



POLICE ADVISORY BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

The Police Advisory Board (PAB) Workshop Meeting was held on April 16, 2026 at 6:07 p.m. at the Dover Police Department in the James L. Hutchison Public Assembly Room with Vice Chairperson Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty presiding. Members of the PAB in attendance were Miss LillyRose Granger, Miss Ayrue Lin. Ms. Melynda Cameron & Dr. Katera Moore. Mr. Otis Harris, Jr., Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin, Mr. Waverly Debraux & Dr. Chanda Jackson were absent.

Ex-Officio Member in attendance was Captain Randy Robbins (attending on behalf of Chief Thomas A. Johnson). Sergeant Ian Thompson (Dover Police Department) also attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Mr. Chris Asay, representing the League of Women Voters of Delaware, addressed the Board and stated that he had previously provided his remarks to the Chair and Vice Chair, and that his comments were intended for the remaining Board members. Mr. Asay expressed concern regarding what he described as the lack of substantive content on the Police Advisory Board meeting agendas for March and April. He noted that the March meeting concluded in approximately 20 minutes and stated that the April meeting appeared likely to be similarly brief. He further remarked that, aside from routine matters and the approval of a new member, the Board appeared to be undertaking no additional activity.

Mr. Asay questioned what service this provided to the Dover community and asked why Board members and residents were expected to attend meetings where no substantive business was conducted. He inquired whether there were no community concerns relating to policing in Dover and whether the Board was willing to pursue information regarding the complaint referenced and subsequently dismissed at the March meeting. He also asked whether the Board was actively seeking community involvement and comment, and whether the Board could earn public confidence as an active advocate.

Mr. Asay further questioned whether the Board was seeking City support in connecting with the greater Dover community. He referenced that approximately ten percent of the City budget, or \$25 million, is allocated to policing and asked how much support the City was willing to dedicate toward the work of Dover's Police Accountability Board. He also questioned whether newly appointed members would continue to attend meetings where little was accomplished and encouraged the Board to assign specific tasks to members in support of outreach and the Board's overall mission.

Additionally, Mr. Asay asked whether the Dover community could be proud of the representation and support of a Board that many residents may not know exists. He stated that outreach is essential, as is the preparation of an annual report listing accomplishments and recommendations. He asked whether the Board had made any recommendations during the past two years regarding police policy or procedure and, if not, why not.

Mr. Asay also inquired whether the Board intended to connect with other police advisory boards in Delaware to share information and strategies, or whether it would remain isolated from constructive input. He noted that there are numerous police advisory boards and asked whether the Board intended to work with police reform advocacy groups in Delaware that had already offered assistance in promoting transparency in policing.

In closing, Mr. Asay stated that Chief Johnson had repeatedly encouraged the Board to ask difficult questions and challenge him on issues, and that he believed the Chief could appropriately respond to such questions. Mr. Asay urged the Board to accept that invitation and encouraged all members to carry out their responsibilities actively and aggressively in service to the Dover community.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Melynda Cameron moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Miss LillyRose Granger and unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY 19, 2026 MINUTES

DR. Katera Moore expressed concerns regarding the format and content of prior meeting minutes. She stated that while she understood the minutes were intended to be summaries rather than verbatim transcripts, she believed certain portions did not accurately reflect the spirit of the discussions. Specifically, she noted that discussions regarding livestreaming and artificial intelligence in policing appeared to include only Chief Johnson's responses, without reflecting the meaningful questions and concerns raised by Board members. Ms. Moore stated that, from a public perspective, the minutes could create the impression that the Board was not actively engaged.

Ms. Moore further commented that including Board member questions and dialogue would better demonstrate that the Board was thoughtful, involved, and actively participating in discussions. She expressed concern that future readers of the minutes may not realize the Board had raised substantive concerns on important issues if those discussions were not summarized.

Rebecca McNamara, Office Administrator & Assistant to the Chief of Police explained that the minutes are intended to be summary minutes and already exceed the minimum legal requirements, which are generally limited to recording motions and their outcomes. It was noted that including every question and comment could move the minutes toward a verbatim transcript, which would create time and administrative constraints. She also explained that identifying speakers, while listening to the recordings (she was not present at the February 19, 2026 meeting and had to rely on the recording) can be difficult when participants do not state their names during meetings.

It was also suggested that Board members identify during meetings when they would like a particular comment or question reflected in the minutes. Mrs. McNamara advised that revisions could be made to the sections regarding Livestreaming and AI on the February 19, 2026 minutes while continuing to maintain a summary format rather than a verbatim record.

Discussion was held regarding the proper handling of public comments and whether matters raised during public comment should be discussed during the same meeting or placed on a future agenda. It was explained that public comments are received during the meeting; however, substantive discussion by the Board on those matters should occur only after the topic has been properly placed on a future agenda to provide adequate public notice and an opportunity for additional community input. Board interaction with speakers during public comment is generally limited to acknowledging and thanking the speaker.

Clarification was also provided regarding the distinction between workshop meetings and regular Board meetings. Workshop meetings were described as primarily focused on youth initiatives, community engagement, and subcommittee-type discussions, with formal decisions typically reserved for regular Board meetings. Exceptions may occur when time-sensitive matters require action between regular meeting cycles.

Board members were advised that agenda items may be requested by submitting them in writing for consideration. Proposed agenda items are subject to approval by the Chair and Vice Chair prior to placement on a future agenda. Discussion also included whether members of the public may later participate in discussion when their concerns are formally listed on an agenda, and it was noted that additional clarification on applicable procedures would be sought.

Dr. Moore moved to table the February 19, 2026 for revisions and placement on the next workshop meeting agenda, seconded by Ms. Cameron and unanimously carried.

Dr. Boggerty encouraged all Board members to feel confident in asking questions, sharing ideas, and bringing forward matters they have taken time to consider. It was emphasized that the Board process exists to provide members with the opportunity to raise concerns, contribute input, and engage in meaningful discussion.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS - None Reported

Discussion was held regarding public awareness of the Board's complaint process and how residents are informed of their ability to submit complaints. It was noted that increasing community awareness is an important part of the Board's responsibilities, including educating residents on how complaints may be filed, how the process works, and where support may be available. Suggestions were made to improve outreach through printed materials, informational cards, QR codes, multilingual resources, and attendance at community events where information could be shared directly with residents.

Members also discussed the scope of complaints that come before the Board and noted that only certain complaints fall within the Board's authority, particularly those involving policy, process, or training matters. It was explained that some complaints may be handled through other disciplinary or administrative channels and therefore may not come before the Board. Additional reference materials and prior presentations regarding the complaint process were offered to members for further understanding.

Further discussion emphasized that the Board does not need to wait for formal complaints in order to address community concerns. Members noted that concerns raised informally by residents, or issues observed through community engagement, may also be brought forward for discussion. It was stressed that active participation in the community is necessary in order to hear concerns and identify areas where the Board can provide guidance or recommendations.

The Board also discussed increasing member presence at community meetings, town halls, City Council meetings, faith-based gatherings, and other public events. Members suggested developing broader participation opportunities for those serving as community representatives and assigning areas of focus based on each member's role or interests. It was recommended that this topic be placed on a future workshop agenda for additional discussion.

Lastly, discussion was held regarding improving communication of upcoming community meetings and events. Suggestions included maintaining a calendar of events, sharing meeting opportunities during agenda updates, and including announced community events in the meeting minutes so members and the public remain informed of engagement opportunities. It was also noted that communications among Board members must remain compliant with public meeting requirements.

MEMBERSHIP – APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR CHRISTIANSEN- MS. DOMINIQUE DIXON

Ms. Cameron moved to accept the appointment of Dominique Dixon to the Police Advisory Board effective immediately with a modified three year term to expire May 31, 2027, seconded by Miss Granger and unanimously carried. Rev. Dr. Boggerty welcomed Ms. Dixon to the Board and reminded those present that Ms. Dixon serves as Senior Secretary at Booker T. Washington Elementary School and is joining the Board as a representative of the education sector.

YOUTH

MISS GRANGER reported that there are currently no major youth-related incidents, which was viewed as a positive sign. However, students have consistently expressed concerns regarding the lack of summer activities and safe spaces designated for youth, which could become a contributing risk factor as summer approaches.

Discussions with several students, primarily underclassmen, focused on ways to reduce illegal activity among teens during the summer months. A common theme identified was the need for more structured programs and designated spaces for youth engagement. It was noted that this issue is not unique to Dover, but is a challenge faced by communities nationwide.

It was further shared that many teen gathering spaces have become restricted due to the actions of a small number of individuals, limiting access for others. While fight statistics have decreased, most incidents continue to involve younger students, particularly ninth and tenth graders, and appear to be related more to maturity levels than police presence.

To address these concerns, it was proposed that additional safe, supervised summer activities be created, along with targeted police presence in areas where teens gather. This approach could help prevent incidents while also strengthening positive relationships between youth and law enforcement through consistent engagement.

Miss Lin reported that in addition to immediate concerns, it was noted that broader topics being discussed at the school board level may have an impact on student safety and overall comfort within the school environment. While immigration enforcement is not currently a direct issue within the school, it has been referenced in recent discussions and surveys, which could influence future policy considerations.

It was further shared that some students may feel uncertainty or concern depending on how such matters are addressed. Discussion among school staff has also occurred regarding potential responses should federal immigration authorities request access to school property, with varying viewpoints expressed.

The importance of understanding the School Board's position on these matters was emphasized, along with the need to support a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all students.

Miss Lin raised questions regarding concerns expressed by some students who feel anxious about immigration enforcement issues as portrayed in the media. Questions were presented regarding the School Board's position on how situations involving federal immigration authorities on school property would be handled, what guidance is currently provided to schools and School Resource Officers, and how all students can be ensured a safe, supported, and informed environment regardless of background.

Rev. Dr. Boggerty thanked the student representatives for their report and recommended that these questions be forwarded to the full Board for further discussion to allow for broader attendance and also suggested that the students hold their own Town Hall meeting.

Discussion also took place regarding areas where youth gather during the summer, including parks and recreation spaces, and the need for greater awareness of existing youth engagement opportunities with law enforcement and community partners.

Board members and staff emphasized that student safety remains a priority. It was shared that any requests involving outside authorities on school property would be handled on a case-by-case basis, with efforts made to

minimize disruption to the school environment. Ms. Dixon also noted that procedures, resources, and chains of command are in place to manage access to school buildings and respond appropriately to such situations.

COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES

Rev. Dr. Boggerty advised that there was a Town Hall Meeting currently taking place at Schutte Park. Miss Dixon reported that the Capital School District School Board Meeting will be held on April 20, 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion also took place regarding completion of the remaining required hours through training opportunities. It was noted that previously planned training sessions following Board meetings had been reconsidered after feedback that members did not wish to remain after meetings. Alternative training dates are expected to be provided by the Chief. It was further discussed that separate training sessions may be arranged for members based on individual availability.

Clarification was provided that no training session was scheduled following the current meeting due to the Town Hall event. Members also discussed the possibility of scheduling future training sessions prior to meetings, with the matter to be explored further.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm