

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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Mrs. Crystal Bender, Vice President  
Ms. Lori Lepley  
Mrs. Tammy Fraley  
Dr. David Bohn  
Mr. Jeffrey Blank, Superintendent  
Ms. Alexandra Robertson, SMOB

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

December 12, 2023

The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

## Superintendent's Report

### Recognition of Student Christmas Card Design Contest

- Certificates and gift cards presented on behalf of the Board by Dr. David Bohn
  - Lillian Tygrett
    - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, John Humbird Elementary School
  - Addison Furstenberg
    - 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Washington Middle School
  - Vivian Broussard
    - 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Fort Hill High School
  - Zachary Ellifritz
    - 12<sup>th</sup> grade, CCTE



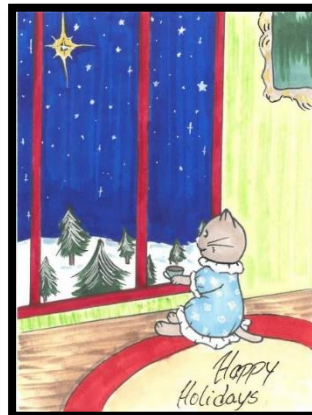
Pictured left to right: Vivian Broussard, Lillian Tygrett, and Addison Furstenberg



Lillian Tygrett



Addison Furstenberg



Vivian Broussard



Zachary Ellifritz

"Every year we have the time honored tradition of recognizing students for helping spread some holiday cheer by creating their best version of a holiday greeting card."

- Mr. Jeff Avey, Supervisor of Fine Arts

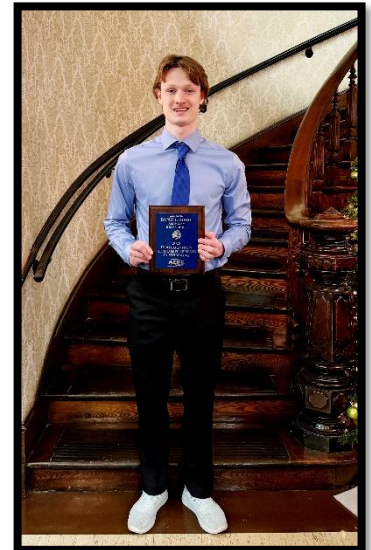
# Superintendent's Report

## Recognition of Swimming Accomplishments

- Presented on behalf of the Board by Mrs. Lori Lepley
  - 2 silver medals at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Aquatics Junior Championships
    - 200 IM and 200 Back
  - 3 gold medals at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Aquatics Junior Championships
    - 4 x 200 freestyle relay, 4 x 100 medley relay, 4 x 100 freestyle relay
    - 4 x 100 freestyle relay team broke a World Jr Record
  - 5 time Champion at YMCA Long Course Championships
    - 100 Fly, 200 IM, 200 Free, 100 Free and 100 Back
  - 3 time Champion at YMCA Short Course Championships
    - 200 Back, 200 IM and 100 Back
  - 4 Golds at the Junior Pan Pacific Swimming Championships
    - 100 Back, 4 x 100 freestyle relay, 4 x 100 Medley Relay, Mixed 4 x 100 Medley Relay
    - 4 x 100 freestyle relay team broke a World Jr Record
  - Holds 3 National Age Group Records
    - 13-14 100 yard backstroke, 15 - 16 100 long course meter backstroke, 17 - 18 100 long course meter backstroke
  - Currently training for June Olympic trials
  - Committed to swim at North Carolina State University

“He is quite an athlete, but he’s also a student. He’s a member of the Allegany High School National Honor Society. It’s hard to balance rigorous training and education, but he’s done it with finesse and tenacity. Daniel you have indeed made your family at Allegany High School and the Allegany County Public Schools System extremely proud and congratulations and we wish you the best in your endeavor, in you collegiate career academically and swimming.”

– Ms. Heidi Laupert, Principal Allegany High School



## Recognition of State Unified Teams Winners

- Presented on behalf of the Board by Mrs. Tammy Fraley
  - Unified Flag Football Championship – Mountain Ridge High School
  - Unified Flag Football Championship – Fort Hill High School

# Superintendent's Report

## Recognition of State Unified Teams Winners (cont.)

“One thing that you always look for in sports, whether it’s unified, whether it’s Varsity sports is development throughout the year and improvement and it’s something we definitely saw from our team. We definitely think these Unified sports are an excellent opportunity for students of all ability levels to compete and to work together towards a common goal. I tell people all the time, I’m an algebra teacher, obviously I want kids to be able to solve equations but those soft skills: the ability to work together, teamwork, and communication are extremely important and those are the things that they’re all developing so, congratulations to these kids.”

- Rob Duncan, MRHS Flag Football Unified Coach



Pictured left to right: Front Row: Mr. Rob Duncan, Jimmy Elliott, Amber Green, Jyren Gray, Tanner Lee Back Row: Alexa Daniel, Hannah Piasecki, Kaitlyn Todd



Pictured left to right: Front row: Dillion McDaniel, Paeytyn Davis and Tate Shambaugh Second row: Karras Canfield and Jeff Brode

“Our flag team won in their bracket and received the gold medal. The kids had fun and it was an enjoyable experience. When they first asked me to coach, I wasn’t quite sure. After coaching for so long, I had never done anything like this. But, it was very enjoyable.”

- Jeff Brode, FHHS Flag Football Unified Coach

## Recognition of Homecoming Players

- Presented on behalf of the Board by Mrs. Crystal Bender
  - Carter Hess – Defensive Player of the Fort Hill Homecoming Game

“He’s an amazing specimen. He’s been a big part of the last three state championship teams over the last three seasons. Carter helped lead his teams to a combined 38-1 record. He’s won two more state titles in track and field, holds a number of school records, all with a 4.32 GPA. His efforts have led him to the opportunity to play D1 football Fordham University next fall. We couldn’t be more proud of him, wish him the best. As great as his last four years have been, truly the best is ahead for Carter.”

- Zack Alkire, FHHS Football Coach

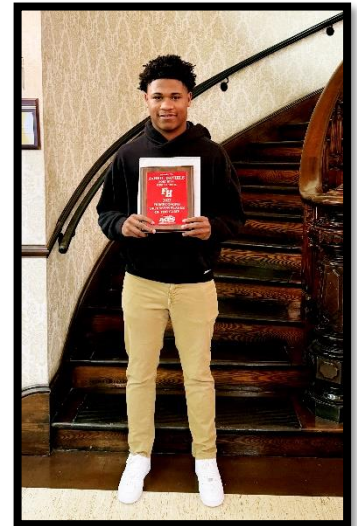
# Superintendent's Report

## Recognition of Homecoming Players (cont.)

- Jabril Daniels – Offensive Player of the Fort Hill Homecoming Game

“This young man has blossomed into a great leader. He wants the best for those around him. He’s also improved his standing in the classroom and was one class away from straight A’s this past nine weeks. Jabril, your resolve to life difficulties has been an inspiration to those that know you. Keep up the good work.”

- Zack Alkire, FHHS Football Coach



## Recognition of State Championship Winners

- Presented on behalf of the Board by Mrs. Crystal Bender
  - Fort Hill High School – MD Class 1A State Champion

“The biggest thanks to the players that spend hours upon hours working on their craft. They’ve battled each other day in and day out for years. There’s an old football coaching adage that says “iron sharpens iron,” and you guys definitely gave the best that you could to each other. You got better as a team week by week and walked away State Champions and I couldn’t be more proud of you guys. You guys work hard in the classroom, you work hard in the community, and on the field. You’ve grown into fine young men who are going to make our community a better place and best of all you guys did it the Fort Hill way. Thank you guys and congratulations.”

- Zack Alkire, FHHS Football Coach



Pictured left to right: Brayden Sines, Jabril Daniels, Gamil Daniels, Zack Alkire and Landon Sensabaugh

“My son had the privilege of playing with this group this year and this group of seniors and Jabril and the whole varsity team. It’s not just about the winning. It was a lot of fun to be a part of this group, the camaraderie and the way they stuck together and they really are like a family. I’ve had a kid go through there several times the last few years and it was a very special group this year and we’re going to be sad to see some of you go so, good job guys. Thank you.”

