

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Mr. Robert Farrell, President  
Mrs. Crystal Bender, Vice President  
Ms. Lori Lepley  
Mrs. Tammy Fraley  
Dr. David Bohn  
Mr. Jeffrey Blank, Superintendent  
Ms. Carley Clise, SMOB

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

March 14, 2023

The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

## Superintendent's Report

### Recognition of Athletics – Indoor Track

- Presentation made by Mr. Doug Baker – Mountain Ridge Track Coach
- 2022 – 2023 Maryland State Class 1A Men's Indoor Track and Field 4x800 Meter Relay State Champions presentation
- 2022 – 2023 Maryland State Class 1A Women's Indoor Track and Field 800 and 1600 Meter Run State Champion presentation

Mountain Ridge  
Men's Indoor 4x800 State Champions



Pictured left to right: Brendan Kline, Will Haberlein, Casey Culler, and Ackerly Mulcaster

Mountain Ridge  
Women's Indoor 800 & 1600  
State Champion



Pictured: Mary Delaney

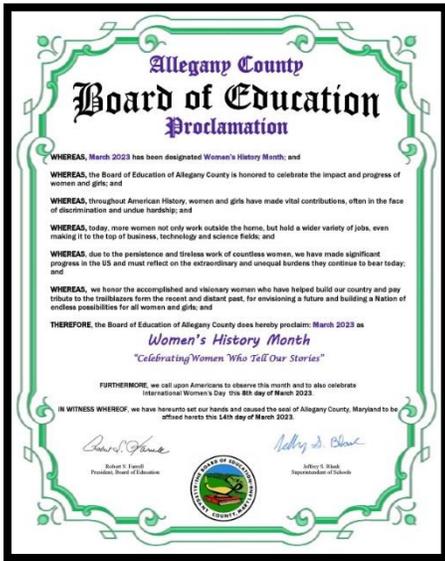
"I can't tell you what a pleasure it is to be back here. It represents the hard work that our athletes are doing and performing. This group does both and they've been doing it for a couple of years. We have a very comfortable family with track and cross country. We added indoor and we've been successful, mainly because the kids have been working so hard. It's a real credit and it's hard to understand without seeing it. It's daily and it's intense and I predict nothing but success."

– Doug Baker

# Superintendent's Report

## Proclamation Recognizing March as Women's History Month

- On behalf of the Board, Ms. Lori Lepley presented a proclamation recognizing March as Women's History Month
- Proclamation presented to Dr. Sarah Welsh, Assistant Supervisor of Student Services and Equity



“It’s an honor to receive this proclamation on behalf of all the female educators. As you are likely aware, education is a female dominated profession and has been for a very long time and we so very much appreciate the acknowledgement of Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day by the Board.”

- Dr. Sarah Welsh

## Proclamation Recognizing March as Youth Art Month

- On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Tammy Fraley presented a proclamation recognizing March as Youth Art Month
- Proclamation presented to Mr. Jeff Avey, Assistant Supervisor of Fine Arts



“Thank you very much. We have a lot of things going on in the art program and it’s stunning to be a part of it. As a non-artist who supervises art, it’s beautiful to be around.”

- Jeff Avey

# Superintendent's Report

## Proclamation Recognizing March as Music in Our Schools Month

- On behalf of the Board, Dr. David Bohn presented a proclamation recognizing March as Music in Our Schools Month
- Proclamation presented to Mr. Jeff Avey, Assistant Supervisor of Fine Arts



“Thank you very much. I can’t say enough about how special of a year it’s been for the schools, the kids, and the community. The personnel we have is special. They care about the kids, they care about the program as a whole, and they care about their music. They are very talented and I’m thrilled to be around them.”

- Jeff Avey

## Instructional Report

### Academic School Calendar – Virtual Day Plan

- First Day for teachers would be August 16, 2023
- School would open pre-labor day on August 23, 2023
- Proposing a staggered start for Pre-K and Kindergarten
  - Allow teachers to set practices and routines with a small group of students in both AM and PM
- Regularly scheduled days / delays scheduled
  - Parent conferences for Fall and Spring term
  - Primary Election day in April
  - Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter breaks
  - Supervisor staff development and teacher work time
- Last day for students without any built in days is May 30
  - Last day with built in days would be June 6
  - Teachers would get out before June, without any built in days
- Requesting to use 3 asynchronous days and up to 5 synchronous days for inclement weather
  - 3 asynchronous days – students will log on to Schoology and complete lessons after 9:30am
  - 5 synchronous days will be used as real time learning with a teacher

**2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR**  
Allegany County Public Schools  
Cumberland, Maryland 21001-1724

