REGULAR SESSION - Aug 11, 2026, Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 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:

Christine L. Smith, Vice President
Carlos Dipres
Phila Breeding
Dawn Green
Keenan Dorsey, Ed.D
Nneka Jones, Ed.D, Deputy Superintendent was Executive Secretary

Also present:

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

Prepared by: Tyann Butts

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. Flag Salute
Keenan Dorsey, Ed.D did the pledge.

2. ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS TO BOARD AGENDA

A. Additions and/or Corrections to Board Agenda.
The William Penn Kitchen Reno was removed.

To approve the motion of the removal of the William Penn Kitchen-Cafeteria Reno Proposal from the Board Agenda.
Moved by: Carlos Dipres-Ramirez; seconded by: Phila Breeding

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF THE WP KITCHEN-CAFETERIA RENO PROPOSAL FROM THE AGENDA.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. To approve the Agenda as presented.

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. 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: Keenan Dorsey; seconded by: Phila Breeding

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO

APPROVE ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.

A. Board Meeting Minutes

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Personnel Board Reports - July 2026.pdf

B. Education

Preliminary Approval: WPENN Allied Health National Competition in Philadelphia June 2027

Ms. Slattery will be taking the William Penn Allied Health student to the National Convention in Philadelphia June of 2027. This will be an overnight trip from 6/22/27-6/25/27 with an estimated cost of $1500 that includes 8 attendees.

2025-2026 Choice Terminations

2025-2026 Choice Terminations - June 10 to Aug 10 - for AUG BRD RPT - without names.pdf

2026-2027 Good Cause Choice Invitations

2026-2027 Good Cause Choice Invitations - June 10 to Aug 10 - for AUG BRD RPT - without names.pdf

2025-2026 KN Choice Invitations

2026-2027 KN Choice Invites - June 10 to Aug 10 - for AUG BRD RPT - without names.pdf

C. Board

DSBA Diligent Subscription

DSBA Diligent Subscription Payment Reminder 8-6-26.pdf

D. Finance

Finance items this month include:

Budget Variance Monthly Report as of June 30, 2026

Budget Variance Report 063026.pdf

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

Financial Position Report

Colonial Financial Position Report 083126 (1).pdf

E. Operations

Operation items this month include:

AIA contract for RG Architects to be the Architect & Engineer for the Wilmington Manor CN Renovation Project

AIA Contract for RG Architect 8-6-26.pdf

RG Architects Proposal for WP Kitchen/Cafeteria Renovations planning

WP Kitchen-Cafeteria Reno Proposal 8-6-26.pdf

Request for Proposal for Drop Out Prevention

Drop Out Prevention RFP# 4-26-95.pdf

Transportation Contracts

26-27 Bus Contractor Estimated Cost.pdf

F. Personnel

Personnel items this month include:

Confirmation of Standard Personnel Items

EPER and Volunteer Coaches

6. UPDATES AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Tax Refund Request

The owners of Parcel 10-050.00-006 are seeking approval of the refund of taxes paid in error during 2025 of $196,371.94.

Additional detail on the nature of the error and confirmation from New Castle County officials is attached for your reference.

Based on advice from legal counsel, the District Administration is recommending the Board's approval.

Aug 2026 Tax refund Board memo.pdf

Aug 2026 Tax refund request.pdf

Motion to approve the Tax Refund Request.
Moved by: Keenan Dorsey

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE TAX REFUND REQUEST.

B. Bond Anticipation Notes Approvals

The administration requests that the Board approve application of a Bond Anticipation Note for FY 2026 and FY 2027 Construction projects approved in the 2024 referendum.

BAN Approval request Aug 2026.pdf

Motion to approve the Bond Anticipation Notes Approvals.

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

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO THE BAN APPROVAL REQUEST.

C. Colonial Policy Manual - Second Read Approval

The Board was given copies of ***298 Cell Phone Use By Students During School Hours*** for a first read in July 2026. This is the second reading and the Administration is seeking a motion of consideration and action upon the Board Policies as presented.

298 Cell Phone Use By Students During School Hours.pdf

Motion to approve 298 Cell Phone Use By Students During School.

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE 298 CELL PHONE USE BY STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL POLICY.

D. Human Resources

The Administration is asking the Board to approve the intent to terminate Employee # 27-101.

Motion to approve the Administration asking the Board to approve the intent to terminate Employee #27-101.
Moved by: Phila Breeding

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED, SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO THE TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE #27-101.

E. WE Improve - Safety and Security

Based on community feedback following the October 2024 Colonial Safety and Security Summit, the District agreed to publish a quarterly Safety and Security Update.

This month we are sharing the seventh publication of this update.

The next update will be shared at the November 2026 School Board Meeting.

safety updates august 2026.pdf

F. Preparations for the opening of the 2026-2027 school year

District Administration provided a status report on the preparations for the 2026-2027 school year.

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

8. ADJOURNMENT

A. To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Motion to adjourn the board meeting.
Moved by: Keenan Dorsey; seconded by: Carlos Dipres-Ramirez

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

Superintendent