REGULAR SESSION - Jun 09, 2026, Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM

William Penn High School Innovation Center 713 E. Basin Road New Castle, DE 19720

ATTENDANCE

The following Board members were in attendance:

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

Also present:

Jennifer Alexander, Ed. D
Joe Kite
Kate Cale
Gabe Phillips
Janissa Nuneville, Ed. D
Holly Sage
Nneka Jones, Ed. D

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1. CALL TO ORDER

A. 7:00 P.M. - William Penn High School, Innovation Center, 713 E. Basin Rd., New Castle, DE 19720

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM.

B. Flag Salute

The Pledge was done by Ted Laws.

2. ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS TO BOARD AGENDA

A. Additions and/or Corrections to Board Agenda.

There were no additions or corrections to the Board Agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. To approve the Agenda as presented.

4. ASSOCIATION AND BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

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 will provide 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.

A. DSBA - Delaware School Boards Association

Legislative Committee: Senate Bill 302 and 303 were discussed. Senate Bill 322 was presented and there was a lot of dicussion of passing it and not passing it. Many did not want the bill to be approved. It was a 7-3 vote. House bill 443 was discussed regarding bacground checks with volunteers. Next meeting will be in September 2026.

Executive Committee: House Bill 322 was discussed and Emily Falcon did a great job with the presentation.The bill was changed to a vote to go to Senate for a vote.

B. CSOA - Reviewed legislative action, 2026-2027 school year coordination of communication and advocacy with a focus on the Four CSOA Focus Areas, Delaware DOE Leadership Team provide updates on: HB302/303, recent legislation, assessment results roll out, JFC Mark Up

I will be the Secretary for the Chief School Officers Association next year.

C. Redding Consortium - no meeting

D. Strategic Planning - The committee has wrapped up for the summer. Last week C. Smith was invited to sit in on a Zoom meeting with a Teacher form U of D for mental health. This will provide us with things that we will not have to measure ourselves.

E. Major Capital Construction Review Committee - last zoom meeting and the rest of the meetings will be field trips this summer. Everything is on par and will we be having a few ground breaking ceremonies in the upcoming months.

F. Citizens Finance Oversight Committee (CFOC) -

5. 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 - May 15th WP had their Prom and June 5th Seniors graduated.
- Athletics - Spring sports are over and the conditioning and training for the upcoming fall season is underway.
- Academics - AP exams are done and are awaiting the scores to come in July.

B. Students

Delaware Personal Finance Challenge

William Penn Students showcased their financial literacy skills at the Delaware Personal Finance Challenge, hosted by the University of Delaware Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship in partnership with the Delaware Council on Economic Education and Bank of America. After advancing through the online qualifying round, they participated in a full day of written challenges, trivia, and interactive events.

- Hassatou Balde
- Pedro morales
- Allison Ortiz-Ocampo
- Luke Stambaugh

Delaware 250's Mock 2nd Continental Congress

On Friday, May 1st, a group of students from George Read, Gunning Bedford, McCullough, and William Penn represented Colonial and participated in *Delaware 250’s*Mock 2nd Continental Congress at Legislative Hall in Dover. Students were nominated by their teachers to participate in this day-long educational experience, which was inspired by the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the summer of 1776. Our students joined a group of participating middle and high school students from all three counties to engage in debates mirroring the issues of 1776.

The Mock Continental Congress is a collaborative effort between several Delaware organizations: Delaware 250, the state's official entity marking the upcoming 250th anniversary of American independence on July 4, 2026; the Delaware Historical Society; Delaware Public Archives; First State Heritage Park (Delaware State Parks); and the Delaware Center for Civics Education at the University of Delaware. Students collaborated and worked with peers from other schools and were recognized for their research and preparation for this special event.

William Penn

Lomiah Merivil

Yavier Drantez-Granados

George Read

Angel Aparicio

Gunning Bedford

McKinley Hults

McCullough

Aashan Johnson

Lismel Nunez Diaz

C. Staff 11

2027 Colonial Teachers of the Year

WE are excited to announce the Colonial School District 2027 Building Teachers of the Year.

WE are also thrilled to recognize, **Ms. Chadia Garyeazon, Southern Elementary School**, Third Grade Teacher for earning the **2027 Colonial School District Teacher of the Year** recognition. WE are honored to have her represent Colonial Nation at the state level.

WE look forward to celebrating all their accomplishments in the Fall at the Colonial School District Annual "Of The Year" event.

Teacher of the Year - June 2026.pdf

4th Dimension Leaders - Educator Practitioner Program

We would like to recognize Colonial educators who participated in a 6-month long professional learning experience to deepen their own Equity journey.

4th Dimension's Equity Practitioner Program, (EPP), seeks to equip educators at every level of organization with the knowledge, skills, abilities and resources to successfully lead equity efforts at the school and community levels. Over a 6-month period, a thoughtfully designed dialogic model anchored by carefully curated texts and high-leverage elements of adult learning practices, are synthesized to offer a robust set of powerfully relevant and self-reflective experiences

This was our 12th cohort of Colonials Participating!

Marsha Carter

Ericka DiCastanado

Kimberly Sturkey

Jasmine Aycox

Danielle Cobb

Leah Armstrong

Charisse Dryden

Lasonya Wiggins

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for the public to speak to the Board. A maximum of 3 minutes is allotted. You will be called up when it is your turn to speak.

Members of the public are expected to remain in the designated area for speaking with the Board. Failure to remain in the designated area may result in the member of the public forfeiting their time to speak with the Board. Public Comment may also be made virtually. Members of the public choosing to comment virtually should click the "About Us" tab on the Colonial School District Website and toggle down to the Board of Education link to sign up.

This session allows community members to discuss their views on issues and allows but doesn't obligate Board members to respond within the 3-minute time slot allotted to individual public comment. Administrative staff may be identified and asked to provide follow-up on specific questions after the meeting. The responses from individual Board members do not necessarily reflect the Colonial School District Board of Education's official position. The opinions and views shared tonight are those of each individual member. If a member of the public has documents to share with the Board, they should indicate as such and a member of the executive leadership team will collect the documents and disseminate them to the Board.

Laws protecting the privacy rights of employees and students prohibit Board members from engaging in a discussion of any employee's performance or qualifications or confidential matters relating to a student. If a Board member violates such statutory rights to privacy, such Board member may be exposed to individual liability. Concerns regarding individuals will not be discussed in the open forum. If you have a personal issue regarding your child(ren), we will help you set up an appointment with the appropriate person to address your needs.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Colonial’s adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert’s Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion.

The items listed under the consent agenda have gone through Board review including documentation concerning these items, that have been provided to all board members and the public in advance.

Items in the consent agenda generally include routine personnel and business office actions and updates as well as approval of previous meeting minutes and education related items such as choice and student placements.

Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.

Motion in consideration to approve all items of the consent agenda.

Motion to approve all consent agenda items.

Moved by: Joseph Laws; seconded by: Phila Breeding

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.

A. Board Meeting Minutes 12

May 5, 2026 - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.pdf

Personnel - Monthly Board Report (May 2026).pdf

Personnel - Monthly Board Report - Confidential - May 2026.pdf

B. Education 241

2025-2026 Choice Terminations

2025-2026 Choice Terminations - May 1 to June 9 - for JUNE BRD RPT - with names.pdf

2025-2026 Choice Terminations - May 1 to June 9 - for JUNE BRD RPT - without names.pdf

2026-2027 Good Cause Choice

2025-2026 Good Cause Choice Invitations - May 1 to June 9 - for JUNE BRD RPT - with names.pdf

2025-2026 Good Cause Choice Invitations - May 1 to June 9 - for JUNE BRD RPT - without names.pdf

2026-2027 Good Cause Choice Invitations - May 1 to June 9 - for JUNE BRD RPT - with names.pdf

2026-2027 Good Cause Choice Invitations - May 1 to June 9 - for JUNE BRD RPT - without names.pdf

2026-2027 Kindergarten Choice

2026-2027 KN Choice Invites - May 1 to June 9 - for JUNE BRD RPT - with names.pdf

2026-2027 KN Choice Invites - May 1 to June 9 - for JUNE BRD RPT - without names.pdf

C. Finance 250

Finance items this month include:

Budget Variance Monthly Report as of April 30, 2026

Budget Variance Report as of April 30, 2026 - June 2026.pdf

- Summary of Revenue
- Summary of Expenditures

- Local Fund Property Tax Receipts

Bid Approvals

Paper Goods 26-27 Ext 5-25-17 PJP.pdf

Paper Goods 26-27 Ext 5-25-17 WB Mason.pdf

Physical Therapy Svs 4-26-65 Board Rec.pdf

Behavioral Services and Support-RFP 4-26-66.pdf

Occupational Therapy Svs 4-26-67 Board Rec.pdf

Speech Language Therapy Svs 4-26-68 Board Rec.pdf

Sub School Nurse Bid - June 2026.pdf

D. Operations 471

Operations items this month include:

Bid Approvals:

