

**Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN)  
Unofficial Notes on Dorchester County Board of Education  
Special Meeting, Wednesday, August 2, 2023  
DCPS Central Office, 700 Glasgow St, Cambridge, MD**

*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 6:00 pm to discuss personnel, negotiations, legal matters, and administrative functions. Board President Susan Morgan opened the Public Meeting at 7:30 pm.

The Board approved personnel actions proposed by the Superintendent (to be announced shortly), as well as a restructuring of Central Office to establish the position of Assistant Superintendent.

Board Vice President Michael Diaz briefly reviewed the history of the Facilities Feasibility Study and suggested that the Study was proving to be a distraction at a time when the Board's focus should be on academics, safety, alternative education, and teacher retention. Consequently, the Board was closing the Study and did not intend to act on the Study's recommendations. The Board then unanimously approved a motion to end the Facilities Feasibility Study (see Press Release below).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DORCHESTER COUNTY PRESS RELEASE  
August 4, 2023**

On August 2, 2023, the Dorchester County Board of Education voted unanimously to end the Facilities Feasibility Study, which began in February 2023 and was conducted by Baltimore-based consultants Hord Coplan and Macht (HCM). The purpose of the study was to determine the condition of Dorchester County Public Schools' aging infrastructure. This would assist the BOE in their assessment of the facilities during a time of declining enrollment and increasing financial pressures through the Maryland Blueprint Law.

According to DCPS Board Vice President Mike Diaz, the study was proving to be a "distraction" at a time when the Board's focus should be on academics, safety, alternative education, and teacher retention. The BOE members feel the information from the study will assist them in decisions involving building maintenance, renovation needs, or proposed new buildings, but those decisions are for the future.

The online comment section of the feasibility study will remain open through the summer. The BOE will use HCM's final report to glean information for use to improve school facilities. For the foreseeable future, no changes will be made.