COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Session of the Colonial School District Board of Education was called to order by Board President Christopher Piecuch at **7:07 PM** in the Colonial School District Administration Building.

ATTENDANCE

The following Board members were in attendance:

Christopher Piecuch, Sr., President
Christine L. Smith, Vice President
Phila M. Breeding
Carlos Dipres-Ramirez
Dr. Keenan Dorsey
Ron Handy, Sr.
Joseph T. Laws, III
Mia Castaneda-Ocampo, Student Board Representative
Jeffrey D. Menzer, Ed.D, Executive Secretary/Superintendent

Also in attendance were:

Jennifer Alexander, Ed.D
Tyann Butts
Kate Cale
Emily Falcon
Jeffory Gibeault
Nneka Jones, Ed.D
Joe Kite
Gabe Phillips
Virginia Schrepler, Ed.D
Drew Moffett
Lauren Wison
Janissa Nuneville, Ed. D
Holly Sage

The recording secretary was Tyann Butts.

To view the full discussion, please click here:
https://www.youtube.com/live/ipZVT3hSLTc?si=ap_-cJhFVBYHB6DV

1. FLAG SALUTE

Principal Dr. Virginia Schreppler, Principal of John G. Leach , led everyone in the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

2. ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS TO BOARD AGENDA

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY **Laws**, SECONDED BY **Handy**, AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS CORRECTED.

4. THE E IN THE POWER OF WE

Since 2014, Colonial Nation has thrived on "The Power of WE", with a determined commitment to the Four Pillars that are represented in **"W"**.

Based on lessons learned from Colonial's successful 2024 referendum campaign, the pillars alone are not enough to improve student outcomes.

In 2024 we proudly proclaimed Improvement is a WE thing, and began to recognize the true power behind our success, the **"E"** in "The Power of WE".

Join us as we celebrate the stories of Colonial Students, Staff, Families and Community.

A. Student Member (Non-Voting) on the Colonial School Board

In June 2020, the District established a process for recruiting and nominating a William Penn High School student to be a non-voting member of the Colonial School Board.

Mia Castaneda-Ocampo, the current Student Representative to the School Board, will provide an update to the Board.

- **Student Activities and Groups** - William Penn Freshman Family Game night is on January 22nd from 6pm - 7:30pm. Prom Fashion Show/Talent Show is January 21st. Allied Health is hosting a "Heart in the Game" event that takes place at George Read on 2/7/26 for free heart screenings for children 8-23 from 9 am -1 pm.
- **Athletics** - Upcoming announcements, interest meetings and open gym will be in Schoology for Spring Sports. The girls William Penn Basketball team is doing really great in their season.
- **Academics** - The 2nd Marking Period ends on January 15th. Peer tutoring is still available for students to sign up for if they need help.

B. Community
Seeds of Greatness

Once again, Seeds of Greatness Bible Church made the holidays brighter...this time, for 380 students in Colonial Nation. Thanks to their Blessed to Be a Blessing

initiative, designated students from Southern Elementary School and Gunning Bedford Middle School received gifts valued at $100 each. This year, for the first time, William Penn students were included in this annual giving program, with their generous gifts valued at $125. With help from Family Crisis Therapists, school counselors, and Communities in Schools coordinators, the students were told to write a wish list,and much to their delight, those wishes were fulfilled. Many of our scholars received gifts that far exceeded their expectations, making it clear that church members wanted to prove to our children that dreams really do come true, even when families are faced with challenges. The students' families were also treated to an optional dinner at the church, and everyone received stockings filled with personal care items. While the monetary commitment from church members was huge and much appreciated, this board recognizes that the love and support shown to our students in need was simply priceless. WE thank Pastor Jerome Lewis, First Lady Lisa Lewis, Tammi Stephens and her team, and of course, the members of Seeds for being an important part of the E in the Power of WE.

