Delaware Township School Monthly Board of Education Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024 – 7:00 pm

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Delaware Township School District is to prepare each student to become a productive, responsible member of society, able to adapt and change, by providing an environment that:

Creates a foundation for a self-motivated lifelong learner by providing relevant innovative, comprehensive curricula that reflect the New Jersey Student Learning Standards;

Focuses on individual needs and promotes individual excellence by encouraging and enhancing the intellectual and social development of each student.

This environment will be realized through an active and responsive partnership that includes the students, faculty, parents, community and staff.

- A. Call to Order Mrs. Catherine Pouria, President
- B. Open Public Meeting Act Statement

Welcome to a meeting of the Delaware Township School Board of Education. Please be advised that this and all meetings of the Board are open to the public and media, consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975) and that advance notice required therein has been provided. Meeting notice was also posted in the entrance hallway of Delaware Township School; sent to the Trenton Times and the Hunterdon County Democrat newspapers; posted on the school website and sent to the Clerk of Delaware Township. The public will have the opportunity to be heard as shown on the Agenda.

- C. Flag Salute
- **D. Roll Call** Mrs. Harrington, Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Kafarski, Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Martin, Mr. Pate, Mr. Ponzo, Ms. Stahl, Mrs. Pouria

Also Present: Mr. Scott Lipson, Superintendent and Mrs. Susan Joyce, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

E. Audience Participation – Agenda Items

Ms. Kate Kell - Current mulch potentially carcinogenic; daughter will be here in two years. Heard it is open to discussion

Ms. Stahl – We are upgrading the bigger playground poured rubberized surface; Dilts Park is probably doing the same. Mr. Lipson will talk over with Mr. Crilly, Building and Grounds Supervisor and the architect.

What company are we looking to use?

Ms. Stahl will share information with her.

F. Correspondence – None

G. Student Liaison Report – Andrew Fusi

March 1, 2024 MS Drama Club put on the production Death Aboard the Duchess. After school enrichment ended last week.

February 8, 2024 8th grade goes to RVCC. We learned about the school career opportunities and went to the Planetarium. Read Across America grade 5-8 buddied up with younger students. Friday are report cards. Seventh grade Social Studies played an escape room testing knowledge. Students memorize numbers and digits of Pi for Pi Day which was 3/14/24.

H. Presentations – None

I. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Scott Lipson

1. Student Enrollment Student Enrollment 3-10-24 - (Exhibit I.1)

GRADE	ENROLLMENT	SECTIONS	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE
Kindergarten	45	3	15
Grade 1	37	3	13
Grade 2	51	3	17
Grade 3	48	3	16
Grade 4	29	2	15
Grade 5	42	2	20
Grade 6	40	3	14
Grade 7	45	3	16
Grade 8	42	3	14
Pre School	28	2	13
Tuition Sent	4		
Home Instruction	0		
Self-Contained	2		
TOTAL	413	27	14

2. Evacuation Drills –

Date of Time of Duration Type of Drill Weather Participan Drill Drill of Drill Conditions Drill	nts of Pull Station/Notes
---	---------------------------

Date of Drill	Time of Drill	Duration of Drill	Type of Drill	Weather Conditions	Participants of Drill	Pull Station/Notes
7/18/23	11:05am	10 min	Fire Drill	83 & sunny	175 students & 26 staff	Fire Panel m97m027 *Summer Recreation
7/27/23	8:40am	5 min	Shelter in Place	90 & sunny	20 students & 20 staff	*Summer Academy
9/8/23	9:30am	5 min	Fire Drill	87 & sunny	407 students & 75 staff	Fire Panel m12m025
9/27/23	8:45am	15 min	Bus Evacuation Drill	54 & sunny	407 students & 75 staff	All students participated in this drill.
9/27/23	11:00am	7 min	Lockdown drill	60 & sunny	407 students & 75 staff	
10/3/23	11:00am	15 min	Fire Drill	72 & sunny	407 students & 75 staff	Fire Panel m12m025
10/16/23	12:15pm	1 hour	Shelter in Place	65 & sunny	407 students & 75 staff	*Due to fire next door to school
11/14/23	2:35pm	7 min	Active Shooter Drill	52 & sunny	407 students & 75 staff	
11/14/23	4:00pm	2 min	Test of notification system	52 & sunny	staff & parents	Text, email & phone call were sent to all staff & our parent community
11/17/23	2:00pm	5 min	Fire Drill	67 & sunny	407 students & 75 staff	Fire Panel m13m009
12/19/23	12:05pm	5 min	Lockdown	40 & cloudy	407 students & 75 staff	
12/20/23	10:20am	7 min	Fire Drill	36 & sunny	407 students & 75 staff	Fire Panel m13m006
1/29/24	3:00pm	5 min	Fire Drill	40 & cloudy	407 students & 75 staff	Fire Panel m12m022
1/31/24	10:35am	6 min	Active Shooter Drill	40 & cloudy	407 students & 75 staff	
2/22/24	2:15pm	5 min	Fire Drill	50 & cloudy	409 students & 75 staff	Fire Panel m13m009
2/26/24	2:35pm	7 min	Evacuation Drill	57 & sunny	409 students & 75 staff	
3/14/24	10:55am	5 min	Fire Drill	58 & sunny	409 students & 75 staff	Fire Panel m13m007

