

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DORCHESTER COUNTY  
Thursday, October 13, 2022**

**BOARD WORK SESSION**

The Board of Education of Dorchester County held a Work Session on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at the Dorchester County Board of Education Office, 700 Glasgow Street, Cambridge, Maryland.

Present at the meeting were Board Members: Laura H. Layton, President; Sheri R. Hubbard, Vice President; Michael D. Diaz, LeOtha N. Hull, and Susan V. Morgan. Also, in attendance: W. David Bromwell, Superintendent; Jodi Colman, Director of Curriculum and Assessment; Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services; Mike Collins, Director of Operations, and Tim Brooke, Chief Financial Officer.

President Layton called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**1.01 Alternative Programming**

Mr. Bromwell stated that at a recent Board Meeting the Board had requested that DCPS relook at their alternative programs. Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services, presented a PowerPoint explaining the various alternative education options that could be feasible for DCPS.

Mr. Diaz stated that school administration needs to provide input when the decision is made on which option would be best for DCPS. Mr. Howie stated he will also share the presentation with the Discipline Committee.

**1.02 Mindfulness Classroom Data**

Mr. Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services, presented a PowerPoint on Mindfulness in DCPS, an Initial Analysis. Mr. Howie clarified that because of the lack of staff not all Mindfulness rooms have a designated staff person.

Mr. Diaz asked if he had received feedback from the HES parents. Mr. Howie stated not directly but parents are supportive.

Dr. Morgan asked how long a student could be in the Mindfulness Room. Mr. Howie stated no longer than 15-20 minutes, and some are as short as five minutes. He stated the student could possibly miss 45 minutes of instruction.

**1.03 Data Update – Beginning of the Year iReady Math and Lexia Reading – Local**

Dr. Jodi Colman, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, presented a PowerPoint on the iReady Mathematics 2022-2023 beginning of the year diagnostics for grades 1-5; and the high school IXL Mathematics beginning of the year diagnostics.

Dr. Colman presented a PowerPoint on the Lexia Reading 2022-2023 beginning of the year diagnostics for grades 1-5; the middle school Lexia PowerUp beginning of the year diagnostics, and the High School Lexia PowerUp beginning of the year diagnostics.

She acknowledged that the data is dismal, but explained it is a starting point for this school year, and it will allow us to see how the students' progress throughout the year. Dr. Colman stated that at the beginning of school the students were on their computers 45 minutes a week doing iReady and Lexia. Dr. Colman stated that the next data update will be in December.

**1.04 Data Update – Spring 2022 MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment) and Government – State**

Dr. Jodi Colman, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, presented a PowerPoint on the Spring 2022 MISA for grades 5 and 8.

Dr. Colman presented a PowerPoint on the High School Government Spring 2022 Results. The Government test is administered to 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

**1.05 Weapons Detection Systems – Stadiums**

Mr. Bromwell presented the Board with a proposal for stadium weapon detection systems for the two high schools. He informed the Board that he was made aware that it was not feasible to move the WDS from the high school to their stadiums. He explained that each WDS would have to be calibrated and were not suitable for outside use.

Mr. Diaz expressed his concern hearing that the WDS were not portable. He stated when DCPS ordered the WDS, DCPS was told that they were portable, when did DCPS learn they were not? Mr. Diaz asked how long does it take to calibrate, who can calibrate, can the company provide training to DCPS staff?

Dr. Morgan asked if there were other vendors? Mr. Bromwell explained that DCPS would be stepping down in WDS. Mr. Bromwell explained that the WDS are calibrated at the weapons level.

**1.06 Sick Bank/Sick Leave Employee Donation System (SLEDS) Clarification**

Mr. Bromwell shared clarifying information on the current DCPS Sick Bank, and the Sick Leave Employee Donation System (SLEDS) that was utilized from 2011 through 2012.

**1.07 DCPS Committees**

Mr. Bromwell distributed the list of DCPS Committees that the Board had previously requested. He asked if the format and information was acceptable by the Board. The Board agreed it was.

## 1.08 Emergency Approvals

Mr. Bromwell acknowledged the Board's concern regarding emergency approval. He conveyed that there are certain circumstances that may require emergency approvals:

- Contractual health agencies for specialized services for special education students. DCPS needs to be able to approve a specialized health provider as soon as possible so that we do not lose the person. Dr. Morgan stated that usually those services would be indicated in the student's IEP. She suggests that the Board be made aware that an emergency approval request may be forthcoming.
- The purchase of DCPS vehicles need immediate approval since car dealerships do not hold the vehicles. Usually, you can get the best buys at the end of the month.
- There are items that are required to go through the bid process, and the bids are not received prior to the Board Meeting. Having to wait until the next Board meeting can impact the logistics.

The Board requested they be informed that an emergency approval maybe forthcoming. The Board emphasized that they want to be transparent, and the emergency approval will be recognized at the Regular Board of Education Meeting. Mr. Bromwell suggested building in an emergency approval date two weeks prior to the BOE meeting.

## 1.09 AVID National Conference – December 8-10, 2022

Mr. Bromwell distributed information on the AVID National Conference what will be held in Orlando, FL, from December 8-10, 2022. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ms. Dayton.

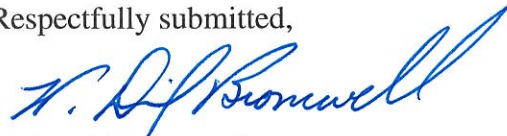
## 1.10 Administrative Function/Work Session

Mr. Bromwell asked the Board if they liked to continue with the Work Session format, and the Board agreed they liked the Work Session but requested them to be held on Thursdays but not at 3:00 p.m. The Board was to notify Ms. Layton for the time they preferred having future Work Sessions.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



W. David Bromwell  
Superintendent of Schools