



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

May 7, 2024

The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

## Superintendent's Report

### Recognition of Alexandra "Alex" Robertson, Student Member of the Board 23-24

"You have done a great job. Since my time on the board, I think you've been one of the most involved student board members we've had in providing feedback while we're at the meetings and speaking about things that are relevant to the student body. You have represented yourself very well and we wish you good luck in this coming year in whatever you decide to do."

- Crystal Bender, Board Vice President

"I just want to say, you are an eloquent speaker. You've contributed to a lot of our discussions and wish you best in the future."

- Dr. David Bohn

"I want to echo everything they've said. You've been a great board member. You've been somebody that really has been involved and really presented a good image and thoughtful ideas for the students and I really appreciate it."

- Bob Farrell, Board President

"Congratulations. You're ahead of your age and we think that whatever goals you decided to set, whatever path you take, you're going to be very successful. We appreciate all the input and your insight from the student's eyes, for everything you've done here for the board."

- Jeffrey S. Blank

"Thank you all again for having me and being such a great board. I was really excited when I first got elected. It's been a lot of fun and has helped me build my skills and communicate with students. I've really enjoyed it."

- Alex Robertson, SMOB



## Superintendent's Report (cont.)

### Recognition of “Changemaker” Contest Winner for Women’s Action Coalition

“I’m pleased to announce that Ella Valentine, who is a senior at Fort Hill, is the recipient of our \$1,000 scholarship this year. Advocated for increased attention to the needs of LGBTQ+ Services, access to safe spaces, easier ways to report bullying, and more training for staff and faculty.

Ella, we see you as a power example in character, words, and deeds, to our community, and to the world.”

- Cherie Snyder, *Member Women’s Action Coalition*



Pictured left to right: Carmen Jackson, Cherie Snyder, Keith Potts, Ella Valentine, and Steve Wollett

### Recognition of University of Maryland – Math Competition for High Schools

- Colin Sheehe
  - Second year coming in as the top student in Allegany County

“Colin Sheehe is a senior at Allegany High School and has been, just simply, a shining star for mathematics for as long back as we can remember. Math Counts competitions, winning those straight through and then all the competitions he’s been able to participate in at Allegany while in high school, he has done exceedingly well in. Colin is a student who has a perfect SAT, has a perfect math PSAT score, he has taken 10 AP exams, he has gotten fives on all of those. By the time he walks across the stage at Allegany here in a couple weeks, he will have 15 college credits in mathematics, which is only one course short of a minor in mathematics, while still as a high school student.”

- Dr. Stephen Thompson  
*Supervisor of Mathematics*



Pictured left to right: Colin Sheehe and Heidi Laupret, AHS Principal

# Superintendent's Report (cont.)

## Recognition of ACM Tri-State Math Contest

- Contest open exclusively to Juniors
- Included participants from all four high schools, along with schools in Pennsylvania and West Virginia
  - Allegany High School – first place
    - Alexis Johnston
    - Anna Hilderbrand
    - Nikola Litten
  - Individuals
    - Sophia Zhang (MR) – 1<sup>st</sup> place and scholarship recipient
    - Alexis Johnston (AL) – 3<sup>rd</sup> place and scholarship recipient
    - Nikola Litten (AL) 5<sup>th</sup> place
    - James Chen (MR) – 6<sup>th</sup> place
    - Anna Hilderbrand (AL) – 7<sup>th</sup> place
    - Violet Strozykowski (CCTE) – 9<sup>th</sup> place
    - Emmanuel Kujenga (AL) – 9<sup>th</sup> place

“Our students did extremely well with this. Allegany High School won the team competition. Four of the top 10 placing students were from Allegany High School.”

- Dr. Stephen Thompson

*Supervisor of Mathematics*



Pictured left to right: Sophia Zhang, James Chen, Emmanuel Kujenga, and Michael Nestor, AHS Math Teacher

## Present Proclamation Recognizing May 3, 2024 as School Lunch Hero Day

- Presented by Dr. David Bohn to Todd Lutton

“I want to thank you for the recognition of the staff. They work hard throughout the year serving the students of Allegany County.”

- Todd Lutton

*Food Services Supervisor*





# Superintendent's Report (cont.)

## Recognition of CHEER Students – Special Education Program / ACM

- Program is a collaboration with Allegany College of Maryland
- Open to students who are seniors and receiving special services
- Total immersion program, allowing students to be on campus full-time
- Students earned 119 credits this year

“I wanted to thank ACPS for the opportunity for this collaboration. ACM is honored to be host of these wonderful students. As we have mentioned before, last year, the growth that we have seen, the connections between the students, the attendance, the retention of the students is paramount. And not only this, because those are all admin words, but the fact that they see a future in higher education and the fact that they believe in themselves, the fact that they are here, in front of you earning all these college credits, that they have made it, says a lot. Everybody is so very proud of them.”