3. Suspensions –

MONTH OF	IN SCHOOL	OUT OF SCHOOL
September	0	0
October	0	0
November	0	0
December	0	0
January	0	0
February	1.5	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	0	0
TOTAL FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024 TO DATE	1.5	0

4. HIB Incidents -

MONTH OF	INCIDENTS REPORTED	NUMBER CLASSIFIED AS HIB
September	1	0
October	0	0
November	1	0
December	0	0
January	0	0
February	1	1
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	0	0
TOTAL FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024 TO DATE	3	1

2024-25 Budget Update – Introducing our budget. It's a real process. So much goes into it. A shout out to Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Kania and Mrs. Nitti. Thank you for your patience as I learn.

DTS Calendar 2024-25 School Year – Got lots of input. We are closely aligned to other neighboring districts, especially Hunterdon Central Regional High School.

Family Engagement Night March 6, 2024/Read Across America – Spirit Week took place this week. There were Read Alouds. Buddy reading was phenomenal. Kids all rose to the occasion. Family night participation of 100 plus students and 100 plus parents. Many engaging activities throughout the night. The Library was a photo booth. It was "out of this world"; looking to continue this in the future.

J. President's Report – Mrs. Catherine Pouria

Middle School Play – Kids did an amazing job, grades 6-7. They thanked the board for the new sound and light systems.

Committee Responsibilities – I have been reading bylaws. Committee functions and duties should go to each board member. Maybe our committees could work on this and meet over the summer.

K. School Business Administrator's Report – Mrs. Susan Joyce

- Budget Update Mrs. Joyce has been working closely with the Finance & Facilities Committee and Mr. Lipson. She highlighted some of the areas addressed by the budget.
- **L.** Approval of the regular session minutes and executive session minutes of the February 20, 2024 board meeting.

Motion by Ms. Stahl, seconded by Mrs. Harrington to approve the February 20, 2024 Regular and Executive Meeting Minutes. Discussion followed. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (9-0-0).

M. Committee Reports and Action

1. Curriculum/Instruction/Technology

Mrs. Harrington reported on the committee meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to approve items 1.1-1.3. Discussion followed. June 17 is the rain date for the middle school field trip day Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (9-0-0).

- 1.1 MOVE to accept the HIB incidents per H.1 of the Superintendent's Report. NA
- 1.2 MOVE to approve the following field trips for the 2023-2024 school year.

ACTIVITY	DATE	GRADE LEVEL	LOCATION
8 th Grade Trip	June 6 & 7, 2024	8 th Grade	Washington, DC
Middle School Field Day	June 14, 2024	6 th -8 th Grades	Hellerick's Family Farm
	(Rain date June 17,		5500 N. Easton Road
	2024)		Doylestown, PA

1.3 MOVE to approve the 8th Grade Dance on June 13, 2024.

2. Finance/Facilities

Mrs. Lyons reported on the committee meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Stahl to approve items 2.1-2.14. Discussion followed. Mrs. Lyons asked which floors were done (104, 132, 133). Mrs. Pouria thanked F/F for prioritizing many of the items in the budget. Mrs. Harrington asked on behalf of SEPAG about specifics in the playground which Mr.

Lipson doesn't have now but he will be taking all input into consideration. Mr. Lipson found out this morning that we will not have any Preschool Expansion in 24-25 but will receive funding for the same two classes. Mrs. Lyons asked about the 23-24 approval in October. Mr. Lipson said that there is a cohort of about 15 schools that were approved at the same time as us who are in the same boat we are. We have started a waitlist. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (9-0-0).

- 2.1 MOVE that the financial reports of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Reconciler for the month ended February 2024 be accepted and placed on file. The Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary and Reconciler's monthly financial report and consultations with the Board Secretary, hereby certifies that no major account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(b). (Exhibit 2.1)
- 2.2 MOVE to approve the attached line account transfers for February 2024. (Exhibit 2.2)
- 2.3 MOVE to approve District invoices presented for payment for second February 2024 bills list in the amount of \$202,225.60 and March 2024 bills list in the amount of \$178,431.47. (Exhibit 2.3)
- 2.4 MOVE to approve the following payroll amounts:

February 29, 2024 - \$281,196.38 March 15, 2024 - \$269,899.40

2.5 MOVE to approve the following travel expenditures for staff members to attend professional development conferences/workshops. This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and with the scope of the staff member's current responsibilities and the district's professional development plan.

ATTENDEE	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE	DATES	INCLUDE	MAXIMUM AMOUNT
			(see below)	
Meeta Verma	Connecting the	March 6, 2024	R	\$150.00/each
Caitlin Lally	DotsSchools Addressing		M	
	Mental Health			
Michelle Small	Bilingualism & Disabilities:	April 26, 2024	R	\$225.00
	Critical Steps to		M	
	Differentiate Both			
	Bilingualism & Disabilities			
Scott Lipson	2024 Superintendent	September 26 & 27, 2024	R	\$232.00
	Retreat		M	

2.6 MOVE to approve the following Use of Facilities (Exhibit 2.6).

GROUP	APPLICANT	ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
DTAA	Jenna Vecchione	Use of baseball	3/11/24-	6:00 PM – 7:30	Delaware
		and softball fields	6/15/24	PM	Township
		for practice			School
Girl Scout Troop	Sophia May	A Girls in Stem	3/26/24,	3:15 PM-5:15	Technology
81252		after school	4/1/24,	PM	Room and MS
		program for DTS	4/25/24,		Art Room
		students K-5	5/30/24		
			(revised dates)		

- 2.7 MOVE to approve SDA Mechanical Services, Inc. Inspection Service Contract for March 1, 2024 through February 29, 2025. (Contract on file in Board of Education Office).
- 2.8 MOVE to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Resolution.

Resolution to Adopt the Tentative Budget

Delaware Township Board of Education
Adoption of the Tentative Budget for School Year 2024-2025
BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2024-2025 school year using the 2024-2025 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

	General <u>Fund</u>	Special <u>Revenues</u>	Debt <u>Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024-2025 Total Expenditures	10,636,653	572,000	221,838	11,430,491
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>1,522,443</u>	572,000	146,838	2,241,281
Taxes to be Raised	9,114,210	0	75,000	9,189,210

And, to advertise said tentative budget in The Star Ledger in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education and according to law; AND a public hearing on the budget for the 2024-2025 school year will be held at Delaware Township School on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Maximum Travel

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2023-2024 is \$15,000.00, of which, \$260.76 has been spent and \$00.00 is encumbered to date.

Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement

The Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; AND, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board;

AND, a board of education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30);

AND, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the board of education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of \$15,000 for all staff and board members for the 2024-2025 school year.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

Capital Reserve

Capital Reserve Account Withdrawal: \$71,413

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$71,413 for:

- · Bond Principal \$ 180,000
- · Bond Interest \$ 41,838

Banked CAP

Motion to approve the Heath benefit adjustment for the 2024-2025 School Year:

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-11.2(c) allows a district to request an adjustment to the tax levy for increases in insurance, and

WHEREAS, the district realized an increase of about 6.5% which generated a health care adjustment in the amount of \$57,844, and

WHEREAS, the unused portion of the insurance adjustment \$57,844 will become banked cap for the ensuing four-year period, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware Township Board of Education requests to defer the insurance adjustment in the 2024-2025 budget in the amount of \$57,844 to banked cap for future use.

