

**William P. Parmelee, President**  
**Richard A. Kingree, Vice President**  
**Regina F. James**  
**John P. Hanenfeld**  
**Carlton L. Cannon, Sr.**  
**Russell H. Knorr, Executive Secretary**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 03/19/07 MEETING**

### **WORKSHOP FOR SELECTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFFS**

Elementary school teachers of the year and representatives from the elementary schools' leadership teams met with the Board to share their perceptions of the state of their schools, things that were working well, and things that needed improvement.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs. Cheryl Bowman, President of the Seaford Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the current homework policy and a proposed draft for a revised policy. She thanked Dr. Knorr and the Board for listening to concerns about the draft and for not taking action on the draft until further discussions were held.

Mr. Dan Cannon, a teacher at Seaford Senior High School, indicated that he and many other members of the high school staff were concerned about the proposed homework policy draft because they perceived that it diminished the importance of homework.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

In the area of student activities and accomplishments, Dr. Knorr reported the following:

Brittany Wilson, a senior at Seaford Senior High School, will be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

William Patrick Smith has been accepted at the Citadel.

Taylor Paul's nomination to the Naval Academy has been confirmed as an appointment.

At the recent NJROTC Regional Drill Meet held in Seaford, Seaford's cadets earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the following categories: Unarmed Exhibition, Armed Exhibition, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Color Guard, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Squad, and Armed Platoon; 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Academic, Inspection, and Varsity Color Guard; 1<sup>st</sup> place in Physical Fitness; and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the overall final results. One of the NJROTC's drill teams will be performing at the pre-game of the Sixers basketball game on 23 March.

Kate Baltz was crowned Miss Bluejay, and Taylor Paul was crowned Mr. Seaford High at the recent Bluejay Pageant.

Adira Johnson and Caitlin Wasson participated in the All-State Chorus Concert.

Trevor Lee and Dan Flagg were nominated to attend Boys State, and Brenna James and Caitlin Wasson were nominated to attend Girls State.

Derek Page won the individual state title at the Indoor Track and Field Championship held at the University of Delaware. He won the high jump with a leap of 6'2". Derek also earned 1<sup>st</sup> team Henlopen Conference honors. Also at the Indoor Track and Field Championship, Page Johnson won the pole vault with a jump of 8'6".

At the state swim team championships, Andrew Halter placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100 Backstroke to secure 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-State honors. The 200 Medley relay team of Andrew Halter, Brian DeMott, Drew Venables, and Lee Mayer finished 5<sup>th</sup> at the state competition. Prior to the swim team championships, the boys' swimming team went undefeated during the regular season in the Henlopen Conference to capture its 2<sup>nd</sup> Henlopen Conference Championship in 3 years.

Stephanie Smith has been accepted to Johnson and Wales University of Culinary Arts, and Shytuan West has been accepted to Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts.

Sixth and eighth grade students, teachers, and administrators traveled to Philadelphia to see the “Treasures of King Tut Exhibit” at the Franklin Institute. The seventh graders will be visiting the exhibit in June.

Ryan Mitchell, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, was honored with a special singing solo in the 2007 Junior All-State Chorus. He and five other middle school students (Kurt Stevenson, Dennis Trimble, Alexandria Smith, Tawn Beard, and Kara Rickers) performed in the Junior All-State Chorus.

One 8<sup>th</sup> grade math league team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and the other team finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the season’s competitions. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade math league team finished 5<sup>th</sup>. Members of the teams invited to invitationals due to personal high scores were Molly Cain and Myles Gray (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Mahnoor Mahmood and Alexis Hawkins (7<sup>th</sup> grade).

The following students achieved distinguished status (scoring a 5) on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science and/or social studies DSTP are: Tyler Truitt and Shannon Lecates (both science and social studies), Tyler Balas, Kevin Barrios, Evan Budke, Justin Carter, Gary Eskridge, David Hignut, Alyssa Hoch, Rachael Long, Tykia Nichols, Kristyn Parlier, Thanhtam Pham, Mari Phares, Eryn Quillen, Page Van Brunt, and Heather Walls (science), and Carolyn Smith (social studies).

The following Central Elementary students earned distinguished status (a 5) on the DSTP science and/or social studies tests: Codi Leager, Caroline Mitchell, and Ryan Swingle (both science and social studies), Sarah Davis, Quinn Kirby, Bradley La Menza, Megan Sigler, and Zach Truitt (science).

Thania Sanchez, a middle school, is a nominee for the Outstanding Hispanic Student of the Year sponsored by the Latin American Community Center of Wilmington.

The following students were Spelling Bee winners: Carolyn Smith (6<sup>th</sup> grade), Mahnoor Mahmood (7<sup>th</sup> grade), and Christil Maker (8<sup>th</sup> grade). These students will now go on to the state Spelling Bee competition.

Molly Cain has won a Carson Scholarship.

The following Blades Elementary students have achieved the greatest number of Accelerated Reader points: Christopher Hitchens (250), Catherine Mackler (200), Bansri Patel and James Forder (150), Deja Crippen (125). Frederick Douglass student Abigail Gaunt has earned 250 Accelerated Reader points. West Seaford students Destine Henson and Nash Richardson have earned 212.4 and 155.5 Accelerated Reader points respectively.

Blades Elementary students Catherine Mackler, Miranda Armiger, Ted Schwartz, Christopher Hitchens, and Austin Moore were nominated for the National Young Scholars Program and the Junior Young Leaders Conference. West Seaford students Hailey Parks and Evan Caplan were nominated for the Junior National Leadership Conference.

Frederick Douglass student Taylor Kvilhaug earned 1<sup>st</sup> place at the state level with her Daughters of the American Revolution essay. She will represent Delaware in the national competition.

West Seaford students collected \$2,449 for the National Heart Association via a jump rope fundraiser. Richie Pope collected the most donations.

In the area of staff activities and accomplishments, Dr. Knorr highlighted the following:  
Mrs. Vaughn has been selected as the High School’s Staff Member of the Month for March.

Mr. Chapman has secured a \$4,530 donation for the High School’s Relay for Life Team.

Mrs. Keeton was part of the Delaware Presentation Team in San Jose, CA, presenting “Meaningful Mentoring for Specialists”.

Middle School staff members Mrs. Turner, Mr. Simperts, and Mrs. Bradford passed the Praxis II respectively in special education, middle level mathematics, and social studies.

Mrs. Ayers, kindergarten teacher at Frederick Douglass, has been selected as the Seaford School District’s “Excellence in Instructional Technology” honoree.

Mrs. McKenzie and Mrs. Longo, staff members at West Seaford Elementary School, have coordinated the first Accelerated Reader store. Each student who has passed the online book quizzes is able to purchase items with the points they earn.

Mrs. Johnson, Director of Human Resource Development, reports that 100% of the teachers at Blades, Central, Frederick Douglass, and West Seaford Elementary Schools have attained Highly Qualified status. The percentages attaining that status at Seaford Middle School and Seaford High School are 92.5 and 96.1 respectively.

Nutrition Services is conducting a promotion related to health and exercise. All of the elementary schools and the middle school will hold a drawing for a bicycle. The more times a student receives a lunch, the more chances he/she receives to win the bicycle.

Mrs. Cunningham, Supervisor of Nutrition Services, attended the Legislative Action Conference in Washington, D.C.

Dr. VanSciver reports that the RosettaStone software for the High School's expanded world language course offerings has been loaded in the High School's media center computers and will be tested later in this school year.

The Seaford School District's Advanced Placement Incentive Program, developed by Dr. VanSciver, has been selected as the state winner in the Delaware Chamber of Commerce's Superstars in Education competition.

Ms. Price was a presenter at the National School Psychologists Conference in New York City. She has also met the criteria to be recognized as a Nationally Board Certified School Psychologist.

In the area of parent/community participation, Dr. Knorr reported that Senator Carper toured the High School to review the initiatives used to conserve energy at the school that are part of the district's most recent Energy Star award.

Governor Minner visited Seaford Middle School on 15 February and spoke to students about the SEED scholarship program and participated in a question/answer session with students. Mrs. Smith, Middle School Principal, reported that the Governor and her staff expressed how impressed they were with the behavior of the students and the level of their questions.

Dr. Policastro of Nanticoke Memorial Hospital spoke to one of Mrs. Maull's high school business classes regarding Junior Achievement.

The Frederick Douglass PTO sponsored a DSTP workshop for parents.

Mr. Burnett-Kurie from WBOC visited 1<sup>st</sup> grade students at Frederick Douglass to discuss his job as a meteorologist.

Dr. Curtis Smith visited Mrs. Rolph's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at Frederick Douglass to talk about medicine and the medical profession.

At West Seaford, Trooper Bratz of the Delaware State Police continues to present the D.A.R.E. Program to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

The West Seaford PTO sponsored a luncheon for the West Seaford nutrition services staff to honor them for their services to students.

## **ATHLETICS REPORT**

Mr. Vince Morris, Athletic Director, reported that the Seaford School District offers a wide range of high school sports including both varsity and junior varsity levels. There are eleven sports for males and nine for females. The district also offers both fall and winter cheerleading.

Since the 1998-99 school year, Seaford High School's enrollment has fallen from over 1,000 to 800 students. There has been a corresponding reduction in the number of students participating in high school sports.

The goal of the district's athletic program is to "promote physical, mental, and social growth through athletics in an effort to instill positive attitudes that will remain with the student-athlete throughout his/her lifetime".

Seaford High School's teams have experienced what are considered normal cycles of success (as measured by wins and losses) and the High School athletics programs have collected numerous Henlopen Conference team and coaching awards. Among the honors earned by Seaford athletic teams is winning the Henlopen Conference "Founders Cup" trophy (based upon having the largest

number of successful athletic programs during a school year) in 2001 and 2002; placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2003 and 2006; and the district is currently in the running to earn the trophy during the current school year.

The challenges faced in Seaford are consistent with those of other school districts, with increasing transportation and officials' costs playing a major role in the development of the athletic budget.

### **STAFFING PROCESS REPORT**

Mrs. Johnson, Director of Human Resource Development, provided an overview of the school district's annual staffing process. She reported that the staffing process for the 2007/2008 school year began in January with a review of policies and procedures for collecting student enrollment projections data. A January count, similar in scope to the September 30<sup>th</sup> count, occurs and schools receive their projection numbers. The unit system is based on a blend of the current funding pilot for Division I units and the traditional count for other areas, such as driver's education.

In February, principals had discussions with school leadership teams for a critical examination and identification of staffing needs and the absolute minimum level, status quo, or improvement/expansion. At this time in March, difficult decisions begin with respect to the allocation of units to schools based on a review and discussion of staffing needs identified by the principal. After the principal is given an allocated unit number he/she will have some discretion as to where those units are assigned. The superintendent is the final decision maker for areas that must be allocated.

Between now and June, the staffing plan is constantly reviewed and refined, utilizing updated student enrollment projections and altering the staffing plan as needed. Principals will be asked to review and report their numbers at the end of March and again at the end of May.

### **SEAFORD-WOODBRIDGE BOUNDARY LINES**

Mrs. Susan Messick, Transportation Specialist, reported that the Woodbridge School District has requested the Seaford School District consider adjusting a boundary line between the school districts. She noted, in particular, that Woodbridge would like Seaford to relinquish a section of property whose borders currently are "the back lot line" of property recently sold to a developer. Further, she reported that Woodbridge is offering to "trade" that property with any other property that would assist in straightening the boundary lines that Seaford might want.

During the ensuing discussion, board members indicated that they were not interested in losing revenues for the school district but they indicated that they might be interested in reviewing, at some time, a proposal put forth by the Woodbridge School District on this matter.

### **POLICY REVIEW**

The Board approved a revised "Educational Philosophy" policy at its 3<sup>rd</sup> reading; a revised "Field Trips and Excursions" policy at its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading; and a revised "Student Publications" policy at its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Reviewing the board policy "Health Education" at its 1<sup>st</sup> reading, there were some suggestions for change in that policy and it will be brought back for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in April.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Dr. Knorr reported to the Board that staff of the University of Delaware were willing to provide training to board members, the goal of which would be to: 1) establish an ongoing, collaborative process during which the school district works with the public to build understanding, guidance, and active support for the education of the children in this district; 2) improve two-way communication between school boards and community members; and 3) provide an opportunity to ask the community to discuss issues and potential solutions that will affect the district.

Following the presentation, Board President Dr. Parmelee, Board Vice President Mr. Kingree, and board members Ms. James and Pastor Cannon expressed an interest in participating in the training depending upon when and where the training was held.

### **SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATIONS**

The Board approved and/or denied school choice applications. These can be found in the official board minutes on file in the Seaford School District office.

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF HEARING OFFICER FOR STUDENT MS04-06-07**

The Board voted to accept its hearing officer’s report and recommendations to expel Student MS04-06-07 for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year and the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year with the following conditions:

- During the period of expulsion, the student be prohibited from being on Seaford School District property at any time unless in the company of her parent/guardian and then only with the prior consent of the principal of the school being visited;
- Prior to the student’s re-admission to school, evidence be shown that the student is attending an approved counseling program or service;
- Prior to the student’s re-enrollment, the student and the student’s parent/guardian be required to sign a behavior contract that includes a provision for regular counseling by a Seaford School District counselor; and
- Upon the student’s return to the district at the beginning of the second semester of the 2007-2008 school year, the student be permitted to re-enroll at the Seaford Middle School in a grade determined by the administration.

**2007-2008 SEAFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR & BALANCED CALENDAR**

The Board approved the 2007-2008 Seaford School District Calendar and the 2007-2008 Balanced Calendar. (Both calendars are at the end of the highlights.)

**RENTAL REQUEST**

The Board approved the request of the Greater Seaford Ministerium to rent the middle school auditorium on 22 April 2007 (afternoon/evening) for a community concert.

**PERSONNEL**

The Board approved the following personnel action items:

**Professional Staff Resignations**

- Bonnie VanTine, SPARK Teacher, West Seaford Elementary School, effective 30 June 2007 for the purpose of retirement. (Bonnie has been employed with the Seaford School District since 21 October 1982.)
- Frank Daniel Cannon, Jr., Secondary Science Teacher, Seaford High School, effective 30 June 2007 for the purpose of retirement (Dan has been employed with the Seaford School District since 1 September 1976.)
- Beatrice Moore, Kindergarten Teacher, Blades Elementary School, effective 30 June 2007 for the purpose of retirement (Bebe has been employed with the Seaford School District since 1 September 1971.)
- Claire Krisewicz, Special Education Teacher, Seaford High School, effective 30 June 2007 for the purpose of retirement (Claire has been employed with the Seaford School District since 26 October 1992.)
- Joseph Evans, Ninth Grade Academy Teacher, Seaford High School, effective 30 June 2007
- Sandra Fulton, Social Studies Teacher, Seaford High School, effective 30 June 2007

**Support Staff Termination**

- Charles Davis, Instructional Paraeducator – ISS, Seaford High School, effective 6 February 2007
- Dara Brown, Custodian, Seaford High School, effective 15 March 2007

**Extra Duty Appointments – Athletic – Employee**

- Golf HS – Volunteer - D.J. Williams
- JV Softball HS - Geri Vota
- Track Boys Asst – HS – Baxter Smith

