Career and Technology Center, Alternate - Austin Shorter

# 3.05 Comments from the Public

# \* Speaker #1 urged the Board to address the dust and mold problems at Vienna Elementary School, maintaining that all avenues must be explored to identify the root cause of the problem. (The Superintendent indicated that an independent consultant has been engaged to address these issues.)

# \* Speaker #2 expressed concern about the safety of children going to and from the schools on Maces

# Lane. The speaker indicated that several parents are interested in volunteering to assist in solving the problem.

# \* Speaker #3 asked for additional monitors on the buses from the schools on Maces Lane.

# \* Writer #1 expressed concerns about the number of long term substitutes in the system. The

# writer suggested that non-certified substitutes be assisted in becoming certified. The writer also expressed concern about students who are habitually absent from school and about an apparent undue reliance on computerized instruction by some teachers within DCPS

# \* Writer #2 stressed that parents in Vienna need more transparency from the school system.

# 3.06 Instructional Update - iReady Mathematics Presentation \*

# \* i-Ready is an Adaptive Diagnostic tool. Students see questions based on how they are performing.

# \* Online instruction is personalized to the individual. Each student receives an individualized pathway based on diagnostic results.

# \* i-Ready is NOT a grading tool. i-Ready is used to help students grow, but it is not used for grading.

# \* i-Ready does NOT Replace Classroom Teachers. i-Ready supports teachers by helping identify students for targeted instruction and differentiation. The Teacher Toolbox is one of many resources that teachers may use to provide targeted instruction.

# 4. Recognitions

# 4.01 Recognition of Donation by Dr. Teena Gorrow to Dorchester County Public Schools.

# Dr. Gorrow is the daughter of the late Paul and Ellen Ruark and sister of the late Paula Ruark Gibb. She has coauthored three books: *Inside a Bald Eagles Nest: Inside an Osprey’s Nest and Mrs. President;*and *The First Lady: The DC Eagle Cam Project*. Dr. Gorrow has donated 14 sets of these books to DCPS (one set for each school) in memory of her parents and sister for the enjoyment of DCPS students.

# 4.02 Recognition of Jessica Suggs, Media Specialist and PLTW Teacher at South Dorchester School \*

# This summer, Jessica Suggs presented a poster at the National Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Conference in collaboration with two other Maryland educators and Elissa Hozore from MSDE.

# 5. Consent Agenda – All Items approved as amended by unanimous vote during Executive Session.

# 5.01 Approval of Personnel Items for September 15, 2022

# 5.02 Approval of the Minutes of the August 18, 2022, Regular Board of Education Meeting

# 5.03 Additional Grants Acceptance totaling $368,630 in the FY 2023 Operating Budget. \*

# 1. Grant from MSDE for $330,000 for the MES Judy Center.

# 2. Grant from MSDE for $38,630 for the Digital Learning Framework

# 5.04 Award of Bus Contract - Emergency Approval \*

# The Transportation Department has been covering a Bus Route serving C-SDHS, MLMS, and Sandy Hill ES since the 2020-2021 school year. The route has remained open, but a contract driver has now been identified to take the route.

# 6. Items for Board Action – All items approved unanimously.

# 6.01 Payment for ESMEC Blended Virtual Program \*

# Dorchester County offered 10 “seats” for students to attend the Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium’s Blended Virtual School. Families applied for the program in the spring of 2022. Applications were reviewed in the order in which they were received. Students identified by administration were admitted to the program for the 2022-2023 school year. The invoice of $58.000 is for tuition for 10 DPCS students and shows a credit of $14,000 from the 2021-2022 school year. Students are on-line with a tutor for 40% of the time. Progress is tracked and monitored by a DCPS counselor.

# 6.02 Cambridge Police Department MOU \*

# This MOU serves as a guideline for the provision of SRO services full time, 5 days per week for Maces Lane Middle School. This amount pays half of officer salary from a Concentration of Poverty Grant. Insurance and benefits are covered by CPD. $44,000.

# 6.03 ESMEC Health Insurance Alliance Trustee for Dorchester County Board of Education

# Membership in the ESMEC Health Insurance Alliance requires that each school Board be represented by two employees, both designated as Trustees. One trustee position is currently filled by Tim Brooke, Comptroller, and the other position is filled by Mr. Thomas (Trey) Mills, a representative of the employee unions. With the establishment of the Benefits Administrator position, the trustee position held by Mr. Brooke will be turned over to Ms. Beth Wilson. Mr. Brooke will remain Treasurer of the ESMEC Health Alliance until it is decided how those duties will be handled in the future

# 6.04 2023 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP) \*

# The CMP, and by inference appropriate maintenance program funding, are pre-requisites for funding of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Once approved by the Board the CMP will be sent to the IAC as it is due by October 14th.