- Crystal Bender, ACPS Board Vice President

# Instructional Update

## Pre K-4 Accreditation

- Last school year Allegany County Public Schools received accreditation and achieved a Level 5 in EXCELS in all PreK 4 programs that participated. This year-long process required the collaborative work of the PreK teachers, assistants, school administrators, and coaches.
- The accreditation process was also supported by Apples for Children staff through an MSDE pre-kindergarten grant.
  - Cash Valley
    - Principal: Dr. Lisa Stevenson
    - PreK Teacher: Ashley Perrin
    - PreK Teaching Assistant: Haley Shircliffe
  - Cresaptown
    - Principal: Scott Llewellyn
    - Assistant Principal: Karen Sue Irons
    - PreK Teacher: Jodie Sweeney
    - PreK Teaching Assistant: Leann Crowe
  - Flintstone
    - Principal: Shannon Ralston
    - PreK Teacher: Emily Foote
    - PreK Teaching Assistant: Judy Helton
  - Frost
    - Principal: Tessa Fairall
    - PreK Teacher: Michaela George and Tiffanie Hardman
    - PreK Teaching Assistant: Tammie DeLawder
  - John Humbird
    - Principal: Heather Morgan
    - PreK Teacher: Susan Howard
    - PreK Teaching Assistant: Cindy Siebert
  - Mount Savage
    - Principal: Dr. Laura Holland
    - PreK Teacher: Alyssa Harris
    - PreK Teaching Assistant: Amy Slonaker
- Previously South Penn, Georges Creek, and Westernport pre-k programs were accredited while participating in the Pre-k Expansion Grant. They will be up for renewal in the next year.

“Teachers, assistants, coaches, and administrators put in many extra hours of work to become accredited. We are grateful for their efforts and we are proud to present their programs as “high quality” early learning environments.”

- Dr. Cheri Helmstetter, Early Learning Coach



Pictured left to right: Top row: Laura Holland, Scott Llewellyn  
Row 2: Amber Rotruck, Row 3: Heather Morgan, Jodi Sweeney  
Row 4: Susan Howard, Karen Sue Irons, Leann Crowe, Row  
5: Melissa Moran (on far left), Row 6: Lisa Stevenson, Ashley  
Perrin, Tiffanie Hardman, Row 7: Michaela George, Bottom  
Row: Amy Slonaker, Tracey Gaumer, Alyssa Harris, Cheri  
Helmstetter, Emily Foote, Judy Helton

# Instructional Update

## Next Generation Scholars Update

- Five counties have the Next Generation Scholar program
  - Out of \$2.65 million, \$300,000 comes to Allegany County
  - Out of 107 grants given, approximately 21 came from Fort Hill High School
  - From the class of 2022
    - 73% college bound
    - 17% career bound
    - 8% went into a trade
    - 2% went into the armed forces
- FAFSA Workshops
  - Held five workshops this year
  - Parents from all three high schools attended
- STEM Programs
  - Partnering with Potomac State College to provide students with STEM principles
- Student Ambassadors
  - Currently 5 student ambassadors
  - Participated in annual meeting with partners and Industry Day at McCormick Industries
- Next Scholar Leaders
  - Recruitment
  - Provide a support system of mentoring
  - They help support the mock interviews
  - Attend Leadership workshops at Potomac State College
- Career Tours
- College 101
- College visits
- Trades 101
- Increase middle school engagement
- Upcoming planning:
  - Visit Hood College and either Bowie State or Frostburg State University
  - Alumni Workshop

## Hearing of Constituents

### Public Comment

- Kim Sloane – ACEA President

# New Business

## Consider Regulation Review of Energy Conservation

- Enacted

## Vote to Meet in Executive Session January 9, 2024

- Approved

# Reports of Special or Advisory Committees

## Student Member of the Board

- The National Honor Society at Fort Hill is working on a service project
  - Donations to the food bank and animal shelter
- Virtual MABE Conference on December 14
  - Review Blueprint implementation for the Maryland Higher Education Commission
  - Take action on the LEA Blueprint implementation guide
- Creating a SMOBS handbook
  - Tips and tricks for those interested in the position from SMOBS of all counties and state

## Board Member Updates

- Ms. Fraley reported that the Maryland Association of Boards of Education is working through legislative positions
  - Asking each Board and each County to submit special requests to representatives
- Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports is in the process of awarding grants
  - All 24 counties/municipalities have submitted request for proposals
- Maryland PTA Organization has reached out for input on schools that would like to have a PTA