

Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN)
Unofficial Notes on Dorchester County Board of Education Work Session
Thursday, September 14, 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 Work Session at 4:30 pm.

Representatives of the Maryland Coalition of Inclusive Education (MCIE) provided the Board with an update on their work on disability inclusive best practices at Sandy Hill ES (SHES) and Maple ES (MES) during the 2022-23 school year. MCEI noted that the law mandates including individuals with disabilities in general education classrooms to the greatest extent possible. It has been shown that inclusion improves reading, math, social, and community skills, and the presence of general and special educators in the same classroom improves the outcomes for all students. MCIE provided professional development and support to individual teachers in 6-8 classrooms at both SHES and MES approximately 2-3 times each month. Success metrics tracked over time included qualitative and quantitative academic outcomes, behavioral data, representation of marginalized populations, and staff surveys.

Board Member Wheedleton presented a dashboard of key performance indicators being developed to help Board Members and the public assess DCPS's progress over time in academic success, school safety, and school climate. Specified dashboard data will be presented every month. The dashboard will be a living platform that can be accessed at any time through the public DCPS website.

Dr. Stafford reminded the Board that with COVID money disappearing, we need to start the budget process earlier than we have in the past because difficult spending decisions may be required. Mr. Diaz noted that he visited Choptank ES and was pleased to see that the atmosphere seemed much improved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.