- 2.9 MOVE to approve AME Inc. Maintenance Agreement for April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025 (contract on file in Board of Education Office).
- 2.10 MOVE to accept the 2023 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by NJEA in the amount of \$2,000.
- 2.11 MOVE to approve the agreement for Public Schools Services with Hunterdon County ESC for the 2024-25 school year (contract on file in Board of Education Office).
- 2.12 MOVE to apply for and accept the Preschool Education Aid (PEA) grant application in the amount of \$361,675 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 2.13 Move to approve a withdrawal from the Maintenance Reserve account in the amount of \$16,500 for flooring repairs.
- 2.14 MOVE to approve the Parental Transportation Contract Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year with parents of Student #2614307124 for the transportation of one student to the Clinton Glen Gardner School District, as follows:

ROUTE#	EST. # of DAYS	COST PER DAY	EST. TOTAL COST
VH23-24	Prorated	\$123.75	Prorated

^{*}Copy of Contract on File in Business Office

3. **Personnel/Policy**

Mr. Ponzo reported on the committee meeting.

Motion by Mr. Ponzo, seconded by Mrs. Harrington to approve items 3.1-3.4. Discussion followed. Ms. Stahl – What holidays will we be in session for? Mrs. Lyons – Do we need a nearly dismissal before some of the holidays like Christmas? Would it help us later in the year to be in for a full day? Mrs. Harrington - An early dismissal counts for a full day. Mr. Lipson – Some are conferences, others are PD days. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (9-0-0).

3.1 MOVE to approve the following candidates for the positions, contractual salaries and starting dates indicated for the 2023-2024 school year, pending paperwork and fingerprint clearance if necessary, per the recommendation of the Superintendent.

NAME	POSITION	SALARY	DATES
Carmen Scialla	Substitute Teacher	\$125/day	2023-24 School Year
Rebecca DeDomenico			
Michael Small			
Jake Small			
Mark Deneka	Movie Night Chaperones	Per CBA	February 9, 2024
Stephanie Joyce			
Andy Damato	Maternity Leave Replacement	B+45/M Step 1 March 18, 2024 through June 30, 2024 .80 FTE Annual Salary \$53,984.00 Prorated Salary \$18,894.40 1.5 Days @ \$125/per day	2023-24 School Year March 14 & 15, 2024
Dean Breithoff	Recreational Sports Club Advisor	Per CBA	2023-24 School Year

3.2 MOVE to approve FMLA Leave for Employee #24976458, beginning April 8, 2024 through June 30, 2024 with an expected return date of, September 1, 2024, per the recommendation of the Superintendent.

- 3.3 MOVE to approve FMLA Leave for Employee #76246586, beginning May 6, 2024 through June 30, 2024 with an expected return date of, September 1, 2024, per the recommendation of the Superintendent.
- 3.4 MOVE to approve the 2024-25 School Calendar (Exhibit 3.4).

N. Additional Business

O. Audience Participation

P. Board Representatives Liaison Reports

1. Recreation

- Egg Hunt and Kite Fest planned for Saturday, 3/23. May need to use the rain date of 3/24. Hunt begins at 11am sharp. DTAA will grill up breakfast sandwiches and 8th graders will be running a bake sale to raise money for their promotion dance.
- Rubber Duck Race will take place on 4/20 from 10am to 12pm at the Green Bridge on Lower Creek Road.

2. PiE

- March 3rd was family ice skating night at The Flemington Ice Arena around 45 DTS community members attended.
- March 7th was Parents Night Out at Sergeantsville Inn with 15 people in attendance.
- March 18th Trashaganza brought three performers with amazing instruments, fun interactive songs, cool
 science, and timely environmental messaging about plastic pollution and climate change. Kids loved to see
 how to build the oil can guitar, diddley bow, water cooler drums among other strange and weird
 instruments. Each show ends with an uplifting segment encouraging students to get involved in the
 struggle to save our planet.
- Enrichment wrapped up last week and the kids had a blast. Thank you to all those that volunteered to create memorable experiences for our children.
- PiE is asking for parents' help in celebrating our amazing teachers & staff. They are looking for those
 interested in joining a Committee to plan out festivities and the theme for this year. Please email the
 Teacher's Appreciation Week Chairperson, Debbie Lubitz, at dlubitz319@gmail.com if you are interested
 in helping out.
- May 10th is the annual plant sale (Go green! Send in a reusable bag with your child to help get the plants home!)
- May 30th Eyes of the Wild is a rescue facility. They will bring a variety of animals for the students to see.
 They will also discuss things such as: how we obtain our rescued animals; protecting wildlife and the environment and completing research before choosing a pet.

