

Capital School District
198 Commerce Way
Dover, DE 19904-3498

Monday, April 22, 2024
In-Person Meeting/Town Hall
Dover High School Auditorium
MINUTES



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Felecia R. Duggins, President
Dr. Chanda Jackson, Vice
President
Sean P. M. Christiansen
John C. Martin, Jr.
Dr. Anthony J. DePrima

(A)	ACTION
(D)	DISCUSSION
(I)	INFORMATION

Board Members Present:

Ms. Duggins
Dr. Jackson
Mr. Christiansen
Mr. Martin
Dr. DePrima

Also Present:

Dr. Vilicia Cade, Superintendent
Dr. Victoir Cahoon, Assistant Superintendent

1.0 Open Session

On a motion by Dr. DePrima, seconded by Mr. Martin, and on a unanimous vote, the board entered open session at 5:32 p.m.

1.01 Roll Call – Establishment of a Quorum

On a roll call vote of 5/0: Dr. DePrima – present; Mr. Martin – present; Mr. Christiansen – present; Dr. Jackson – present; Mrs. Duggins – present, quorum was established.

1.02 Open Session

- Welcome from President-Felecia Duggins
- Greetings from Vice President-Dr. Chanda Jackson
- Community Charge-Sean Christiansen
- Expectations and Hoped for Outcomes-Dr. Anthony DePrima
- Facilitator-John Martin

Speakers and topics are listed below.

- a. Joan Engel – education reform
- b. Michael Sanocki – using high school students to help children who are struggling in school.
- c. Dametra Hammond – student safety, discipline, holding students accountable
- d. Cammerin Norwood – is a member of the community and manages Next Gen 302, a non-profit organization that could assist with youth in the district.
- e. Ricardo Rodriguez – examination of the impact of pay rate scales on long-term employee, retention of employees and work performance
- f. Mary Jane Long – lack of authentic communication, transparency and knowledge. Inconsistent decisions made by leadership, lack of consequences for egregious behaviors of students, ineffective collaboration of parents and guardians.

- g. Carolyn Dean Martin – main concerns is the staff at Dover Middle School and student behaviors at Dover Middle School
- h. Dennis Hallock – district should be focusing on academics in the school which is not always possible because of lack of discipline in classrooms, bullying in schools. Positive things happening are overlooked by lack of discipline. Hold parents accountable.
- i. Vonderlear Smack – important to work together and suggested looking into the Upward Bound program in Delaware. As a community, we should come together and look into solutions.
- j. Mozella Richardson Kamara – What function does the board serve? Everyone should take accountability, from the top to the bottom. Senator Step-Up program/process makes no sense. Community should come together and connect so we can see what to do.
- k. Kevin McCove – What is the status of communication in the district? Need to have modern education for the modern world. Available to help with scholarships through corporate funding and other avenues.
- l. Tammy Mack – Is a human rights advocate and education advocate. Parents of students with IEPs need to work together. Some parents do not know how to navigate the system. Board, administrators, teachers and families need to work together.
- m. Kaligah Parker - we should let kids be kids. Kids need some hope. In the past we had the DARE program. Need to try to get the kids off the street.
- n. Ron Berry, principal, Kent County Secondary ILC - We need to be unified for the kids in the district. We want to be sure the community is unified and do what we need to do every day to see our students walk the stage and graduate from Dover High School. We are going to determine how to make the Senator Step-Up program work for its students.
- o. Shannon Eachus – Teacher at Dover Middle School – with a dual certification. Major challenge is with special education. Kids are not graduating at a level they need in order to be successful once they leave us.

Mr. Martin noted that the board is encouraged to see people at this Town Hall, especially those who graduated from Dover High School.

General question for the community:

What is the biggest challenge you think we are facing?

- Committed resources, mental health resources
- Make the schools more inviting, offer classes that are geared to the students, change the climate in the schools, be more creative
- Lack of communication, would like to see board members in the schools, doing things together
- No communication with mandates for staff; staff are not getting information

Board and Superintendent Reflections

Dr. DePrima:

- Dr. Cade had to leave for another appointment. Town Hall has met my expectations. We're already thinking about the next school year. Purpose of the Town Hall is to understand what the community's priorities are, some of your concerns, and these expectations were fully met. Thank you for coming out.

Mr. Martin:

- This was an evening where we heard a lot of information and a lot of ideas. It is important for our students and parents to come out and share ideas, issues and concerns. We hope to come up with 3 key things to focus on.

Mr. Christiansen

- Tonight gave us an opportunity to get your concerns and help shape the 2024-25 school year. We are connected to our community. We are going to do our best to support the Superintendent, students, staff and community. We need our community to help our students. We establish policies and procedures and we need all staff to implement them.

Dr. Jackson:

- The district is sponsoring a Parent Summit this Saturday, April 27, at William Henry Campus from 10 am-2 pm. Please add to your calendar and come out. You can get involved with special education through the SESPAC Committee which needs parents. I urge you to get involved to make things better. Board members visit our schools and can come and visit classrooms if requested.

Dr. Cahoon, Assistant Superintendent:

- We appreciate the board conducting this forum to hear concerns from staff, community and parents. We appreciate the attendance of our local representatives, the district staff, parents and community so we can listen and provide support to make our school community more cohesive to support our students. We will take what we learned tonight to create a plan of action.

Ms. Duggins:

- Thank you to the Senator Nation, parents, staff, community members and legislators for showing up. We are here to hear from you. We've had some courageous dialogue tonight. We will work closely with the Superintendent and leadership team to address the concerns and issues. We definitely respond to emails and phone calls, will reach out to appropriate person, and see that you get answers.

1.03 Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. DePrima, seconded by Mr. Martin, and on a unanimous vote, the meeting/town hall was adjourned at 7:20 pm.