

Board President Mara Greatorex added to the agenda a moment of silence to recognize and honor those affected by the Oxford Schools tragedy last Tuesday, November 30.

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Ken Koenig, current DHS Assistant Principal and future Interim Mill Creek Principal (January 2022), presented 10 DHS and 1 Mill Creek course proposals to be considered for the 2022-2023 academic year. Each proposal outlines the course description; rationale; core concepts and specific goals; connections to the District strategic framework and school improvement plan; technology integration; resources to support diverse learning styles, intelligences, and cultures; student achievement measures; projected costs; feedback from department, admin, adjacent buildings, community, and students. The courses presented this evening were electives, mostly 1 semester classes, intended to spark passion and student enjoyment of learning without adding a heavy homework load. Proposals discussed included:

- Film as Literature – English elective, 1 semester, grades 9-12
- Integrated Studies – 1 or 2 semester, grades 9-12
- Introduction to Marine Biology – Science elective, 1 semester, grades 10-12, Biology pre-req
- Jazz Band – Visual and Performing Arts elective, 1-2 semester course, grades 9-12
- A Mathematical Approach to Critical Thinking (MACT) – Math elective, 1 semester, Algebra 9 & English 9 pre-req
- Science Laboratory Strategies & Safety – Science elective, 1 semester, Grades 10-12
- Shakespeare – English elective, 1 semester, Grades 10-12, English 9 pre-req
- Sports Economics and Marketing – Social Studies elective, 1 semester, Grades 9-12
- Student Support & Study Strategies – General elective (credit/no credit), 1 semester, Grades 9-12
- Computer Science Web Design – Math elective, 1 semester, Grades 9-12
- Mandarin Language Introduction – Mill Creek World Language, 9-week class, Grades 7-8

1st OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A DHS parent expressed concern for student safety, citing the alleged threat which prompted the closure of Dexter High School on Friday, December 3. A second DHS parent commented she understands there is a limit to how much information can be shared about individual students but said she would like to see the steps the Board is taking to address the alleged threats. A third DHS parent shared he would like assurance that the people involved in the investigations are qualified.

ADMINISTRATIVE & BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Update

Dr. Timmis began his update by responding briefly to public comments. He and other administrators and spent the end of last week and the weekend working closely with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department conducting interviews regarding the alleged threat at the high school. The Sheriff's office and DCS administration concluded that the threat was entirely fabricated and there was no danger to students. Social media contributed to the spread of rumors and false information. Dr. Timmis reminded families if they hear or see a threat, to please call 911.

DCS held their second-dose vaccination clinic on Friday, December 3. The vast majority of 5-12-year-old students who received their 1st dose at DCS received their 2nd dose.

Making Waves at DCS is a new initiative spreading district-wide curricular and program news. Published stories can be found on the DCS website at www.dexterschools.org/district/makingwaves.

In response to the tragic incident at Oxford High School, the District has reviewed their safety protocols (including ALICE training) with students and staff and is looking at further training and refresher courses with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD). Administration met with all Washtenaw County law enforcement agencies last week, and another meeting is planned for January. All safety equipment and protocols have been reviewed to ensure the safety of all students. Dr. Timmis reminded attendees the BOE approves the District safety plan every two years in closed session.

Board President Update

At the November 1st BOE meeting, a DHS parent had asked the Board to break with the Michigan Association of Schools Boards and the National School Board Association. In response, President Greatorex read a letter from the MASB on this topic which she shared both with the parent via email, and tonight with the community:

"A few weeks ago, in News From the Capitol, we shared with you a letter that was sent from the National School Boards Association to President Joe Biden. That letter has received significant media attention and has caused many of you to be asked about your district's relationships with NSBA and MASB. While the letter itself was concerning to me and the MASB Board of Directors, your boards having to take time to address this was more concerning, so I wanted to communicate with you directly about where MASB stands on the letter and NSBA.

The letter was drafted and sent by NSBA's interim executive director in response to stories they have heard from members and read about in the news. None of the state affiliates were consulted on the letter. Even though there were references to situations with Michigan boards of education, NSBA did not talk to us first. If we would have been asked, we would have told them not to send the letter as it doesn't reflect what MASB believes."

The full letter can be viewed [here](#).

Student Representatives Update

Student Representative Aidan Naughton relayed that at Anchor, Y5-2 classrooms have been working on engineering tasks such as building towers based upon specific instructions, and teachers are learning and implementing the new reading curriculum. In addition, two new paraeducators have been hired and the recent vaccination clinic was a success. Beacon Elementary recently held a food drive for Faith in Action, collecting over 1000 non-perishable goods. The Wylie student council is creating bus driver appreciation letters, and will hold a food/clothing drive for Faith in Action to benefit Avalon housing. Wylie students are also looking forward to a Science Alive presentation next week.

Student Representative Griffin Patel reported that 6th graders at Creekside are taking on math- and technology-based passion projects. At Mill Creek, the transition between retiring Principal Jami Bronson (as of January 30, 2022) and future Interim Principal Ken Koenig is going smoothly. DHS students were

recently briefed in ALICE protocol, and staff have heightened awareness of the Okay2Say program/hotline.

CONSENT ITEMS

The evening's Consent Items were unanimously approved in bulk, including the October Budget Report and hiring of the following staff: Alex Pattenau (Mill Creek Counselor), Constance Myers (Beacon Special Education Teacher) and Stacey Plott (Wylie 3rd Grade Teacher)

ACTION ITEMS

Addition of 12/20/21 Board Meeting

In order for the courses to be approved prior to January scheduling, and to allow an opportunity to do the budget revision as soon as it is prepared, Trustees approved the addition of a Board meeting on December 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in Bates Boardroom.

Update Mill Creek Course Name

Trustees approved changing the name of Mill Creek's geometry class from 'Geometry MMC' to 'Geometry' to meet NCAA requirements. (*MMC stands for Michigan Merit Curriculum*)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

DHS and MC Course Proposals

Board members held a lengthy discussion about each of the proposed courses, asking questions and commenting on each individually. Student Representative Patel asked about the size of the student group polled for feedback, commenting that he is concerned that certain proposed courses will not attract much interest. Mr. Koenig shared the interest gauge will come during registration, and that 15-20 students are typically needed to run a section.

For the full discussion, the meeting video can be found at <https://www.dexterschools.org/district/board-of-education/meetings/videos>.

2nd OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A DHS parent expressed frustration with Dr. Timmis's response to the first public comment. She defended parents sharing information and rumors, saying it is sometimes the only way to find out what's happening (as administration cannot always share details).

BOARD COMMENTS

EFD Update

President Greatorex updated the Board on the Educational Foundation of Dexter's (EFD) recent teacher grant cycle. After raising over \$21,000 during their recent rivalry match fundraiser, grants were approved for digital cameras, horse therapy, subscriptions for Wylie and books for Anchor and Beacon students, just to name a few. The full list can be found on the EFD website at <https://www.efdexter.org/teacher-authorized-grants>.

MASB Assembly Recap

Jennifer Kangas and Mara Greatorex shared experiences from the MASB Assembly held November 11-14 in Grand Rapids. The annual MABS leadership conference hosted hundreds of school board members

from all over the state. Kangas found the conference events extremely helpful, saying the topics covered, “brought us back to our purpose of providing quality education, and using data to make decisions and affect policy.” Greateorex expressed her sense of renewal gained from daily events shared with representatives from 150 districts in 45 Michigan counties.

Other Comments

Daniel Alabré commented on the South West Washtenaw Consortium (SWWC) open house event held on November 30 and expressed a need to better publicize information about Consortium courses to DCS families.

Elise Bruderly thanked Dr. Timmis for the State of the District webinar in November and encouraged everyone to watch the recording on the DCS website (<https://youtu.be/3Y9AvUbIBBg>). Bruderly also applauded the recent Mill Creek Orchestra concert, which marked the first time 7th grade orchestra students have performed a full concert since they began playing in 5th grade (due to COVID-19).

Jennifer Kangas noted she spoke with alternative energy/solar power vendors at the MASB Assembly, and suggested discussion of alternative energy options at a future facilities meeting.

Trustee Kangas also acknowledged the “extreme fear and anxiety” expressed during public comment this evening, which is also being experienced throughout the community and state. She noted that board members are privy to information that offers additional perspective not available to the public due to privacy and security laws. She thanked Dr. Timmis for the great care he gives our students regardless of the many challenges he faces daily.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. [Board Bulletin - 11/1/2021](#)
2. [Nice Job Notes – Sept-October 2021](#)

UPCOMING BOARD CALENDAR

Monday, December 20 – 5:00 p.m. - Board Meeting – Bates
Monday, January 10 – 7:00 p.m. - Board Meeting – Bates
Monday, January 24 – 7:00 p.m. - Board Meeting - Bates