

Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN)
Unofficial Notes on Dorchester County Board of Education Meeting
Monday, December 4, 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>

Board President Susan Morgan opened the Public Meeting at 4:30 pm. The Board approved a motion to permit virtual attendance by Members at two regular Board Meetings per year, held its annual election of Board Officers, and by secret ballot elected Mike Diaz as President and Susan Morgan as Vice President. The Board went into closed Executive Session at 4:40 pm to discuss personnel, negotiations, legal matters, and administrative functions.

President Mike Diaz reconvened the public meeting at 6:00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Diaz designated the following Board Committees: Finance – Mike Diaz and Susan Morgan; Policy – Sherri Hubbard and Chris Wheedleton; County Council – Mike Diaz and Susan Morgan. Theresa Stafford will serve as the alternate member for all committees, and other Members will be given the opportunity to rotate service on these committees.

The Superintendent reviewed the Board Calendar (see below) and recognized the student winners of the Superintendent’s Holiday Card contest. As the Board’s Legislative Liaison, Ms. Hubbard reported that a Bill will be introduced in the General Assembly to increase the State’s contribution to DCPS. The three Student Board Representatives presented highlights of recent activities at North Dorchester (ND) HS, Cambridge-South Dorchester (CSD) HS, and the Dorchester Career & Technical Center (DCTC).

The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda which included previous meeting minutes and the second reading of Board ethics and personnel policies.

The Board approved the personnel actions discussed in Executive Session. The Board did not approve the purchase of an ARK Weapons Detection System for Choptank Elementary School (\$152,951). The Board’s attorney clarified that the issue could be brought to the Board for consideration again in the future, for example in the context of purchasing systems for all the elementary schools. The Board approved the purchase of uninterruptible power sources as battery backups for the DCPS network infrastructure at a cost of \$94,177, as well as the completion of Phase 2 floor covering replacements for Choptank ES (\$238,842.91) and Vienna ES (\$75,366.45). Finally, the Board approved proposed amendments to the MD Code for Education at §3-5A-04(a)&(b) to increase compensation of Board Members and at § 6-401(e)(8) to include supervisory noncertificated employees as DCPS employees.

Board Members and the Superintendent delivered closing remarks, thanking all those who participated in the meeting.

The Public Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, December 8, 2023 .	Half-Day for Students Report Card Prep for Elementary PD for Secondary
Monday, December 4, 2023	December Meeting of the Dorchester County Board of Education at DCTC
December 21, 2022 - January 1, 2023	Schools Closed Winter Break
January 2, 2023	Schools Open Return from Winter Break
Thursday, January 4, 2023 5:00 p.m.	Board Budget Work Session and Public Comment on Budget at DCTC