

**Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN)**  
**Unofficial Notes on Special Dorchester County Board of Education Meeting**  
**Friday, August 25, 2023 – DCPS Central Office**

*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 opened the Public Meeting at 4:00 pm.

The Board discussed the proposal from Vision Quest submitted in response to the June 2023 DCPS Request for Proposals (RFP) for Alternative Education services. The Vision Quest proposal detailed two programs. The first program provides academic and behavioral services in a DCPS facility for high school students experiencing behavioral difficulties. The second program provides academic, behavioral, and family services on the Vision Quest campus for high school students experiencing long term suspensions. *(Note: Board Member Diaz had previously recused himself from participation in any and all Board discussions or actions involving Vision Quest, and his recusal remains in effect.)*

Board Attorney Andrew Scott clarified that the Board could approve the proposed Vision Quest services, subject to finalizing a mutually acceptable contract for those services. It was noted that the previously approved contract from a separate vendor would provide any special education services that might be needed for the Vision Quest program in the DCPS facility.

Board Member Wheedleton listed a number of questions that he would like to see clarified before moving forward. Board Members noted that Vision Quest services have been under discussion by the Board for many months, that the questions raised by Mr. Wheedleton had been discussed over those months to the satisfaction of the Board Members present for those discussions, and that there is a need to move forward if these critically needed services are to be in place for the coming school year. Board Members indicated that Vision Quest will provide more and better services with greater accountability for positive outcomes than the previous contractor.

Board Member Stafford made a motion that the proposed Vision Quest services be accepted, subject to addressing Mr. Wheedleton's concerns in the contract to be developed by Attorney Scott. The motion was approved by a 3-1 vote (with Board Member Diaz not participating due to recusal).

The Board went into closed Executive Session at 4:25 pm to discuss personnel, negotiations, legal matters, and administrative functions. The Board reconvened in open public session at 4:57 pm.

The Board voted to approve the administrative, certificated, and staff appointments discussed in closed session.

Board Member Stafford noted that she is disappointed that we are opening the school year without a full complement of certificated teachers at Maces Lane MS. The Board unanimously approved a motion directing Superintendent Bromwell to provide the Board with a full list of certificated and non-certificated teachers and staff at each school by Wednesday, August 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.