3. Township

- The Township Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 6th at the Sergeantsville Firehouse. It was the second public presentation by the park planner regarding upgrades at Dilts Park. It was well attended and the presentation was well received.
- The TC regular meeting was held on Monday, March 11th at 7:30 at the Township building.
- New DPW head Justin P. Squashic.
- No update on Sergeantsville Post Office. Still looking at re-opening at firehouse sometime during the holidays.
- The 2025 budget will be introduced at the April 8th meeting.

- A livestock head count ordinance revision might be coming in the not-so-distant future.
- Another spirited discussion between the public and the Township Committee took place regarding 31 Lambertville-Headquarters Road.

4. ESC

• The ESC Board met on March 5th. The 2024-25 budget was presented at this meeting. The majority of the ESC budget (60%) is spent on transportation services. School services - supplying personnel to member districts - makes up about 18% and cooperative purchasing is about 1.6%. The overall budget will increase 3.1%. The Board VP is retiring and the Board President who has served as president for 20+ years will remain on the Board but wants to step down from that position.

5. Planning Board

• First meeting of the year will be on April 2nd.

6. HCSBA

The Unsung Heroes Awards ceremony celebrated students around our county who have made
outstanding contributions to their schools but may not be recognized by traditional awards. The event
was held at JP Case Middle school, hosted by HCSBA and NJSBA. Their jazz band played and each student
was invited up on stage while kind words were spoken about them by their nominating district and
educators. Congratulations to DTS recipient John Cane!

7. NJSBA Legislature - the following summarizes pertinent legislative action:

 NJ Assembly Education Committee approved A-2180 "Non-CDL Drivers for Small School Buses" which is intended to alleviate the school bus driver shortage

8. Community Relations

• The seniors began their meetings again with pizza and bingo. Next meeting is April 3rd. Suggest that Mr. Lipson attends if possible to invite them to DTS Spring events.

9. HCRHS

Superintendent

- HC BOE announced Dr. Charles Michael Shaddow to be the interim superintendent
- Dr. Shaddow was appointed on March 18th and will assume the role on April 1st.
- He served as the superintendent of North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District for 17 years
 - o interim superintendent for South Hunterdon Regional High School District in 2020.
 - o holds a doctorate in educational administration from Kent State University,
 - o a master's degree in teaching from John Carroll University
 - o a bachelor's degree in history from Rider College
 - o former teacher and principal

HC BOE also thanked Dr. Jeffrey Moore for his outstanding service as superintendent for the past seven years Schedule change

- Due to the weather closing on February 13th, school will be open to all students for a full day on Friday,
 March 15th.
- Additionally, **Monday, March 25th, and Tuesday, March 26th, will follow a noon dismissal schedule**, with staff professional development in the afternoons.

All 11th grade students took the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA)on **March 12th, and March 13th**

Students had the opportunity to participate in a school climate and culture survey on those days as well Career & Service Learning Fair is being held at HC on Wednesday, March 27th, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in the Commons. This event looks to connect HC students with various community partners. If you, as a community member and a parent, are connected with an organization or workplace that may be interested in participating, please use the flier here to register and show your interest.

March 19 Hunterdon County College Fair 6:30 PM Commons & 11/12 Campus

Marc 21 Instrumental Band Concert featuring Freshman Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony 7:00 PM Auditorium

March 22 **Thespian Showcase - Miscast** 7:00 PM Little Theater April 12 and 13 **Guitar Showcase** 7:30 PM Little Theater

10. DTAA

- Comedy Night is May 3rd.
- Spring sports will be starting soon.

11. SEPAG

There was a good turnout for the March SEPAG meeting and it went great! After watching a TedTalk, there was plenty of constructive discussion on how to organically create connections and friendships between neurotypical and neurodiverse students. Some ideas to encourage this were to build peer leader groups and activities, offering inclusive classes during enrichment, opening up field trips to students across all settings - using their busing if there are other activities they can do near where the original field trip is being held. Another thought was to develop activities including both Investigate and neurodivergent students. Overall, it was a successful and productive meeting and we'd like to thank Mrs. Guenther and Mrs. Kertzman for organizing this event.

Q. Executive Session – None.

R. Adjourn - 8:01 PM

Motion by Mr. Ponzo, seconded by Mr. Pate to adjourn at 8:01 PM. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,	
Susan M. Joyce Business Administrator/Board Secretary	_
Catherine Pouria President	