School Board Appreciation Month

This month, we proudly recognize and celebrate an essential part of the **E in WE**—the dedicated members of our school board. Their unwavering commitment, thoughtful leadership, and strategic vision play a vital role in shaping the future of our schools and advancing student success. Through their service, they help foster learning environments where all students are supported, empowered, and able to reach their full potential.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our school board members for their dedication, leadership, and steadfast commitment to education. Your service makes a meaningful difference each day, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do.

5. <u>ASSOCIATION UPDATES</u>

Colonial School Board DSBA Board of Directors Representative **Ron Handy**, DSBA Legislative Committee Representative **Dr. Keenan Dorsey** and Colonial Board Executive Secretary, Dr. Jeffrey Menzer provided updates from recent DSBA and CSOA meetings as needed. Other statewide or district committee updates, such as DIAA, may also be discussed.

During this time Board members may also discuss PK-12 topics of national interest as highlighted by NSBA.

DSBA - Delaware School Boards Association

Legislative Committee: Next meeting is scheduled in February.
Executive Committee: The next meeting is scheduled for March. At the last meeting it was approved that the wording for SAT be changed.

CSOA- Chief School Officers Association

The Chief's monthly meeting was hosted by the New Castle County VoTech at St. George's High School on January 8, 2026 from 8:30 to 1:00. Regular legislative and committee business were discussed. Professional Development on strategic school staffing models was provided by University of Delaware and the Delaware Department of Education

District Committees

Strategic Plan(C. Smith): On track for deadline. Will have information to the board by March. Revisited and revised draft statements. The next meeting is January 14, 2026.

Major Capital Construction Review(C. Piecuch and T. Laws): Mr. Piecuch highlighted the notes from last week's meeting

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Copies of the items listed on the Consent Agenda provided below were presented to the Board for review and approval:

A. To Approve All Consent Agenda Items
IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY **Dorsey**, SECONDED BY **Smith**, AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT ALL "ACTION ITEMS" ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

B. Board Meeting Minutes
- Executive Session Minutes - December 9, 2025
- Regular Session Minutes - December 9, 2025
- Personnel - Monthly Board Report - December, 2025
- Personnel - Monthly Board Report-Confidential - December, 2025

C. **Education**
- **Choice Reports**
  - 2025-2026 Good Cause Choice Invitations
  - 2025-2026 Choice Terminations
  - Field Trip - William Penn High School Class Trip - Iceland

D. **Operations & Finance**
- Budget Variance Monthly Report as of November 30, 2025
  - Summary of Revenue
  - Summary of Expenditures
  - Local Fund Property Tax Receipts

- **RENOVATIONS TO WILLIAM PENN HIGH SCHOOL**

- **FOOD SERVICE BID - SMALLWARES**

E. **Personnel**
- Confirmation of Personnel Action
- Standard Personnel Items
  Monthly Board Report - January 2026
  Monthly Board Report - Confidential - January 2026
- EPER and Volunteer Coaches

8. <u>UPDATES AND ACTION ITEMS</u>

A. John G. Leach School Bid Awards Review and Approval

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY (**CHRISTINE SMITH**), SECONDED BY (**RONALD HANDY**) AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXTEND THE JOHN G. LEACH SCHOOL BID AWARDS AS PRESENTED.

B. WE Improve Facilities and Construction Updates
The District Administration has established a 4-pronged approach to maintain transparency regarding the projects that were funded through the approval of the February 2024 capital referendum along with other major/minor construction updates.

The four prongs address the following areas:

- **Education** of Terminology/Timeline of Capital Projects
- **Monitoring** of the work through establishment of a Major Capital Construction Review Committee that meet monthly and will provide the board with updates as needed.
- **Inform** the Board and community of action items related to the projects through a specific identifier/code on the agenda.

- **Update** the Board and community through quarterly reports during monthly Board meetings

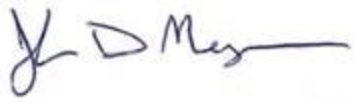
9. <u>ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA</u>

None

10. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY **Dorsey**, SECONDED BY **Dipres-Ramirez** AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ADJOURN AT **7:26 PM**.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey D. Menzer, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary