REGULAR SESSION - Jul 14 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Colonial School District Board Room 318 E. Basin Road New Castle, DE 19720

The following Board members were in attendance:

Christopher Piecuch, Sr., President
Christine L. Smith, Vice President
Carlos Dipres
Ron Handy, Sr.
Dawn Green
Jeffrey D. Menzer, Ed.D, Executive Secretary/Superintendent

Also present:

Jennifer Alexander, Ed. D
Gabe Phillips
Janissa Nuneville, Ed. D
Holly Sage
Emily Falcon
Nneka Jones, Ed. D

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. 7:00 P.M. - Colonial School District Administration Building, Board Room, 318 E. Basin Rd., New Castle, DE 19720
The Board Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM

B. Flag Salute
The Flag Salute was recited by Dawn Green.

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.

Moved by: Christine Smith; seconded by: Joseph Laws

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

*Ted Laws name filled in for Dawn Green until Diligent uploads Ms. Greens information.

4. 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.

5. ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR 2026-2027

A. Organization of the Board of Education for 2026-2027

At this time the Board President will turn over the gavel to the Executive Secretary until after the nominations are received for the Board President Position.

B. Nominations for Election of President

Nominations will be made for President of the Board of Education and then a vote will be taken.

Motion to approve the nominated President of the Board of Education.
Moved by: Ronald Handy; seconded by: Joseph Laws

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO NOMINATE CHRIS PIECUCH AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD.

*Ted Laws name filled in for Dawn Green until Diligent uploads Ms. Greens information.

C. Nominations for Election of Vice President

Nominations will be made for Vice President of the Board of Education and then a vote will be taken.

Move to approve the election of Vice President of the Board of Education.
Moved by: Phila Breeding; seconded by: Joseph Laws

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO APPROVE TO NOMINATE CHRISTINE SMITH AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

*Ted Laws name filled in for Dawn Green until Diligent uploads Ms. Greens information.

D. Designation of Executive Secretary

The newly elected Board President will appoint the Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey D. Menzer, to the position of Executive Secretary of the Board in accordance with Delaware Code.

E. Nominations for Election of the Representative to the DSBA of Directors

Nominations will be made for DSBA Board of Directors Representative and then a vote will be taken.

Christopher Piecuch as the Board President reserved the right to appoint the following board members as DSBA Representatives is Ron Handy.

F. Nominations for Election of the Alternate Representative to the DSBA Board of Directors

Nominations will be made for the Alternate Representative to the DSBA Board of Directors and then a vote will be taken.

Christopher Piecuch as the Board President reserved the right to appoint the following board members as DSBA Representative alternate is Phila Breeding.

G. Nominations for Election of the DSBA Legislative Committee Representative

Nominations will be made for the DSBA Legislative Committee Representative and then a vote will be taken.

Christopher Piecuch as the Board President reserved the right to appoint the following board members as DSBA Representatives for legislative is Keenan Dorsey.

H. Nominations for Election of the DSBA Legislative Committee Alternate

Nominations will be made for DSBA Legislative Committee Alternate and then a vote will be taken.

Christopher Piecuch as the Board President reserved the right to appoint the following board members as DSBA Representatives for legislative alternate is Carlos DiPres.

6. 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: Christine Smith; seconded by: Ronald Handy

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

A. Board Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2026.pdf

Personnel - Monthly Board Report (June 2026).pdf

B. Education

FFA Fall Trips - Preliminary Submission

Event	Type	Pathway	Dates	Location	Notes
FFA Big E Regional Conference	CTSO	Agriculture	September 18 - 19, 2026	W Springfield, MA	Transportation: school van

FFA Regionals - leave Wednesday afternoon September 16th return Saturday September 19th. Two rooms of girls and 1 advisor room

Event	Type	Pathway	Dates	Location	Notes
FFA National Conference	CTSO	Agriculture	October 21-24, 2026	Indianapolis, IN	Transportation: Airplane

FFA Nationals - leave Wednesday morning October 21st return either Friday night 10/23 or Saturday morning 10/24. One room of girls and 1 advisor room

C. Finance

Finance items this month include:

Budget Variance Monthly Report as of May 31, 2026

Budget Variance Report as of May 31 2026 - 7-9-26.pdf

- Summary of Revenue
- Summary of Expenditures
- Local Fund Property Tax Receipts

D. Personnel

Personnel items this month include:

Confirmation of Standard Personnel Items

EPER and Volunteer Coaches

E. Operations

Operations items this month include:

Construction Drawing (CD) & Specifications for Eisenburg's Renovations that include electrical, earthwork, exterior improvements & utilities.

Eisenberg Renovations CD 99% Drawings CSD #4-26-64 - 7-9-26.pdf

Eisenberg 99% SPECS CSD 4-26-64 Renovations - 7-9-26.pdf

Veolia Water Plan Approval Letter for Project Estimate.

Leach Veolia Water Distribution System Plan Approval - 7-9-26.pdf

AIA contract for Fearn-Clendaniel Architects as our Construction Management firm for the McCullough Building project to include replacement of sloped roofing areas & security improvements. Site work includes new dugouts, infield restoration at baseball & softball fields, resurfacing of athletic track, repair to existing concrete entrance, sidewalk, curb & restoration of asphalt walks & parking areas.

McCullough CN 26-27 AIA Contract - 7-9-26.pdf

McCullough FCA Fee Schedule Exhibit B R - 7-9-26.pdf

McCullough Site Exhibit C - 7-9-26.pdf

McCullough FCA-CSD exhibit A attachment A B101 Modification - 7-9-26.pdf

McCullough Site Survey Exhibit D - 7-9-26.pdf

Contract for the New Castle school renovation study by Becker Morgan.

New Castle Contract Renovation Study by BM B101 -2017 - 7-9-26.pdf

William Penn High School Sports Complex cd Drawings

Construction Drawing (CD) for William Penn's Sports Complex that includes the Record Plan, Stormwater Hydraulic Analysis Report documenting the hydraulic design of the storm drain system for the William Penn High School Athletic Field Improvements & letter submitted to NCC for approval of the Final Construction Documents with supporting documentation.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_nTwmibhlEX6mQMsXgmkOvTx-4aCt7fX/view?usp=sharing

WP Sports Complex 202504000-NCC-CD - 7-9-26.pdf

WP Sports Complex 2025040-NCC-Record-2026-07-07 COLOR - 7-9-26.pdf

WP Sports Complex 202504000-SWM-HGL-Report - 7-9-26.pdf

WP Sports Complex 202504000-NCC-CD - 7-9-26.pdf

EDiS Recommendation of the Contract Award to Kent Construction Company for Soil Import from Leach Site to WPHS.

William Penn High School - Structural Fill - Soil Import Contract Award - 7-9-26.pdf

Leach AIA Contract Change Order Waterproofing

Leach AIA Contract - 7-13-26.pdf

Substitute Teaching and Paraprofessional Services RFP

Substitute Teaching and Paraprofessional Services - 7-13-26.pdf

7. UPDATES AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Preliminary FY27 Budget

Emily Falcon, Colonial's Chief Financial Officer will present and seek approval for a preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2027, which covers the period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

A final budget will be submitted after the unit count is finalized and approved.

FY 27 Preliminary Budget 7-9-26.pdf

FY 2027 Preliminary Budget Presentation - 7-9-26.pdf

Motion to approve Preliminary FY27 Budget.
Moved by: Joseph Laws; seconded by: Carlos Dipres-Ramirez

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE PRELIMINARY FY27 BUDGET.

*Ted Laws name filled in for Dawn Green until Diligent uploads Ms. Greens information.

B. Non-bargaining employee groups - salary scales

The Administration is providing, for approval, a document that outlines the structure by which non-bargaining employee groups receive annual salary increases.

Non Bargaining Employee Group salary structure.pdf

Motion to approve the non-bargaining employee groups -salary scales.
Moved by: Christine Smith; seconded by: Ronald Handy

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVEDTHE NON-BARGAINING EMPLOYEE GROUPS SALARY SCALES.

C. WE Improve Facilities

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 capital projects.

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 meet monthly that 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.

WE Improve Board Meeting - July 14 2026.pdf

D. Board Policy Manual - Committee Update and Recommendations

During the 2025-2026 school year the Colonial School District Policy Committee reviewed all School Board policies. The Committee provided feedback in one of two categories:

1- Technical or Clerical Corrections

2- Concerns and Recommendations

The District Administration presents the Technical or Clerical Corrections for approval - see attached. These recommendations are minor edits and make no substantive changes to the policies indicated.

The Executive Leadership Team is reviewing the policies with Concerns and Recommendations. As those policies are reviewed and/or revised they will be presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

As required by Delaware Code Title 14, Section 4124, the District Administration is presenting policy ***#298 Cell Phone Use By Students During School Hours*** for a first read and will seek consideration and approval at the August 2026 School Board Meeting.

Colonial School Board Policy Technical and Clerical Corrections from 2025-2026 Policy Committee.pdf

#298 Cell Phone Use By Students During School Hours.pdf

Motion to approve the Board Policy Manual - Committee updates and recommendations.
Moved by: Ronald Handy; seconded by: Phila Breeding

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE BOARD POLICY MANUAL -COMMITTEE UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

E. 2027-2028 Elementary Feeder Pattern Realignment

As part of Colonial School District's ongoing commitment to providing the best possible educational experience for all students, *elementary school feeder patterns* will be realigned for *the 2027-2028 school year.*

The realignment is necessary to support building capacity needs created by the reimagining of special education settings across the district.

Our goal is to ensure equitable access to high-quality programs, meet the needs of all students, and responsible use of district resources while continuing to support strong school communities.

The District Administration will provide the Board and community with an update regarding the 2027-2028 Elementary Feeder Pattern Realignment efforts.

July 14 2026 Board Meeting Update-Colonial School District 2027-2028 Elementary

School Feeder Realignment.pdf

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

9. ADJOURNMENT

A. To adjourn the meeting
The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.
Moved by: Ronald Handy; seconded by: Phila Breeding

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Superintendent