

Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN)
Unofficial Notes on Dorchester County Board of Education
Work Session, Thursday, May 11, 2023 – DCPS Central Office Board Room

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>

Board President Susan Morgan convened the Open Work Session at 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Coleman presented preliminary plans for an Ongoing Professional Development and Learning Program to be implemented consistently and continuously throughout 2023-2024 school year. Professional development for elementary school teachers will focus on instructional mechanisms for math, reading, and writing. Professional development for secondary school teachers will focus on engagement and writing in all content areas to include inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. Board members asked how teachers would be required to adapt these mechanisms in lesson plans to address all the different types of learners in their classrooms (e.g., below grade level students, advanced students, special education students). Dr. Coleman indicated that mandatory components for lesson planning will be implemented for next year. She also explained that professional development for all teachers will be conducted to address disciplinary, behavior, and de-escalation mechanisms as well as academics. Dr. Coleman indicated that engagement and effectiveness will be monitored and evaluated through in-class observations throughout the year to recognize teachers who implement the required mechanisms effectively and to provide effective interventions for those who do not implement them. Relative to the use of computers in the classroom, Dr. Coleman acknowledged that a mechanism is needed to ensure that computers are used for supplemental purposes and not as the primary instructional strategy.

Ms. Houghtaling and Mr. Carpenter explained that DCPS relies on Website and Communications platforms to inform the community about DCPS issues in a timely fashion. Currently, DCPS is using two separate providers (one for communication and one for the website), which makes managing communications to the community very challenging. After review of the six submissions received pursuant to a Request for Proposals (RFP), the technical advisory group and the website review committee identified the two most responsive proposals (i.e., the *Apptegy* and *Edlio proposals*) and ultimately recommended the *Apptegy* proposal over the *Edlio* proposal in a 5 to 4 vote. Both proposals were submitted to the Board for consideration. Purchase of the *Apptegy* product was approved by a 5-0 vote at a cost of \$119,625.00 over 5 years.

Dr. Collins presented a draft chart to be used to provide regular updates to the Board on Union Contract Negotiations as they proceed from the beginning of negotiations through resolution. The Board indicated that the proposed chart would be very help and thanked Dr. Collins for proposing it for use beginning next year.

County Council President Lenny Pfeffer announced that several candidates have applied for the vacant District 5 Board of Education seat and that the County Council will conduct interviews as soon as practicable.

The public work session was adjourned at 5:00 pm, and the Board moved into closed session to discuss personnel issues.