CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Session of the Colonial School District Board of Education was called to order by Board President Joseph T. Laws, III at 7:02 p.m. in the Auditorium of George Read Middle School.

ATTENDANCE

The following Board members were in attendance:

Bobby Benjamin
Lucy Kennedy – 7:40
Joseph T. Laws, III
Leo B. Magee, Sr.
Richard W. Schiller
Melodie Spotts
Timothy Suber - ABSENT
D. Dusty Blakey, Ed.D., Superintendent/Executive Secretary

Also in attendance were:

Angelucci, A. Paula
Beasley, Christal L.
Blakey, D. Dusty
Bryson, Jr., Richard
Clark, Sherrie
Cooper, Jon
DiGennaro, Steve
Distler, David
Duerr, Lori
Elliott, Renee
Erskine, Brian M.
Falcon, Emily
Ferrante, Angel
Fleetwood, Elizabeth P.
Gavin, Tom
Gibeault, Jeffory
Griffith, Renee
Jacobs, Roberta
Johnston, Bill
Jones, Michelle
Leida, Peter J.
Menzer Jeffrey D.
Moffett, Andrew R.
Nuneveille, Janissa
Purnell, Ige
Read, Franklin D.
Rees, Michael M.
Roberts, Urahn
Roop, Tammy
Ruiz, Stacie
Russell, Marybeth
Sage, Holly Grieshop
Schreppler, Virginia
Schuster, Scott
Smallwood, Phil
Timm, Douglas K.
Wilson, Lauren
Wolfe, Nicholas

Recording secretary was Marybeth Russell
FLAG SALUTE

Roberta Jacobs, Assistant Principal, Wilbur Elementary School led everyone in the “Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.”

ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS TO BOARD AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY (Schiller), SECONDED BY (Magee), AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Board Meeting Minutes
- Education
  - Good Cause Choice Applications
- Personnel
  - Confirmation of Personnel Action
  - Standard Personnel Items
  - Volunteer Coaches
  - EPER Positions
- Business
  - Bids

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY (Schiller), SECONDED BY (Benjamin), AND APPROVED TO ACCEPT ALL “ACTION ITEMS” ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.
STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Several Colonial students have made the All-State Chorus and Band groups. These students auditioned and were selected from hundreds across the state to represent Delaware in a public performance.

William Penn All State Senior Mixed Chorus:
- Garrett Norman – 12th grade – Tenor I

William Penn All State Band:
- Sierra Quiles - 12th grade - Trumpet

Gunning Bedford All State Chorus:
- Noah Jackson - 8th grade - Bass
- Leah Oruko - 8th grade - Alto
- Lexi Santoleri - 8th grade - Alto
- Kimaya Davis - 8th grade - Alto

Abigail Nawo, a fourth-grade student at Wilbur Elementary School, will be awarded a $1,000 scholarship for growing the largest cabbage in a contest sponsored by Bonnie Plants. The Alabama company holds the national growing contest each year by supplying third-grade students with a seedling, and a challenge to grow the largest cabbage at home. Nawo’s cabbage weighed in at five pounds, two ounces. Abigail is among 14 winners in the country. On Wednesday, March 8, 2016, Delaware Department of Agriculture’s Deputy Principal Assistant, Holly Porter, made a giant check presentation on behalf of Bonnie Plants to Abigail, with other third and fourth grade students in attendance.

Karen Ferrucci, Agriscience teacher and FFA Advisor at William Penn received word that Farm to School was selected for the Superstars in Education Award. They will be honored at the 2017 Superstars in Education Awards Ceremony on Monday, May 8th at Wilmington University’s Doberstein Admissions Center Auditorium in New Castle. Karen Ferrucci, Kate Pickard, Ag teachers, Brian Erskine, Principal, all from William Penn High School; Paula Angelucci and Scott Schuster from Nutrition Services are representing the Farm to School group.

