



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Crystal Bender, President

Ms. Lori Lepley, Vice President

Dr. David Bohn

Mr. Max Green

Vacant

Mr. Jeffrey Blank, Superintendent

Miss. Eowyn Hansrote, SMOB

BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

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The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

Opening Ceremonies

Election of Officers

- Mrs. Crystal Bender voted President
- Ms. Lori Lepley voted Vice President

Instructional Updates

MD Report Card / Stars Rating

- Maryland School Report Cards describe a school's performance on the Maryland accountability system
- Each school's results can be found on the Maryland Report Card website
- A star rating is a snapshot of how a school performed during the previous year on different factors. Areas of strength and areas for improvement are captured
 - This information is used to create annual school improvement plans.
- The major components measure indicators, or different areas of performance
 - Elementary and middle indicators: Academic Achievement, Academic Progress, Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency, and School Quality, and Student Success
 - High school indicators: Academic Achievement, Graduation Rate, Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency, Readiness for Postsecondary Success, and School Quality and Student Success
- 83% of Maryland schools earned a rating of 3 or more stars on the Maryland School Report Card for the 23-24 school year
 - 87% of our schools earned a rating of 3 or more stars
 - 10 schools earned 4 stars
 - One elementary school achieved the highest points possible for growth in ELA and Math

Finance Update

Audit

- General Fund
 - Includes Capital Funds
 - Also includes healthcare funds
 - Some undesignated funds
- Restricted Funds
 - No fund balance
 - Federal programs that come in as grants
- Food Service
- Student Activities
 - Activities that are out in the schools
 - Funds not available for general operations
- School Construction
 - Funds are specifically allocated for specific projects

Hearing of Constituents

Public Comment

- Tech Sergeant Copeland

New Business

Consider First Reading of Food Services Policy

- Approved

Reports of Special of Advisory Committees

Student Member of the Board

- January 25th is the Winter Leadership Conference

Board Member Updates

- Jeffrey S. Blank will not be seeking a second term as ACPS Superintendent

“While I don’t think any of us were excited to hear that announcement come in, we do understand and we want Mr. Blank to retire and enjoy whatever he has in the future. But we don’t have to be sad just yet. He still has 5.5 months left with us, so we are going to keep him working with us until that time. Moving forward, there will be more information coming from the board as far as conducting a search to find his predecessor.”

- Crystal Bender, *Board President*

Reports of Special of Advisory Committees (cont.)

Board Member Updates (cont.)

“Legislation is now in session. There were around 2,728 bills that were introduced last year. 1,053 passed both chambers. There were 4 vetoes and 1,049 signed into law. I could not find information relating to how many pertained to education, but MSDE tracked 275 bills.”

- Lori Lepley, *Vice President*

“I just wanted to introduce myself as this is my first public meeting. I’m really excited already. I’m not excited about Mr. Blank’s retirement as that will be a lot of work, as Crystal alluded to. But I wanted to say that I am very happy to be here. I appreciate the faith the voters put in me. I always have an open door, so please reach out to me via email if you have any questions, or you think I can be of any assistance whether you’re a teacher in the system, a parent, a student, or staff here in the central office, I’m here to serve you. So thank you so much.”

- Max Green, *Board Member*