DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

Sussex Tech School District Library
17099 County Seat Hwy, Georgetown, DE 19947

August 15, 2019
5:00 P.M.

Members Present: Nina Lou Bunting; Candice Fifer; Dr. Audrey Noble; Dorcas Olatunji; Rev. Provey Powell, Jr.; Wali Rushdan II; and Lea Wainwright.

Members Absent: Vincent Lofink and Whitney Sweeney.

Others Present: Rae Mims, Deputy Attorney General, representing the SBE; Dr. Susan Bunting, SBE Executive Secretary and the Secretary of Education; Jenna Ahner, SBE Executive Director; Dawn McHugh, SBE Administrative Assistant; Leroy Travers, DDOE; Emily Cunningham, DDOE; John Marinucci, DSBA; Hud Athey, Sussex Tech; Adele Jones, Sussex Tech; Theresa Bennett, DDOE; Monica Gant, DDOE; Esther Olatunji, Parent; Dianna Frank, College Board; Stephen Guthrie, Sussex Tech; Dr. John Demby, Sussex Tech.

I. Opening

A. Call to Order: Dr. Noble called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Ms. McHugh conducted roll call for the meeting with seven members present (Bunting, Fifer, Noble, Olatunji, Powell, Rushdan, and Wainwright).

C. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Rev. Powell and seconded by Mrs. Bunting to approve the August 15, 2019 agenda as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

D. Approval of Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes for July 17, 2019

A motion was made by Mrs. Fifer and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve the July 17, 2019 minutes as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan,).

E. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2019

A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting and seconded by Rev. Powell to approve the July 18, 2019 minutes as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

II. State Board Business

A. Committee Reports

Board members provided updates on recent Board business and committee participation. Dr. Wainwright attended the Millennial Summit on August 6-7th at the Chase Center with over 1,000 people in attendance with various speakers and presenters. Mr. Rushdan participated in a meeting with the Delaware Summer Collab on summer learning loss, a meeting with FAME and the P-20 Council Early Literacy subcommittee. Dr. Noble reported that Ms. Sweeney met with Governor Carney and Jon Sheehan and provided a copy of the State Board's FY19 Annual Report. She also met with individuals from Junior Achievement and school districts. Dr. Noble attended the P-20 Council Early Literacy subcommittee meeting and shared information regarding the committee's draft recommendations. Rev. Powell attended a community meeting hosted by the Mt. Joy United Methodist Church and the Southbridge Civic Association involving the Christina School District and the Southbridge community members. He also attended the opening day at Bancroft and met with members of the Vision Coalition. Ms. Olatunji shared information on leadership and pre-college programs that she had participated in this summer.

B. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ahner provided an update on recent activities in her office. She shared information regarding the Career and Technical Education (CTE) subcommittee which reconvened on August 14. Ms. Ahner shared information regarding the subcommittee process, stakeholder engagement, and next steps.

Board members asked questions about how documents and information from the Committee will be shared with members. Board members also asked about student engagement in this process.

III. Secretary's Report

Dr. Susan Bunting provided her report, highlighting the Department's work and visits within the last month.

IV. Presentations

A. Sussex Tech School District Presentation

Mr. Stephen Guthrie, Superintendent of Sussex Tech School District and Dr. John Demby, Principal of Sussex Tech High School, made a presentation to the Board. Mr. Guthrie provided background on the CTE programs offered at the high school. He and Dr. Demby reviewed Sussex Tech's strategic plan, focus areas, recent changes to Sussex Tech, core beliefs, and expected outcomes from the district.

Board members asked a question regarding student participation in the strategic planning process. Members asked questions about retaining qualified teachers and the qualifications necessary for CTE teachers. Board members asked about the process for the lottery and the demographics of the school population. Members asked questions about collaboration with business and industry. Board members asked about opportunities for students to receive industry certifications and work-based learning experiences.

B. Charter School Update

Mr. Leroy Travers, Charter School Office, Department of Education, provided Odyssey Charter School's monthly report. He provided information on the membership and charge of the Compliance Committee and its sub-committees. The sub-committees include By-laws, Governance, Finance, and Communications.

Board members asked if there are consequences to not meeting the deadlines for conditions.

Mr. Travers provided an overview of grants awarded under the Delaware Charter School Program Grant. Board members asked about the rubric and considerations for making the awards. Board members asked about how schools will share best practices and how the grant will encourage charter/district collaboration.

Mr. Travers provided a brief overview of the upcoming renewal process. Board members asked why public hearings will be held in Dover while all schools are located in New Castle County. Mr. Travers will consider moving public hearings to New Castle.

C. 2018-19 Assessment Results

Theresa Bennett, Director, Office of Assessment, Delaware Department of Education, provided an overview of Delaware's assessment system. She shared that scores are used in combination with district-level assessments, report cards, teacher feedback, classroom work and other data to provide a comprehensive view of student achievement across grades.

Ms. Bennett provided information on ELA and math assessment results by grade, district, charter, and subgroup.

Board members asked if it might be more helpful to display the scores longitudinally to show changes across cohorts. Board members asked about the instructional value of the SAT and SAT scores in comparison to surrounding states. Board members asked about the alignment of the test with the curriculum. Members asked about proficiency rates on Smarter Balanced as compared to DCAS and DSTP. They asked about the proficiency cut scores set by the Smarter Balanced Consortium.

D. Science and Social Studies Assessment Update

Ms. Bennett provided information on the State Board's role in approving cut scores for the science and social studies assessments. Standard setting for the science and social studies assessments will take place on September 16-18, 2019. The Board will vote on the cut scores for the science and social studies assessments at the October 24, 2019 meeting.

Board members asked for more information regarding the purpose of the social studies assessment.

E. DSBA Update

John Marinucci, Executive Director, Delaware School Boards Association (DSBA), presented the Annual Report of the DSBA Board of Directors.

Mr. Marinucci provided information on DSBA's financials, membership, and legislative activity in FY19. Mr. Marinucci shared information regarding DSBA's concerns with HB222, which allows

redistricting without a referendum. Board members asked questions regarding DSBA's concerns with these matters. Board members discussed the desire to work with stakeholders and make decisions with input from various constituencies.

V. Formal Public Comment

No public comments were received.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Bunting and seconded by Rev. Powell. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary and
Secretary of Education