**Support Staff Resignation**

Audra Johnson, Nutrition Services Assistant, Seaford Middle School, effective 5 April 2007  
2007-2008 Seaford School District Traditional Calendar

			<u>Teacher Days</u>	<u>Student Days/Hours</u>
AUGUST			7	3 (18.75)
20	Monday	New Teacher Orientation		
21	Tuesday	Inservice: School Year Preparation/Staff Development		
22	Wednesday	Inservice: School Year Preparation/Staff Development Open Houses at BE, FD, & WS – 6:00 p.m.		
23	Thursday	Inservice: District/School Staff Meetings/Staff Development; 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Open House – 7:00		

		p.m.		
27	Monday	First Student Day for Students in Grades K-5, 6 (Operation S.M.I.L.E. – students only), and 9 (Operation H.E.L.L.O)		
28	Tuesday	First Student Day for Students in Grades 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12		
31	Friday	Schools Closed		
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			<b>19</b>	<b>19 (118.75)</b>
3	Monday	Schools Closed: Labor Day		
4	Tuesday	Schools Reopen		
13	Thursday	Middle School Open House (Grades 6 & 8) - 7:00 p.m.		
19	Wednesday	High School Open House 7:00 p.m.		
<b>OCTOBER</b>			<b>23</b>	<b>21 (131.25)</b>
11	Thursday	Schools Closed: Inservice Day (Staff Development)		
12	Friday	Schools Closed: Statewide Inservice Day (Staff Development)		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			<b>19</b>	<b>18 (112.5)</b>
1	Thursday	End of First Quarter (44 days/275 hours)		
9	Friday	Schools Closed: Inservice Day (Staff Development)		
21-23	Wed-Friday	Schools Closed: Thanksgiving		
<b>DECEMBER</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>15 (93.75)</b>
24-31	Mon-Mon	Schools Closed: Winter Vacation		
<b>JANUARY</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>20 (125)</b>
1-2	Tues/Wed	Schools Closed: Winter Vacation		
18	Friday	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter (44 days/275 hours)		
21	Monday	Schools Closed: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>20 (125)</b>
18	Monday	Schools Closed: Presidents' Day		
<b>MARCH</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>15 (93.75)</b>
21-28	Fri-Fri	Schools Closed: Spring Vacation		
31	Monday	Schools Reopen		
<b>APRIL</b>			<b>22</b>	<b>22 (137.5)</b>
2	Wednesday	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter ( 45 days/281.25 hours)		
<b>MAY</b>			<b>21</b>	<b>20 (125)</b>
2	Friday	Inservice Day: Staff Development		
26	Monday	Schools Closed: Memorial Day		
<b>JUNE</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>5 (31.25)</b>
6	Friday	Last Student Day: End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter (45 days/281.25 hours)		
9	Monday	Inservice Day: School Year Closeout		
10	Tuesday	Inservice Day: Staff Development		
<b>FULL YEAR</b>			<b>188</b>	<b>178 (1112.5)</b>

Notes:

Closing of school because of inclement weather or other emergencies normally shall be the decision of the Superintendent based upon the conditions that exist within the school district. When schools are closed as a result of the Governor declaring a state of emergency, those days normally will not have to be made up.

The adopted 2007-2008 school calendar provides for more than the minimum number of hours (1,060) prescribed by state law. Consequently, if schools must be closed due to emergencies, the lost hours of instruction may not have to be made up unless the

number of instructional hours falls below 1,060. If that situation occurs, the lost time will be made up in a way (or ways) deemed to be most appropriate by the Superintendent.

**DELAWARE STUDENT TESTING PROGRAM DATES**

	<b>Fall 2007</b>	
October 15-16, 2007	Science, grades 4 and 6	Fall 2007 DSTP
October 18-19, 2007	Social studies, grades 4 and 6	Fall 2007 DSTP
October 17, and 22-25, 2007	Science and social studies make-up, grades 4 and 6	Fall 2007 DSTP
October 22, 2007	Grade 10 Retest - writing	Fall 2007 DSTP
October 23-24, 2007	Grade 10 Retest - reading	Fall 2007 DSTP
October 25-26, 2007	Grade 10 Retest - mathematics	Fall 2007 DSTP
October 29, 2007	Grade 11 Retest - science	Fall 2007 DSTP
October 30, 2007	Grade 11 Retest - social studies	Fall 2007 DSTP
October 31, 2007-November 1, 2007	Grade 10 and 11 Retest make-up	Fall 2007 DSTP
	<b>Winter 2008</b>	
Winter 2008	Grade 11 Retest - science and social studies	Winter 2008 DSTP
	<b>Spring 2008</b>	
March 5-6, 2008	Mathematics, grades 2-10 (+ Grade 10 Retest)	Spring 2008 DSTP
March 10-11, 2008	Reading, grades 2-10 (+ Grade 10 Retest)	Spring 2008 DSTP
March 13-14, 2008	Writing, grades 3-10 (+ Grade 10 Retest)	Spring 2008 DSTP
March 7, 12, and 17-19, 2008	Writing, reading and mathematics make-up, grades 2-10 (+ Grade 10 Retest)	Spring 2008 DSTP
May 20, 2008	Science, grades 8 and 11 (+ Grade 11 Retest)	Spring 2008 DSTP
May 21, 2008	Social studies, grades 8 and 11 (+ Grade 11 Retest)	Spring 2008 DSTP
May 22, 23, 27, and 28, 2008	Science and social studies make-up, grades 8 and 11 (+ Grade 11 Retest)	Spring 2008 DSTP

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2007-2008 BALANCED CALENDAR

			Teacher day	Student Day	Student Hours
<b>August</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>75</b>
7	Tuesday	Inservice			
8	Wednesday	Inservice			
13	Thursday	First Student Day			
23	Thursday	Inservice District			
24	Friday	Vacation- school closed			
31	Friday	Vacation- school closed			
<b>September</b>			<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>118.75</b>
3	Monday	Schools Closed- Labor Day			
<b>October</b>			<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>106.25</b>
11	Thursday	Inservice- shared with district			
12	Friday	Inservice- shared with district			
19	Friday	End of First Marking Period			
26	Friday	Vacation- school closed			
29-31	Monday-Wednesday	Fall Intersession			
<b>November</b>			<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>75</b>
1	Thursday	Fall Intersession			
2-8	Friday-Thursday	Vacation- school closed			
9	Friday	Inservice-Shared with district			
21-23	Wednesday -Friday	Schools Closed: Thanksgiving			
<b>December</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>93.75</b>
24-31	Monday - Monday	Schools closed: Winter vacation			
<b>January</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>125</b>
1-2	Tuesday - Wednesday	Vacation- school closed			
21	Monday	Schools Closed: M.L.K. Jr.'s Birthday			
25	Friday	End of second quarter			
<b>February</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>125</b>
18	Monday	Schools Closed: Presidents' Day			
<b>March</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>93.75</b>
21-28	Fri-Fri	Schools closed: Spring vacation			
<b>April</b>			<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>137.5</b>
11	Friday	End of Third Quarter			
<b>May</b>			<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>125</b>
2		Inservice-Shared with district			
26	Monday	Schools closed: Memorial Day			
<b>June</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>43.75</b>
10	Tuesday	Last Student Day			
11	Wednesday	Teacher Inservice day			
12	Thursday	Teacher Inservice day			
			<b>188</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1118.75</b>

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May 21, 2008	Social studies, grades 8 and 11 (+ Grade 11 Retest)	Spring 2008 DSTP
May 22, 23, 27, and 28, 2008	Science and social studies make-up, grades 8 and 11 (+ Grade 11 Retest)	Spring 2008 DSTP

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