# 6.05 FY2024 Update – Capital Improvement Plan Option 3 \*

# Option 3 includes all eight of the original priorities plus installation of the weapons detection system as the first priority and then installation of security vestibules as the second priority.

# 6.06 Installation Labor Contract for Replacement of the Roof at Maple Elementary School (MES) \*

# 6.07 Material Contract for Replacement of the Roof at Maple Elementary School (MES) \*

# Replacement of the roof system at Maple Elementary School is a top priority of the FY2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The project is being funded by the State of Maryland’s Public School Construction Program and local funds. The total combined material and labor cost for the project is $2,800,000.

# 6.08 First Read – Review of BOE Policy 422.01 Students: High School Program; High School Graduation

# Requirements. The State is now requiring the extra requirements previously required by DCPS \*

# 6.09 First Read – Review of BOE Policy 450.01 Students: Student Conduct/Discipline; Student Behavior

# Interventions \*

# 7. Items for Information

# 7.01 Hurlock Police Department MOU \*

# This MOU serves as a guideline for the provision of SRO services for Hurlock Elementary School.

# The Hurlock Police Department has applied for a grant to cover the entire salary for this position at no cost to DCPS.

# 7.02 Community Behavioral Health MOU \*

# This MOU serves as a guideline for the provision of School-based mental health services by qualified staff of Community Behavioral Health to DCPS students at no cost to DCPS. This is the same MOU as last school with dates of service changed.

# 7.03 Life Energy Wellness Center, Inc. MOU \*

# MOU serves as a guideline for the provision of school-based mental health services by qualified staff of Life Energy Wellness Center, Inc. to DCPS students at no cost to DCPS. This is the same MOU as last school with dates of service changed.

# 7.04 Creative Space Child Therapy MOU \*

# This MOU serves as a guideline for the provision of School-based mental health services by qualified staff of Creative Space Child Therapy to DCPS students at no cost to DCPS. This is the same MOU as last school with dates of service changed.

# 7.05 Appropriations and Expenditures Report \*

# No variances to report.

# 7.06 Capital Projects Report \*

# Two new projects are being monitored with no variances to report.

# 8. Other Business

# 8.01 Board Comments

# Dr. Morgan. Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Sometimes I feel like a broken record, but I will say it again. Education truly is the most powerful weapon that we can make available to our children. That is what our schools are charged with doing. The question then becomes, how do we help students learn? A wonderful insight, generally attributed to Benjamin Franklin, says: “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn.” So much is discussed at Board Meetings that it sometimes seems that education itself gets lost. But I assure you that I am constantly requesting information and data to make sure that students in our system are learning.

# Mr. Hull indicated that we have accomplished a lot this evening to make our schools safe for our students and staff. Thanks to the student representatives. There is strength in unity as we work together to ensure the best for our students.

# Mr. Diaz noted that he was favorably impressed with his visit to a school this week. He stressed that safety in our schools is of paramount importance.

# Ms. Hubbard stressed that she is pleased that stakeholders are making their views known to the Board. She praised the student representatives for their presentations and thanked Dr. Garrow for her donation.

# Ms. Layton indicated that she, Vice President Hubbard, and Superintendent Bromwell have resumed monthly meetings with County Council members. She thanked Simmons Center Market for their generous donation of hand sanitizers and wipes to DCPS. She emphasized the importance of the upcoming meet and greets and noted that a number of public work sessions will be held in the coming months.

# 8.02 Announcements from the Superintendent

# Superintendent Bromwell thanked all those who attended or participated in tonight’s meeting and apologized that the meeting could not be live-streamed due to a problem external to DCPS. He welcomed and thanked Maryland State Board Member Lori Morrow for attending the meeting tonight. He noted the importance of the upcoming public work sessions and expressed thanks to Alpha Genesis CDC for encouraging the participation of DCPS students at the recent dedication of the Harriet Tubman statue and Day of Resilience. He indicated that DCPS is examining its bus and walking routes. He announced that DCPS will be holding strategic planning meetings throughout the county and encouraged public participation. Mr. Bromwell reminded the community of the student cell phone policy being enforced this year and asked for parent cooperation in this initiative. He acknowledged the certified teacher shortage in DCPS and noted that the mold problem at Vienna ES will be addressed. He encouraged the community to support all school activities and stressed DCPS’s upcoming participation in National Unity Day, which emphasizes kindness to and acceptance of all.

# 9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.