

Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN)
Unofficial Notes on Dorchester County Board of Education
Meeting, Thursday, June 15, 2023 - Dorchester Career & Technology Center

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>

The Board went into closed Executive Session at 5:00 pm to discuss personnel, negotiations, legal matters, and administrative functions. Board President Susan Morgan opened the Public Meeting at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and review of the Board Calendar (see below).

The Board recognized the following student achievements:

- 34 “Amazing Shake!” 5th grade participants from Hurlock ES, including 1st place winner Alaina Wharton and 1st runner-up Yahel Vasquez.
- DCPS Math 24 Champions Drew Smith (1st Grade, Warwick ES), Brooklynn Camper (2nd Grade, Hurlock ES), Jacob Willoughby (3rd Grade, Warwick ES), Kalel Holmes (4th Grade, Vienna ES), Jonathon Molock (5th Grade HES).
- NDHS Maryland State 1A Softball Champions: Anna Hopkins, Rilynn Blake, Libby Davenport, Bailie Dickinson, Maggie Hubbard, Maddie Nagel, Mackenzie Lewis, Emilee Cohee, Chayla Creighton, Brooke Outten, Averi Warfield, Emily Boyle, Jewels Vroman, Katelyn Hopkins & Pamela Hubbard (managers), Carol Hubbard (Head Coach), Wade Hopkins & Jeremy Vroman Asst. Coaches).
- Le’Asia Todd (Gold Medal in Girls’ Triple Jump) and Tori Willis, Jr. (Gold Medal in Boys’ 300 Meter Hurdles) at the Maryland State Division 1A Spring Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

There were no oral or written Public Comments.

- Consent Agenda. The Board approved the minutes for the May 18 Board Meeting and the June 8 Board Work Session.

Board Actions. The Board approved the following actions:

- Certificated teachers for April 30, 2023, as discussed in Executive Session. One Member noted that hires should be made with consideration of the DCPS diversity goals.
- Recognition of administrative appointments effective July 1, 2023: Nicole Horton, Assistant Principal, C-SDHS; Renee Warfield, New Teacher Program Coordinator; Ashley Hayden, Behavioral Health Coordinator; and Katelyn Helwig, Community School and PBIS Coordinator.
- Milk bid for SY2023-2024 to include two 1-year renewals based on satisfactory performance. \$200,000/ear.
- Ice Cream bid for SY2023-2024. \$55,000.
- AMN HealthCare Speech Therapy Teleservices for two schools for SY2023-2024 at \$77.25/hr. One Member expressed concern that this program is entirely based on teleservices without in-person speech language services. Efforts to obtain in-person services have been unavailable even when advertised nationally. Progress on IEP goals is used as the standard for success. Multiple vendors (see next entry) have been used because no vendors have sufficient candidates available. Pricing differences are based on the individual provider’s years of service. \$104,287.
- Solient Speech Therapy Teleservices for one school with a significant case load for SY2023-2024 at \$106/hr. \$143,000.
- Annual Special Education Staffing Plan for SY2023-2024 for submission to Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Services are provided in accordance with the individual student’s

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IEP. In response to a Board Member, it was clarified that the Total Inclusion Model is not being used for DCPS students and that individualized programs are developed for each student in the least restrictive environment appropriate for the student. Another Member noted that the program is working with the business community to provide more inclusive environments.

- STAR Autism Support Contract for SY2023-2024. \$76,750.
- Goalbook Pathways Tool Kit and License Renewal to support development of effective IEPs and other resources for teacher support. \$36,295.
- Ron Clark Academy (RCA) Conference for Professional Development for 55 Teachers. In response to a question from a Board Member, DCPS expect to see an overall change in climate with increased enthusiasm, effective eye tracking skills, effective discipline, increased parental involvement, increased attendance, increased academic achievement, etc. The program has been very effective at Hurlock ES and Maple ES and several components have been implemented successfully at other schools, but the goal is to implement the program system-wide with specific core components implemented consistently in all schools. \$90,550.
- Cafeteria Tables for Choptank ES. \$31,587.
- Naviance for Secondary Schools subscription for college and career tracking. \$28,112.70.
- Contract for Professional Development for Teachers with American Reading Company for Blended Learning. It was clarified that effectiveness measures are identified and tracked. \$32,400.
- SchoolPace Digital Platform (Data Warehouse) Subscription for SY 23-24 from American Reading Company. It was clarified that effectiveness measures are identified and tracked and will be correlated with State performance measures. \$59,500.
- Textbook Adoption: The Language of Composition Essential Voices, Essential Skills for the AP[®] Course (4th ed.), Bedford, Freeman & Worth © 2023. (1 Member abstained)
- Textbook Adoption: Literature & Composition Essential Voice, Essential Skills for the AP Course (3rd ed.), Bedford, Freeman & Worth © 2022. It was clarified that disclaimers are provided for each passage where potentially offensive content is present and that no such passages would be required for any student or teacher: (1 Member abstained)
- Table of Rates for School Bus Contractors. The hourly rate will increase from \$24.48/hour to \$26/hour. The Maintenance factor will increase from \$0.85/mile to \$0.93 per mile. The vehicle allotment, PVA, will increase from \$19,500 to \$21,000. \$ \$3,671,244 / \$140,000.
- Dell Latitude 5440 Laptops for Teachers and Staff. It was clarified that a plan has been developed for annual replacement of approximately 250 machines. \$266,340
- Dell Latitude 3120 BTX for incoming 9th grade students using ESSER III funding. It was clarified that a plan has been developed for annual replacement staggered over 4 years. Dr. Coleman presented a plan for utilization of laptops for instruction that will specify and monitor time limits for passive vs active engagement on the computer. \$222,700.
- PowerSchool Combined Products Contract. \$269,463.52.
- Annual Update Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) to extend the current plan be submitted as a working document for State approval, to be revised upon incorporation of results from the ongoing Feasibility Study.
- Weapons Detection Systems purchase for Choptank ES, Sandy Hill ES, and Maple ES. \$784,373.
- Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2024, as amended with minor adjustments for submission to the State by June 30, pending receipt of final State funding. Categorical Budget, \$80,951,957; Restricted Grants, \$5,435,518; Food Services, \$3,571,715; Capital Budget, \$3,090,560.

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Information Items

- Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Annual Report of activities and membership. A Board member suggested that greater efforts be made to recruit membership that reflects the special education students served.
- Appropriation & Expenditures Report. Overall revenue is currently projected to exceed what was expected and expenses are projected to be less than expected resulting in approximately \$1.5M added fund balances.
- Capital Projects Report remains on target.

Board Members welcomed Mr. Wheedleton to the Board, thanked the Executive Team, Ms. Deaton and Attorney Scott, congratulated those persons who have recently received awards or recognition, thanked the public for their attendance and comments, and expressed gratitude to DCPS teachers, staff, and students who worked hard this year and to those who have chosen to return this year. Mr. Wheedleton thanked the County Council for appointing him, thanked Board Members for welcoming and helping prepare him, and expressed great interest in strengthening current DCPS ties with the business community. *Note: President Morgan's closing statement can be found at <https://susanmorganschoolboard.com/>.*

The Superintendent welcomed Mr. Wheedleton, and thanked members of the public who attended in person or virtually, as well as staff and students recognized during the meeting, including DCPS student athletes. He congratulated Dr. Collins on completing the MD Aspiring Superintendents' Program. He noted that Board Members and the Superintendent sometimes disagree, but he recognizes that they all want to strengthen DCPS, and he values the Board Members' input. Thanked executive team, teachers, and all staff for a successful year.

The open public meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

Monday, June 19, 2023	Office Closed Juneteenth
Wednesday, June 22, 2023 8:30 a.m.	Annual Eastern Shore Superintendents and Board Members Education Conference at Chesapeake College
June 28 & 29, 2023	Board Retreat Packing House
Tuesday, July 4, 2023	Office Closed Independence Day
Thursday, July 13, 2022	Regular July Meeting of the Dorchester County Board of Education