Access Control Systems Rebid - June 2026.pdf

Trash & Paper Removal Services RFP - June 2026.pdf

E. Personnel 500

Personnel items this month include:

Confirmation of Standard Personnel Items

Personnel - Monthly Board Report - Confidential - June 2026.pdf

Personnel - Monthly Board Report (June 2026).pdf

EPER and Volunteer Coaches

Personnel - EPER June 2026.pdf

2026-2027 Administrator Assignments and Contracts

Admin Contracts and Lanes - June 2026.pdf

8. UPDATES AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Opportunity Fund Waiver - Approval 533

A discussion will take place in reference to waivers of the provision of Title 14 Delaware Code Section 1726 Opportunity Fund waiver that was posted for two consecutive weeks in the News Journal.

District Administration will seek motion and vote to approve the waiver after

discussion with the public.

Opportunity Fund Waiver Public Notice of Mtg June 2026 4.16.26.pdf

Motion to move Opportunity Fund Waiver - Approval.

Moved by: Christine Smith; seconded by: Carlos Dipres-Ramirez

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE OPPORTUNITY FUND.

B. Tax Refund Approvals 534

RC Refund Request - June 2026.pdf

First: C. Smith

Second: R. Handy

6/1

Motion to move Tax Refund Approvals.

Moved by: Christine Smith; seconded by: Ronald Handy

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND APPROVED WITH A 6 TO 1 VOTE TO ACCEPT THE TAX REFUND APPROVALS.

C. Collaborative Bargaining Agreement - Nutrition Services 536

District Administration seeks a motion of consideration and action upon the collective bargaining agreement with the Colonial Food Service Workers Association.

Nutrition Contract - 2026-2029.pdf

Motion to move he Collaborative Bargaining Agreement - Nutrition Services.

Moved by: Keenan Dorsey; seconded by: Carlos Dipres-Ramirez

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE COLLABORATIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR NUTRITION SERVICES.

D. Collaborative Bargaining Agreement - Transportation 559

District Administration seeks a motion of consideration and action upon the collective bargaining agreement with the Colonial Transportation Association.

Transportation Contract 2026 -2029.pdf

Motion to move Collaborative Bargaining Agreement for Transportation.

Moved by: Ronald Handy; seconded by: Keenan Dorsey

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE COLLABORATIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION.

E. Delaware School Board Association Dues for 2026-2027 592

A discussion will be held and motion considered by the Board of Education in reference to the Delaware School Boards Association membership dues for the

2026-2027 school year.

DSBA (Delaware School Boards Association) Invoice 5-27-26.pdf

Motion to move the Delaware School Board Association Dues for 2026-2027.

Moved by: Christine Smith; seconded by: Phila Breeding

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE DELAWARE SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION DUES FOR 2026-2027.

F. May 2027 School Board Meeting Date Change 593

To enable the district to conduct necessary Human Resources business that complies with employment and labor regulations. The administration is seeking the Board's approval to change the previously approved May 2027 School Board meeting from May 11th to May 4th.

Revised Board Meeting Dates - 2026-2027.pdf

Motion to change the previously approved May 2027 School Board meeting from May 11th to May 4th.

Moved by: Keenan Dorsey; seconded by: Carlos Dipres-Ramirez

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO MOVE THE MY 2027 BOARD MEETING DAY FROM MAY 11TH TO MAY 4TH.

G. Colonial Student Code of Conduct

The Board will be presented with two minor revisions to the Colonial Student Code of Conduct.

1. **Unauthorized Use of an Electronic Device -** For “subsequent violations", remove OSS and confiscation as “required” and add confiscation, disciplinary agreements, and ISS as “optional”.
2. **Attendance -** Clarify the responsibility of students and teachers regarding making up schoolwork missed subsequent to either an “excused” or “unexcused” absence.

That said the district administration is seeking to waive a first and second read and is asking for approval of the proposed changes.

Motion to approve the Colonial Student Code of Conduct.

Moved by: Joseph Laws; seconded by: Ronald Handy

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE REVISIONS TO THE COLONIAL STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT.

H. School Discipline Improvement Plans 594

The District administration is presenting an update on four *School Discipline Improvement Plans*(SDIPs) that were approved by the Board June 2025.

SDIPs - June 2026.pdf

I. Access and Opportunity: Extended Learning Opportunity Summer Program Update 611

Colonial Office of Extended Learning - June 2026 Update.pdf

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm by Mia Ocampo Castaneda.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Joseph Laws; seconded by: Keenan Dorsey

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ADJOURN THE BOARD MEETING.

Jeffrey D. Menzer

Superintendent