

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

November 8, 2021

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1. Welcome of the subcabinet –

Chair, Mr. Mohammed Choudhury

a. Declaration of quorum

b. Additions to the Agenda

2. Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS)

a. Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line – Sandra Caldwell

b. FY2022 Safe Schools Fund Grants - Gifty Quarshie

- Baltimore City
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- Washington County
- Wicomico County
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Gifty Quarshie: Forms for their school safety liaisons and staff in this position usually work to support school administration in de-escalating volatile situations, in assisting with investigations, drills and serving as active assailant instructors in conducting

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safety and security surveys.

Mohammed Choudhury: What's in my family reunification kit? Right now, I'm just curious to discuss it.

Gifty Quarshie: So, the family reunification kit as provided by the "I Love U Guys" Foundation, I believe if you look at their application, they have, pictures of all of the different things that are required, but part of it has to do with reflective vests, batteries, just anything that's needed in case of an emergency. Again, it's based on recommendations from the "I Love U Guys." In terms of the specific items that will be purchased, if you look on page two of your reunification supplies, it list some examples of what they would require and again, it involves different kinds of items cards, studies, signage, lanyards and safety vest, which I already mentioned and page three has all of them.

Mohammed Choudhury: Sounds like something I should have in my cart. Would someone like to make a motion to approve? Motion approved. Do we have a second? Seconded. Any other discussion? All in favor? Aye.

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed, any abstention, motion passes.

Dawn Leudtke: I just wanted to make a clarification since, Ms. Quarshie, was doing a great job of explaining what was sought in here, but I just wanted to make it abundantly clear that MCSS is not endorsing or otherwise promoting the "I Love U Guys" Foundation in any way that just happens to be the vendor that was referenced within the application from the school system.

Gifty Quarshie: So, the next application is Howard County Public Schools. They are requesting to use their funding to purchase three new laptops for the Howard County Public School Office of Safety and Security central office staff who also support individual schools. The equipment will be assigned to the planning and program manager, risk management specialist, and the security officer. And the computers will be used for security camera footage, monitoring and incident investigations for activities that occur on school property. They're also looking to purchase and replace radiofrequency identification badges for Howard County Public School's employees. And they are looking to use part of the funding to Replenish Office of Safety and Security Emergency Management Inventory. Items needed includes weather radios, emergency radios, megaphones, safety vest, flashlights, trauma kits, and fire-retardant spray cans.

Mohammed Choudhury: Would someone like to make a motion to approve.

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Karl Pothier: So moved.

Mohammed Choudhury: Motion Approved. Do we have second?

Robert Gorrell: I second.

Mohammed Choudhury: Mr. Gorrell with a second.

Robert Gorrell: Thank you.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any other question? All in favor? Aye.

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

Colonel Jerry Jones: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All oppose? Any abstention. Motion passes.

Gifty Quarshie: So, the next application is from Kent County Public Schools. They are requesting \$9,376 of their \$25,000 allocations to purchase and install additional security cameras at their Galena Elementary School. They're also looking to purchase new desktop computer to help monitor IP camera system, and the equipment will be used primarily by the school resource officer assigned to Kent County High School. Finally, you're looking to purchase and replace the network video recorder at four Kent County schools, and this will replace the old system, which is no longer being supported by their current system.

Mohammed Choudhury: Do I have a motion to approve?

Colonel Jerry Jones: Colonel Jones approves.

05:00

Mohammed Choudhury: Approved. Do I have a second. Seconded it. Any other discussions? All in favor? Aye.

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

Colonel Jerry Jones: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed? Any abstention. Motion passes.

Gifty Quarshie: All right, so the next application on the list is from Queen Anne's County Public Schools. They are looking to use all of their \$25,000 allocations on

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two different projects. On the first one is to upgrade to a new version of the Emergency Management Suite platform. The upgrade will support all 16 school facilities and locations. The previous version based on the application will no longer be supported by the vendor. They're also looking to purchase and install blackout curtains for the interior and exterior doors at all eight elementary schools. And this includes replacing damaged interior door curtains at some of these schools. Now, the overall cost that was presented is slightly above the \$25,000 allocations. And so, Queen Anne's County Public School's will supplement the additional cost not covered by the grant.

Mohammed Choudhury: Mr. Gorrell.

Robert Gorrell: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. First question is, when did they purchase the original system? And second one is why it's not still supported or cannot be upgraded through a normal process rather than replaced?

Gifty Quarshie: So, Mr. Gorrell, just in looking at the application, it does not state here exactly when the old system was purchased. Again, that's information I can definitely follow up with the school system and get for the Subcabinet.

Robert Gorrell: Yeah.

Kate Hession: But the vendor that they're using is no longer supporting the original system.

Robert Gorrell: Right. So, I guess I would wonder why go with the same vendor again if they got the system two years ago, as an example.

Mohammed Choudhury: So, it's something to follow up on.

Gifty Quarshie: Yes, sir

Mohammed Choudhury: Do you have a second one? Or that was the second question Mr. Gorrell

Robert Gorrell: Yeah, I am not going to support this purchase without more information. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would be happy to receive more information afterwards and if you would care, Mr. Chair and support or vote in a post meeting type of rolling or however you would like to do it motion and vote.

Dawn Leudtke: I just want to clarify, so with respect to the local school systems procurements, their decisions related to vendors and who they are or are not choosing to use is different than the way we may do it at the state, right?

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Robert Gorrell: Of course.

Dawn Leudtke: They have their own system for doing that, so you know, within the application, Queen Anne's County has, for whatever reason, that they're entitled to have decided that they are choosing this vendor to continue with and we can't speculate as to why. So, the question is whether this is to be approved now or whether you would require your questions to be addressed first and then we bring this back at a subsequent meeting for a motion to approve at that later date.

Robert Gorrell: Mr. Chair, I'm looking at it through the eyes of state investment. I understand that local can do whatever they want as far as their investment goes. We scrutinize investments through the Interagency Commission on any expenditure. Typically, 15 years, but of course on software related things, it can be less. I just don't know if these systems were even available three years ago, so it just hit me wrong whenever I looked at it, so I again I would be happy to vote out in between meetings, because I know we're only having them every quarter if the director and the Chair could see a way to do that, but I can't support without understanding this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Dawn Leudtke: Maybe I can ask a clarifying question that might help address this. Ms. Quarshie, do you know whether or not the navigate 360 platform that they're discussing in their application. Is that a hardware-based platform or is that a software as service which requires updated subscription based on technology changes?

10:00

Gifty Quarshie: It is a software-out based platform.

Dawn Leudtke: Okay, so this would be more akin, would it not to something like Microsoft Suite when you have to update your Office 365 because it only works with certain other systems, is that right?

Gifty Quarshie: Right. So, this is to integrate their platform, and right now they do not have that system, so again, our understanding is that they're transitioning from a system that no longer works to a software-based system.

Dawn Leudtke: Okay.

Gifty Quarshie: Which allows them to integrate their services.

Dawn Leudtke: Okay. Does that help clarify any of that, Mr. Gorrell?

Robert Gorrell: I'm sorry, not for me. It's the same vendor.

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Dawn Leudtke: Okay.

Robert Gorrell: Typically, Microsoft is good example, we are looking at 365 and we didn't jump at it whenever we first used it, but we're still able to use all of our Windows Suite and by upgrading that, so I'm wondering what is the benefit and what is the expense? And maybe they've already done, I just would like to know maybe there'll be other LEAs that want to do the same. I would ask the same question.

Mohammed Choudhury: Are you able to check if the other Subcabinets --

Dawn Leudtke: Yes, absolutely.

Mohammed Choudhury: Would like more information or would someone like to make a motion to vote. We can wait on this and pull it? That require vote.

Dawn Leudtke: So, correct. You can make a motion to table the vote.

Mohammed Choudhury: Okay.

Dawn Leudtke: You can make a motion to approve, but right now there's not a pending motion.

Mohammed Choudhury: Okay.

Sandra Caldwell: So, it's the Chair's call.

Robert Gorrell: I would make a motion to table it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mohammed Choudhury: Okay. So, we have a motion to table.

Karl Pothier: Can I ask a clarifying question?

Dawn Leudtke: Yes.

Karl Pothier: Okay. Just very quickly with respect to the motion to table is granted when would this save the response? We get a response back within a week. When can the Board move on it, the next meeting or is I think Mr. Gorrell was indicating that the maybe an interim way for the Board to consider the prior to the next meeting. Is that something that's done?

Dawn Leudtke: Yeah, I mean, that gets trickier in terms of the open meetings. Can you have a discussion? No, not without calling a special meeting.

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Karl Pothier: Right, so the expectation is going to be we'll talk about it at the next.

Dawn Leudtke: In February, Yes.

Robert Gorrell: Mr. Chair, could I think I'm trying to understand this. I didn't realize that you could not do a rolling question to the members. I would withdraw the tabling. I'd make a motion to pass contingent on sufficient supporting information being provided to the committee.

Mohammed Choudhury: Does that?

Dawn Leudtke: Yes.

Mohammed Choudhury: With a contingency?

Dawn Leudtke: Yes. Because as I understand the motion as you phrased it, you are not requesting the ability to change the vote dependent upon the information received, so it is simply that we will provide additional information once the Center has had the opportunity to speak to Queen Anne's County Public School's regarding getting those additional answers for you.

Robert Gorrell: Well, I certainly based upon sufficient information supporting it. So, if I got information, they got it two years ago and paid this amount for it, that probably would not be sufficient information for me, just to clarify.

Dawn Leudtke: Okay.

Robert Gorrell: I would like to pass to, to make a motion based upon qualifying information that is sufficient to support it.

Dawn Leudtke: The problem is then you would then be undoing potentially If you are not satisfied, so then I'm going to hit the timeout button because there was a motion to table this that was not seconded. Is there a second for that motion? If not, the motion dies.

Mohammed Choudhury: He said he withdrew it though, so.

Dawn Leudtke: He withdrew it?

Mohammed Choudhury: Yeah.

Dawn Leudtke: Sorry, I missed that. Okay, so that's off the table. So now the question is, is there a motion to approve without ability to rescind it later that someone would like to make?

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Mohammed Choudhury: Going to see. I'm going to make a motion to approve. We have a second. Seconded. Any further discussion? All in favor? Aye.

Colonel Jerry Jones: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed.

Dawn Leudtke: Are you abstaining?

Robert Gorrell: I'm abstaining, Mr. Chair.

Mohammed Choudhury: Okay. I'm just making sure because you felt like you were right there.

Robert Gorrell: Thank you.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any abstentions?

Dawn Leudtke: Yes.

Robert Gorrell: Yeah. I don't have enough information, so I don't want to oppose it.

Mohammed Choudhury: I believe we have enough for the motion to pass.

Dawn Leudtke: Yes, Yes we do. Thank you.

Mohammed Choudhury: Can't always count what's out there.

Dawn Leudtke: Yes.

Mohammed Choudhury: All right, moving on.

15:00

Gifty Quarshie: Yes, sir. So, the next application is from Somerset County Public Schools. They're requesting to use it to approve \$25,000 to expand their CCTV network by purchasing 26 additional cameras and 42 imagers to be installed at the Princess Anne Elementary School and Somerset County Public Schools will supplement the cost of the project through local funding.

Robert Gorrell: I would make a motion to pass, Mr. Chair.

Mohammed Choudhury: Mr. Gorrell makes a motion to approve. Do you have a

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second. Seconded by Mr. Pothier. Do you have any further discussions? All in favor, Aye.

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

Colonel Jerry Jones: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed? Any abstention? And motion passes.

Gifty Quarshie: Next application is from St. Mary's County Public Schools. They're requesting to use the full \$25,000 to contract for online training services and in-person training for its school staff for the purpose of being able to identify, report and reduce incidents of concern related to student mental health and suicidal tendencies. They're also looking to implement the Gaggle platform, which was funded in fiscal year 2021 with their Safe Schools Fund and the system is designed to monitor online activities of students using school assigned educational platforms. Through this platform, SMCPs identified a substantial number of incidents of concern, which includes balance towards self, incidents of suicide, incidents of self-harm, and incidents of violence towards others. SMCPs will provide evidence-based suicide prevention training to its school-based staff. And the objectives for the training include increasing staff understanding of mental health risks for school-aged children, recognizing and reporting students in crisis, triaging students reporting self-harm or threatening behaviors for appropriate initial response to prevent harm. And finally providing referral services to students reporting self-injuries or threatening behaviors for appropriate follow up. And so, these are different projects that they're looking to use their safe schools fund for primarily, again, to provide training and also to upgrade their Gaggle platform, which was funded in the fiscal year.

Mohammed Choudhury: Do I have a motion to approve?

Karl Pothier: Can I ask you a question? What is a Gaggle platform? I should know.

Mohammed Choudhury: There's merging software that monitors students' behavior while they're searching the web and if they're searching for other things and you would flag it and then the school system staff would hone in on that student.

Karl Pothier: Right. And then I guess what they're asking here is when is a train those persons who's getting that data to respond appropriately?

Dawn Leudtke: And that type of training is required by the education article for all schools to implement and have to be completed on an annual basis by December 1st.

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Mohammed Choudhury: There's an article stat in the second page looks like since initiating the Gaggle platform of January 2021, SMCPs has received a total of 1,879 reports concern regarding content on student accounts. There have been 184 incidents of violence towards self, 24 incidents of suicide, 9 incidents of self harm, and 80 incidents of violence towards others. Do I have a motion to approve?

Karl Pothier: I will make a motion to approve.

Mohammed Choudhury: We have a motion to approve. Seconded. any further discussions? None. All in favor. Aye

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

Colonel Jerry Jones: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed? Any abstentions? None. Motion passes.

Gifty Quarshie: So, the next application is from Talbot County Public Schools. They will be using their Safe Schools Fund grant to administer Dieter's Close Quarters Defense Training. Again, we are not promoting any vendor over another. This is what was contained in the application.

20:00

Now this training focuses on de-escalation and how to identify and report behaviors of concern within the school environment. The training will be administered to five TCPS security staff, as well as 40 other school personnel and will take place over two days. The cost breakdown is included on the overview sheet and TCPS will supplement the additional cost of training that is not covered by the grant funds.

Mohammed Choudhury: Would you like a motion to approve?

Dawn Leudtke: Thank you.

Mohammed Choudhury: Do we have a second? Seconded it. further discussion? None. All in favor? Aye. Tracking the silence.

Dawn Leudtke: Yeah. Colonel Jones?

Colonel Jerry Jones: Yes.

Dawn Leudtke: Are you approving this pending motion?

Colonel Jerry Jones: Yes.

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Dawn Leudtke: Thank you.

Mohammed Choudhury: Thank you. All opposed? Any abstentions? None. Motion passes.

Gifty Quarshie: Next request is from Washington County Public Schools. You're requesting to use the Safe School Fund grant for fiscal year 2022 to administer various mental and behavioral health training. The categories covered will include professional development, community engagement, and mental health resources, so for their professional development project, part of the funding will be used to cover overtime, pay for school employed mental health staff to participate in training to address behavioral and emotional challenges within the classroom. WCPS will also contract with this subject matter expert, to speak to school employed mental health staff as part of the overall professional development training and part of the funding will be used to pay for registrations for this training. WCPS will also host a mental health fair to promote awareness of mental health needs and to connect various entities who provide mental health services. WCPS will use part of the funding to provide transportation to mental health appointments for students who have families without access to transportation. And finally, they will be using part of the funding to procure therapeutic resources to support school employed mental health staff with their efforts to decrease behavioral and mental health challenges and I would also add that this is the program that WCPS has been undertaken with this funding since fiscal year 2019 and I have to just give them a prompt they do very well in executing this project and they're very diligent in their recording as well.

Mohammed Choudhury: Do I have a motion to approve?

Colonel Jerry Jones: Colonel Jones, it's a motion to approve.

Mohammed Choudhury: Thank you. Second. I have a second here. Any further discussion? All in favor? Aye.

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed. Any abstentions? None. Motion passes.

Gifty Quarshie: We have two more to go. So, the last, but one is from Wicomico Public County Schools. They're requesting to use their Safe Schools fund grant allocation for three different projects. So, the first one is to purchase four Motorola radios for school staff to use during the school day, as well as during after school events. They're also looking to purchase backpack tags and parent pickup tags per student and their parents. These tags will help school staff easily identify with students or walkers, bus riders or car riders during dismissal. And the student

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backpack tags will be coordinated with the parent pick up tag to make dismissal easier. They are also looking to purchase hats for their school crossing guards and these high visibility reflective safety clothing for crossing guards will help ensure their safety as well as promote safe routes for students who walk to and from school.

Mohammed Choudhury: Someone who's new to Maryland. I appreciate the reflective because it's dark with all these drivers, I see the importance of that. Do we have a motion to approve? We have a motion here, Mr. Pothier.

25:00

Do we have a second? Second. Any further discussions? All in favor?

Karl Pothier: Aye.

Colonel Jerry Jones: Aye.

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed? Any abstentions? None. Motion passes.

Gifty Quarshie: And the last application is from Worcester County Public Schools. They are requesting to use the full \$25,000 for two projects. The first one is to purchase and installed security cameras and access control system in four middle schools and high schools throughout the county. The estimated cost of the project is \$714,000 and will be funded using various grants provided at the federal and state level. They're also looking to administer a student social, emotional learning school climate survey. And this is a one-time subscription service, which will allow Westchester County to assess students social and emotional health. The survey is administered at least twice a year, and the results from the survey will help inform Worcester County Public School teachers, counselors, school administration, and other stakeholders about the outcomes. And the results will also help Worcester County Public Schools develop specific intervention programs to address each area of concern that's identified in the survey.

Mohammed Choudhury: I would like to make a motion to approve. I have a motion to approve. Do we have a second?

Robert Gorrell: Yeah. Bob Gorrell. I'll second.

Mohammed Choudhury: Second by Mr. Gorrell. Any further discussion? None. All in favor?

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

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Colonel Jerry Jones: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All oppose?

Mohammed Choudhury: Any abstentions. Alright, motion passes.

Robert Gorrell: Mr. Chair?

Mohammed Choudhury: You only have one more left?

Robert Gorrell: Yeah, okay. Good enough. I'll do that one when we come back.

Mohammed Choudhury: Yes, Mr. Gorrell?

Robert Gorrell: Well, I'm sorry, I was going to go back. I thought we were done, so I'll wait. Thank you.

c. Annual Report Approval - Kate Hession

Mohammed Choudhury: Okay, we'll move on to the next.

Kate Hession: Last item.

Mohammed Choudhury: Yep.

Kate Hession: So, we did email this to you and we didn't print out the full copy to save some trees, but you received the annual report for the center, which is a report that the Subcabinet is required to submit and we will obviously do that on your behalf, pending approval. There is one thing on page nine. There is something I wanted to bring up that we think is pretty important. So, in addition to all the good work that everybody has done, so just for some context, we typically have 15 staff, we are down to 10 right now. So, we have 10 individuals currently working on every initiative that we have. As you can see from Gifty who presented today, she is the only person managing grants right now. Sandy is the only person managing the tip line on the back end. And speaking of Sandy on page nine, which you do have one sheet in front of you. We are very proud that this year the police training commission awarded Sandy an honorary a non-academy instructor of the year honoree, so she got a nice trophy. Unfortunately, the meeting could not be held, so we're presenting it to her here in front of all of you.

And beyond that, it's just an approval of the annual report is submitted. Unless you

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have any changes, you would to see

Mohammed Choudhury: Do we have a motion to approve the annual report? So moved. I have a motion to approve. Do we have a second?

Colonel Jerry Jones: Second.

Mohammed Choudhury: Second it. All right, any further discussions? None. All in favor?

Karl Pothier: Aye.

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed? Any abstention. Motion passes, right? Do you have anything else? Would you like to share anything else, Mr. Gorrell, before we go?

30:00

Robert Gorrell: Yeah. Thank you. I wanted to ask back on Washington County and I'm sorry, I did not look at the report ahead of time. I didn't know I'd received it and I apologize. I didn't check it this morning. Some of the follow up items we had for instance Baltimore City and the, and I know COVID got in the way of the use and implementation of the metal detectors, we had asked, and I think the board supported kind of a follow-up on how that was implemented in the success and so, do we have a list of those items that that the board had asked or followed up on?

Mohammed Choudhury: That's a good question.

Kate Hession: We can definitely put those together and send them out. There are obviously with the limited in-person instruction the last two years.

Robert Gorrell: Yeah.

Kate Hession: Yeah, you know, we don't have the information I think that the subcabinet was looking for.

Robert Gorrell: Yeah.

Kate Hession: And yet, but once, you know, this is the first full school year where we're going to be in person, thankfully. So, we'll get the follow ups for the February meeting.

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Robert Gorrell: Thank you, Kate. Yeah, I we've been using 2019 for our –

Kate Hession: Yeah.

Robert Gorrell: For our enrollment too, because the others don't matter. And then on Washington County so on the expenditure of overtime pay of \$10,000 there's not really a listing of how they're going to spend it. Is there any kind of accounting so that we kind of have an idea of what this training costs and you probably know where I'm going. I've asked that if there's significant expenditures, can we develop we've had several training programs today that we've approved. Can some of them be developed into Maryland training programs and maybe unique to Maryland at a lesser cost and easier availability to the LEAs?

Gifty Quarshie: So specific to the \$10,000 that is overtime paid for the teachers to be able to take these training programs because outside of it, if they do register for this program, then they will be undertaking a project for the school system where their hours are not remunerated, so this is to pay for their time to be able to take the training itself.

Robert Gorrell: I see. So, this is not a time that would be normally within their contract.

Gifty Quarshie: Right.

Robert Gorrell: And has to be compensated in addition to their teaching contracts.

Dawn Leudtke: That's correct. And it's over an 18-month span, so September, 2021 through December, 2022, so it's for the remainder of this school year and into the first half of next school year.

Robert Gorrell: And then do they have to in order to receive that amount, is it a reimbursable or do they get the funding regardless?

Gifty Quarshie: So, as far as MCSS is concerned, all of our awards are based on reimbursable basis –

Robert Gorrell: Thank you.

Kate Hession: -- So, actually project will have to be undertaken before we provide funding.

Robert Gorrell: Okay. And so, if those type of funds could sit there and use for 18 months potentially.

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Kate Hession: If the training is not conducted? Yes, sir.

Robert Gorrell: Thank you.

Mohammed Choudhury: Are there any other?

Robert Gorrell: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No other questions.

3. Closing Items – Mr. Choudhury

a. Next Meeting - February 14, 2022

b. Adjournment

Mohammed Choudhury: You're welcome, thank you. All right. Our next meeting is on February 14th. February 14th on Valentine's Day, I just realize that. And so, 2022 we'll see you guys then in the meantime, if you have any questions since I suggest you should reach out to Kate. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Colonel Jerry Jones: I like to make a motion. Jerry Jones.

Mohammed Choudhury: Motion to adjourn from the Colonel. Second. Do I have a second? I have a second. All in favor? Aye.

Robert Gorrell: Aye.

Colonel Jerry Jones: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: Opposed. Any abstentions. I see none. Motion passes. Thank you, guys very much.

Kate Hession: Thank you.

Robert Gorrell: I appreciate you all. Thank you very much.

Gifty Quarshie: You too.

Robert Gorrell: Thank you Mr. Chair. Good to see everyone.

Mohammed Choudhury: Thank you. Good to see you guys.