*Submitted by Tom Puglisi*

*Note: \* Supporting documents may be found on 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 special public session at 6:02 pm.

Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) representative Ms. Molly Young delivered a training presentation on the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Superintendent.

The basic roles of the Board are to govern (but not manage) the school system and direct the Superintendent. The basic roles of the Superintendent are to provide expert advice to the Board on educational matters and to manage the school system.

What Makes for an Effective Board Member – examples:

* Communications with each other and with the Superintendent.
* Being well-prepared for meetings – having reviewed all the information provided and developing knowledgeable questions.
* Listening to and being responsive to the public.
* Recognizing and accepting Board decisions.
* Understanding the differing roles of the Board versus the Superintendent.

Realities:

* Members serve as one member of a team.
* The Board makes decisions, individual members do not.
* Individual members do not have the authority to fix problems or make decisions.
* The success of individual members is tied to the success of the Board.
* The success of the Superintendent is tied to the success of the Board.
* Trust is essential to an effective relationship between the Board and the Superintendent and enables the Board and the Superintendent to do their jobs.

The Board’s job is to ensure successful student achievement and make the best decisions for children and the community. The Board should focus on goals and end results. The Board obtains data and information in order to make decisions and directs the Superintendent to address the issues and goals it identifies at a governance level.

The Superintendent makes proposals for implementation of the Board’s decisions and directives. Once the Board approves these proposals, the Superintendent is responsible for implementing and managing them. The Board is then responsible for evaluating outcome data that demonstrate impact.

Key Work of the Board

* Vision. The Board must ensure that every Board decision supports the Board’s collective vision. Note that the Board is a continuing body. Visions should only be changed after community consultation. Getting constant feedback from the community is important to vision formation. Visions are long term tools that take time to create and change. Visions are generally updated every 3-8 years.
* Accountability. The Board holds the Superintendent accountable by asking the right questions and obtaining the relevant data. Effective Board members must be engaged participants.
* Policy. Policy (and Budget) are the tools that the Board uses to reach its vision. The Board must ensure that the Board’s policies support the vision of the Board. Policies must be evaluated in an ongoing basis in terms of the Board’s vision and the Board's strategic goals.
* Community Leadership. Listening to the community is the first component of community leadership. Communicating to the public in a transparent fashion is the second component of Community Leadership. The Board must own its decisions and take responsibility for what happens within the system. It must be intentional about developing strategies to listen to and communicate with all segments of the Community.
* Board/Superintendent relationships are critical to the success of both the Board and the Superintendent. The Board and the Superintendent should be jointly responsible for the success of the system. Honest communication back and forth is essential. Board members should be having honest conversations with each other and accept the collective decisions of the Board. Hearing differing opinions is essential to making good collective decisions.

An effective Board:

* Displays unity of purpose.
* Is focused and consistent.
* Communicates common vision.
* Operates with integrity and trust.
* Treats everyone with dignity and respect.
* Governs with policies, standards, and ethics.
* Takes collective responsibility.
* Maintains confidentiality .
* Ensures that multiple voices of the community inform decisions.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

President Morgan adjourned the meeting at 5:50 pm.