FIELD TRIP

The William Penn Administration requested permission for the William Penn ProStart Culinary and Management Competition Teams to attend the National ProStart Invitational to be held in South Charleston, South Carolina from Thursday, April 27, 2017 through Monday, May 1, 2017. There are approximately 7 students and 3 chaperones going on the trip. The field trip application was attached for the board to review.
IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY (Magee), SECONDED BY (Benjamin), AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE CURRICULAR TRIP APPLICATION FOR THE WILLIAM PENN PROSTART CULINARY AND MANAGEMENT COMPETITION TEAMS TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL PROSTART INVITATIONAL IN SOUTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA FROM APRIL 27, 2017 THROUGH MAY 1, 2017 AS PRESENTED.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE REPORT

Dr. Blakey asked the pre-school staff that was present to stand up. Colonial's preschool was recognized today for being the first preschool in a public school district in Delaware to become licensed.

George Read Middle School
Principal Holly Sage and the following staff members: Devon Dyal Stockton, Christina MacKerchar, Pamela Ward, and Michele Madorma gave a wonderful video presentation on the great things happening at George Read. The presentation opened with 7th and 8th grade Knights Table Culinary Club Servers passing out delicious finger foods, dips, and desserts to the School Board and audience. They were very professional both in dress and serving. Programs that were highlighted were the Compassionate School Program, Best Buddies Program, and Redesign of the Agriculture, Culinary, and Business School. Each program was presented with pictures, videos, and students talking about what was going on. It was a great vision of George Read. The following students prepared and served:

Harlie Malvezzi – 8th
Nayla Jason – 8th
Efe Roze – 8th
Koti Simms -8th
Ashley Guadarrama-Ramirez – 7th
Destiny Rivera – 8th
Antonio Camacho-Bonilla – 8th
Aiden Hauck – 8th
Christine Letran – 6th
Jeffrey Halko – 8th
Hanna Lenisco – 7th
Ashley Gott – 7th
Olivia Chickadel – 7th
FFA Presentation

Karen Ferrucci, Agriculture teacher and Nicole Webb, President of FFA and senior at William Penn High School presented a short video of the FFA’s 88th annual state conference in Dover. They thanked the board for the support that has been given to the FFA and allowing them to participate in the conference.

Referendum Update

Emily Falcon, Director of Business gave a short presentation on both the failure of the February 28th referendum and the vision for the next one. She also explained the difference in a household budget and a school district budget in answer to the suggestion from residents that we should tighten our belts and live within our budget: In a school district, we have no say in the number of students that come into our district and that we must also pay for the students that are either in charters or choice to another district.

Exact numbers cannot be given for Fiscal Year 18 at this time for the referendum ask as the Governor today released his proposed budget with cuts of $37 million dollars to public schools. The proposed date is June 6, 2017 and the amount will be up to a max of 38 cents per $100.00 of the assessed value.

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY (Schiller), SECONDED BY (Benjamin), AND APPROVED TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION’S REQUEST TO HOLD A SECOND REFERENDUM VOTE ON TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017. (VOTE: 5 YES, 1 NO (Spotts))

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY (Schiller), SECONDED BY (Magee), AND APPROVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED AMOUNT OF UP TO 38 CENTS PER REQUEST BY THE ADMINISTRATION. (VOTE: 5 YES, 1 NO (Spotts))

BUSINESS

Financial Presentation

Emily Falcon, Business Office Director provided an update on the monthly Budget Variance Report.

IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY (Magee), SECONDED BY (Kennedy), AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE MONTHLY BUDGET VARIANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED.

Financial Information Items

A copy of the financial reports listed below was provided for the Board’s information:
   a. Summary of Revenue
   b. Summary of Expenditures
   c. Local Fund Property Tax Receipts

DELAWARE SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION UPDATE – MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHO REPRESENT THE DISTRICT AT DSBA WILL PROVIDE UPDATES FROM THE MEETINGS THEY RECENTLY ATTENDED.

Mr. Benjamin stated that there was a Board Meeting the previous evening and would be giving a report at the April Colonial School Board Meeting.

Mr. Magee had nothing to report on the Legislative Board

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONVERSATION WITH THE BOARD

Dennis Debevec – requested that the community at large be notified by a mailing about the upcoming referendum. He said he would be following up on this request with emails and certified mail to the board members

Pam Lane – commented on the great turnout for the meeting and asked each person to come to the April meeting and to bring a friend. She said that way they can see the monthly financial reports, budgets and see where the money is going and to see and hear about all of the great things happening in Colonial School District.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, IT WAS PROPERLY MOVED BY (Magee) SECONDED BY (Benjamin) AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Dusty Blakey, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary