*Submitted by Tom Puglisi*

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

Board President Susan Morgan opened the public work session at 4:00 pm.

Concentration of Poverty (COP) Funding. Mr. Kirk Howie, Director of Student Services, explained that schools with 75% or more students eligible for free and reduced meals receive Maryland COP funds to provide students with wraparound services such as extended learning time, providing linkages to Judy Centers, enhancing physical, mental, and behavioral services, etc. DCPS designated schools are Maces Land Middle School, Choptank Elementary School, Hurlock Elementary School, Maple Elementary School, and Sandy Hill Elementary School. It is projected that in School Year 2023-2024 DCPS will receive an increase of about $1 million over its current COP funding of $3.7 million. However, this increase may be offset by funding decreases due to declining enrollment and the costs of Blueprint requirements.

In response to questions from Board Members, Mr. Howie explained that use of the additional COP funds will be determined by an annual needs assessments led by the Community Liaison hired per funding requirements. For example, funds used to improve sidewalks in the Maces Lane area appear to have resulted in increased attendance there. Mr. Brooke indicated that current DCPS COP funds, which are primarily dedicated to personnel costs, are on track to be spent by June 30.

Out of County vs Out of District Requirements. Mr. Howie reviewed requirements regarding Out of County vs Out of District students. Out of County students do not reside in Dorchester County but attend DCPS. Tuition is required of these students. Out of District students reside in Dorchester County but have received approval to attend a DCPS school different from their geographically assigned school due to extenuating circumstances specified and individually approved under DCPS policy. DCPS does not provide transportation for Out of District students. Mr. Howie explained the formal process for applications, review, and approval of Out of Districts requests. Pre-K Out of District is a separate process and is extremely rare due to State-designate requirements.

In response to questions from Board Members, Mr. Howie clarified that there is no penalty for transfer if the home school does not offer a desired program. This occurs primarily at the high school level. Day Care availability is an ongoing problem for parents. Current policy does not allow an approved transfer student to utilize an existing bus route where available. Mr. Bromwell will provide data about current students who might be affected by this policy. A suggestion was made to consider expanding modalities for notifying parents.

Maryland Blueprint for Education. Ms. Regina Teat, Director of Leadership & School Improvement provided an update on activities and planning related to Blueprint requirements. Focused work on Blueprint Pillar 1 includes mapping put opportunities for 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income households. Pillar 2 focuses on raising starting teacher salaries to $60,000 by July 2023, creating optional career ladders for teachers, and implementing a 60/40 classroom teacher workday as defined by regulation. Additional staff may be needed to implement the 60/40 requirements. Pillar 3 requires career/college readiness by the end of 10th grade and post readiness pathways through career and technical education and early college credit programs. Pillar 4 involves improving learning for English learners, students with disabilities, and Concentration of Poverty students. Pillar 5 requires implementation and outcome monitoring and reporting. Implementation plans are due March 15, 2023, and must be update annually.

In response to questions from Board Members, Ms. Teat indicated that there are requirements for assistant principals to spend 20% of their time teaching. Teachers who choose to follow a career ladder track will have different evaluation criteria compared to those who do not choose a career ladder. Ms. Teat will provide additional information and a model for implementing the 60/40 requirement at each level. Board Members acknowledged the great job being done by DCPS in providing the community Blueprint Planning sessions. It was suggested that Community liaisons and/or our school social workers could be used to facilitate communication and understanding among parents. It was also suggested that DCPS consult with school systems in other States that have implemented all or part of the Maryland’s Blueprint concepts.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

President Morgan adjourned the meeting at 5:25 pm.