DATE	EVENTS
August 16 (Fri)	FIRST DAY FOR TEACHERS - All School-based PTO/PA Teacher Work Time
August 17 (Fri)	AM School-based Staff Development/Teacher Work Time
August 18 (Sat)	AM School-based Social Improvement/PA Teacher Work Time
August 21 (Tue)	Supervisor System-wide Professional Development
August 22 (Wed)	Teacher Work Time
August 23 (Thu)	SCHOOLS OPEN - Three-Hour Early Dismissal - PM Teacher Work Time
August 24 (Fri)	Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Begins - Last Name A-Z
August 25 (Sat)	Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Begins - Last Name B-Z
August 26 (Sun)	Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten - Last Name S-Z
September 1 (Fri)	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED - Labor Day
September 4 (Mon)	Three-Hour Delayed Opening - School Staff Development
October 2 (Wed)	SCHOOLS CLOSED - Parent Conference Day - Secondary 8:00-10:00 a.m. Teacher Plans 9:00-12:00 p.m. & 3:00-5:00 p.m. Parent Conferences
October 23 (Thu)	SCHOOLS CLOSED - AM Preval Staff Development, PM Teacher Work Time
November 1 (Fri)	SCHOOLS CLOSED - AM Supervisor Staff Development, PM Teacher Work Time
November 27 (Thu)	Thanksgiving Vacation Begins (Offices Closed November 23 & 24)
November 28 (Fri)	Three-Hour Delayed Opening - SCHOOLS REOPEN - Teacher Work Time
December 21 (Thu)	Three-Hour Early Dismissal - Christmas Vacation Begins (Offices Closed Dec. 22, 25, 26, & Jan. 1)
January 11 (Thu)	First of Second Month/Novelty - End of 1st Semester
January 12 (Fri)	Three-Hour Early Dismissal - PM Teacher Work Time
January 13 (Sat)	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
January 26 (Fri)	Super-Care Conference
February 13 (Wed)	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED - Presidents' Day
March 6 (Thu)	SCHOOLS CLOSED - Parent Conference Day, Elementary 8:00-10:00 a.m., Teacher Plans 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., & 3:00-5:00 p.m. Parent Conferences
March 21 (Thu)	Three-Hour Early Dismissal - PM Teacher Work Time
March 22 (Fri)	Three-Hour Early Dismissal - Easter Vacation Begins (Offices Closed March 29 & April 1)
April 2 (Thu)	SCHOOLS REOPEN
April 3 (Fri)	Super-Care Conference
April 17 (Thu)	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED - Primary Election Day
May 15 (Tue)	Allegany Post 188 & Mountain Ridge Graduation Day - Times To Be Determined
May 16 (Wed)	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED - Memorial Day
May 18 (Fri)	LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS - Three-Hour Early Dismissal - PM Teacher Work Time
May 19 (Sat)	Continuation: Secondary report cards will be released on June 13
May 20 (Sun)	Continuation: Secondary report cards will be released on June 13
May 21 (Fri)	LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS - 8:00-10:00 a.m. Principal Meeting/Teacher Work Time

\*MSD requires the school district to extend the school year for (5) days beyond the previously scheduled closing dates in the event of additional inclement weather days needed.

FIRST QUARTER 61 DAYS	SECOND QUARTER 61 DAYS	REPORT CARD PERIODS	
		PERIOD	RELEASED
August - 07 Days	January - 03 Days		
September - 20 Days	February - 03 Days		
October - 29 Days	March - 03 Days		
November - 18 Days	April - 22 Days		
December - 11 Days	May - 22 Days		
January - 08 Days	June - 04 Days		
		1st Period	2nd Period
		Oct. 26	Nov. 9
		Jan. 11	Jan. 26
		March 20	April 1
		June 6	June 13

Three-Week-ends for students will be determined by the April 18th Board Meeting. 17 of our pre-Kindergarten 1 teacher work days will have the longest time away from school. The board will vote on a high-impact, but emergency meeting, if deemed necessary.

# Instructional Report

## New Dual Enrollment Program

- ACPS and ACM have been awarded a joint MSDE grant (Maryland Leads)
  - Develop a one-time, teacher education early college program
  - Allow ACPS high school students to begin working towards associate degree in teacher education
  - Incoming juniors and seniors interested in all areas of teaching are encouraged to apply
  - Program offers:
    - FREE tuition for early college courses
    - FREE early college textbooks and course materials
    - FREE laptop
    - Fast-track towards obtaining teacher certification
  - Eligibility is based on GPA
- ACPS to partner with FSU on Dual Enrollment Pilot – Bobcat Academy
  - Give motivated high school seniors an immersive college experience and opportunity to earn college credits while also completing their final high school requirements
  - All classes offered on FSU campus
  - Students will have a full-time schedule of 12-18 credits
  - Four pathways offered:
    - Exercise and Sports Science
    - Psychology
    - Environmental Science
    - Recreation and Parks Management
  - Studies will fall under general studies, so the student can use credit hours regardless of what major they ultimately decide on
  - Students can continue to play sports for their home school
  - Eligibility based on GPA

## Financial Update

### Superintendent's Operating Budget

- Priorities
  - Modernize current student programs, associated equipment, and curriculum needs for current and future CTE programs
  - Provide educational recovery programs through school year and summer
  - Maintain and enhance student safety and mental health
  - Provide employees with negotiated benefits including salary and health insurance
  - Maintain and enhance resources and programs for early childhood development

## Superintendent's Operating Budget

- Personnel
  - Meet the contractual obligations previously set forth with all bargaining units
  - Provide personnel to support the Blueprint Pre-K initiatives
  - Provide additional administrative position to support education programs
  - Fund 4 additional LAP Instructional Assistant positions within elementary
  - Fund 3 additional special education positions to assist with needs in infant / toddler
  - Provide 2 transportation positions to support bus driver training / development
  - Hire additional school security officers
- Non-Personnel
  - Transportation costs decreasing
  - Increased bank fees to support increase in interest revenue
  - Provide additional funding for increasing utility costs
  - Provide support for increasing health claims and other fixed charges
  - Increased level of athletic transportation
  - Appropriate funding for staff development opportunities

## Unfinished Business

### Consider second reading of Code of Ethics Policy

- Approved

## Hearing of Constituents

### Public Comment

- Ashley Barnes – bus concerns
- Christina Gordon – therapy letter concerns

## New Business

### Vote to approve Academic School Calendar – Virtual Day Plan

- Approved

### Vote to approve Superintendent's Operating Budget

- Approved

### Vote to meet in Executive Session April 11, 2023 (as necessary)

- Approved

## Reports of Special or Advisory Committees

### Board Member Updates

- Mrs. Tammy Fraley – (Member of Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports)  
That committee will be putting out information on coordinated community support efforts and grant funding.