

Open Work Session
Board of Education Discussion Topics
June 21, 2016

Mr. Cannon said he would like to discuss topics that the Council would like to see addressed with the Board of Education as well as the new superintendent for 2017. Mr. Cannon said in the Brief Book is a copy of a letter from the superintendent elect for the Board of Education indicating that she would like to see input from several sources. Mr. Hall said there is certainly a problem with discipline and criminal behaviors happening in the schools, and it has been pretty consistent over the last couple of years. He would like to see some type of action be taken that has not been taken in the past. He would like to see this addressed on a more serious matter because he certainly does not think they have in the past. Mr. Cannon said, supposedly, there is a program in place where after ten suspensions they cannot suspend the student an eleventh time, until they have a formal meeting with the parents, etc., and it seems they should be getting more serious about the problems instead of pulling back the reins. Mr. Hall said it was brought up earlier that Wicomico County has state mandated programs. The state has held the school system hostage because of these programs, and it is totally absurd to think they can hold us hostage for criminal activities that are happening in high schools without any accountability. Mr. Kilmer said he would like to discuss the future of the Magnet Program. There have been concerns that the Magnet Program has not been support by the school administration over the past few years. Mr. Cannon asked in which ways, to which Mr. Kilmer responded, consolidating the Magnet Program by reducing the number of teachers in the space at North Salisbury Elementary School. He said, after the last work session, council members received emails that expressed some concerns on the future of the Magnet Program and any expansion. Mr. Kilmer said there are advanced learner programs in elementary and high school, but not middle school. Mr. Davis said he is getting a lot of slack about the school buses that the Board is purchasing. They said over the years, it is cost effective to make the purchases but, if you look at the budget, every year there is an increase to transportation. He would like to know where the cost savings is. Mr. Cannon said the mantra has always been that there is too much overhead. Mr. Creamer asked Mr. Cannon if he means top-heavy administration when he says too much overhead, to which Mr. Cannon responded, yes. Mr. Joe Holloway said we are all concerned about top-heavy administration, but no matter what Council says, nothing gets done. Mr. Joe Holloway said Council does not have a say in what goes on, so he does not understand why Council is discussing this. Mr. Joe Holloway said he knows that Council can express its concerns, but if it is not a state mandate, it is something else. He thinks it is outrageous that they have to bring a parent in for a formal meeting after being suspended 10 times. Mr. Cannon said Dr. Fredericksen had made the inference that members of the administration were misinterpreting the state code and that may not be as restricted as possible. At the last meeting, which was an impromptu meeting after the rape incident had occurred, they said they were going to get back to Council a report to that effect and Council has not seen that report, so he does not know what the real issues are going to be. Mr. Creamer asked Mr. Cannon if he wants to recommend continuing the quarterly meetings with the Board of Education, to which Mr. Cannon responded, certainly, yes. Mr. Cannon then recognized Mr. Joe Ollinger, who is a member of the Board of Education, sitting in the audience. Mr. Cannon asked Mr. Ollinger if he had any

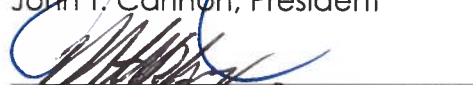
comments that he would like to make. Mr. Ollinger said the Board passed the budget. He said Dr. Fredericksen is under the weather as he has a kidney stone. Mr. Ollinger said it has been an interesting year serving on the Board of Education. The biggest thing he has learned is that if parents are involved in their children's life and in their education, their children will get a very good education in our school system. During this past year, he has seen many talented people at work within the school system, and he has seen to some degree the curriculum. They have great facilities, great opportunities in the areas of arts and music and things of that sort, and there are good athletic programs available. He has seen some of the outcomes; the kids that have graduated from the schools are extraordinary. They do have some problems, but they are working on them. Mr. Cannon said school is not a social program, which is what we always try to make it, but in order to become more effective in school, you have to wonder what issues the schools can address during those kindergarten years, or they are transitioning to pre-k now. He asked do you remove responsibility from the family and let the school system sort of oversee things. Mr. Ollinger said society expects a lot from the public schools. They expect them to solve all the major behavioral problems that kids have because parents are not involved, and the poverty issues as some kids get fed breakfast, lunch and dinner. He said it feels like the federal and state governments never run out of things to push down to the public school system. Mr. Hall said the schools provide free and reduced meals during the school year, and then during the summertime they partner with the County for free and reduced breakfast and lunch at the County parks and at some of the schools, but during the month of August no one feeds them. The County does not feed them, the school system does not feed them, the state and federal governments do not feed them. The kids are just cut off for a month. He then asked if this is a cleansing period for the children. Mr. Hall said he wished he could understand why they do not feed the kids for one month, as it just does not make sense to him. Mr. Joe Holloway said this morning, in discussing the college tuition, Mr. Hall could have requested to put three free meals in the plan. Mr. Ollinger said Carolyn Elmore is leaving the Board of Education. The problem is that they must select the president and vice-president of the school board at their first meeting in July, so if there is not a replacement that will impact the outcome. Also, they are not sure if Kim Hudson is going to stay on the Board. Mr. Hall clarified that there will be two open positions on the Board, to which Mr. Ollinger responded, one definitely and possibly another one. Mr. Ollinger said they do need younger people serving on the Board as there are too many old guys like him. They need young people that have children in the school system. He said maybe the elected school board will bring that about. Mr. Hall congratulated Mr. Ollinger on the Board passing the budget.

Signatures are on the following page.

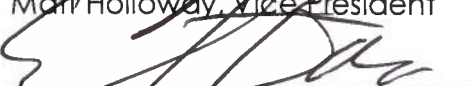
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John T. Cannon, President



Matt Holloway, Vice President

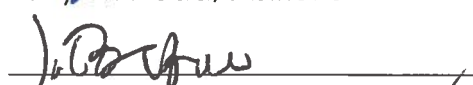


Ernest F. Davis, District 1


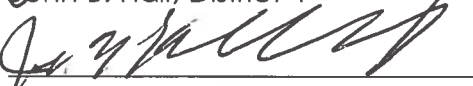
Marc Kilmer, District 2



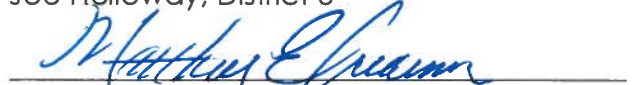
Larry W. Dodd, District 3



John B. Hall, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



Matthew E. Creamer, Council Administrator