- Dr. Miha Wood

*Dean of Arts and Sciences, ACM*

“I am very proud of these young adults. They have persevered through many, many difficult situations and they are here tonight to celebrate. It's the first step in their very successful lives that are going to come.”

- Dr. Wendy Main

*Supervisor of CHEER Program*



Pictured left to right: Front row: Sydney Elizabeth McKenzie, Molly Sue Yarnall Second row: Lindsey Jon Ternent, Layla Marie Smith-Dennison Third row: Nicholas Edward Buentello, Brandon William Frye, and Julian Richard Fiscus

## Present Proclamation Recognizing May as Pupil Personnel Worker Month

- Presented by Ms. Lori Lepley to Gene Pustolski

“On behalf of myself and my colleagues, thank you for this proclamation and recognition. We are proud and honored to be a part of the student service team for Allegany County Public Schools. I'd also like to that this opportunity to thank our Director Debbie Metheny and the Assistant Supervisor of Student Services, Dr. Sarah Welsh for their support and guidance.”

- Gene Pustolski

*Lead PPW*



# Superintendent's Report (cont.)

## Recognition of Student Page

- Maryland General Assembly hosts 105 student pages each year
  - Allegany County Page, Matthew McKay, served two non-consecutive weeks

"Getting to know the politicians and even the pages from across the state, it was a rewarding experience."

- Matthew McKay



## Recognition of Student Salute Winners 2024

- Student Salute program highlights the accomplishments of dozens of Allegany County high school seniors.
  - Students who plan to attend Frostburg State University
  - Chamber's Education and Workforce Development Committee selects the top three students based on GPA, participating in AP, college, and special programs
    - Morgan Steckman (\$5,000 scholarship to FSU)
    - Anna Delaney (\$500 scholarship FSU)
    - Erin Worgan (\$500 scholarship to FSU)

"My goal is to thank the Chamber of Commerce. All the work they put in. The radio station has the pleasure of announcing the names of each student and a little bit about them. We do that with the help of Chessie Federal Credit Union. And of course, Frostburg State University gets the big thank you. So, I really just want to say thank you. Please know how much you all are very much appreciated. This is around the 30<sup>th</sup> year that we've been doing this. We're really pleased that we've been able to continue and impact students in this community."

- Mary Clites



Pictured left to right: Anna Delaney, Morgan Steckman, Mary Clites, Erin Worgan, and Andrea Kraft

## Present Proclamation Recognizing May 6-10, 2024 as National Teacher Appreciation Week

- Presented by Mrs. Crystal Bender to Kim Sloane

"Thank you so much. I think today we have seen the reason why we all are in education. We are here so students can excel. So, we thank you for your time to recognize the hard work that all the educators do, here in Allegany County."

- Kim Sloane, ACEA President



# Instructional

## Prolonged State of Emergency Virtual Education Plan

- Plan to be used during a prolonged State of Emergency
- Senate Bill requirement
  - Senate Bill 610 defines a State of Emergency as “declared by the Governor, that it prevents in school attendance in a public school for at least 14 consecutive days.”
- Required to include several different components
  - Staffing and personnel assignments
  - Student instructional plan for virtual learning
  - Social and emotional supports that will be given
  - Communication plan
  - Technology plan
  - Food Services plan
  - Return to in person learning plan
- ACPS will consult with County Government and the Health Department as necessary
- Draft plan was sent to principals for their input and recommendations have been integrated into the plan as needed
- Plan will be sent to MSDE by June 1
- Will need to be updated every two years

## Maryland Report Card Update / Science Assessment

- Starting in 2023-2024 school year, for first-time ninth graders, the American Government and the Life Science Maryland Integrated Science Assessment End of Course Exams will count for 20% of the student’s final grades.
- These exams shift the emphasis from high-stakes testing to teacher instruction with 80% of a student’s course grade based on locally created, teacher-designed content.
- MSDE identified Maryland public schools earning a 1 or 2 start rating in the Maryland’s Accountability System in two of the last three available years of data
  - ACPS had one school identified

## New Business

### **Consider First Reading of Student Registered Sex Offenders – Entry on School Property Policy**

- Approved

### **Consider First Ready of Wellness and Nutrition Policy**

- Approved

### **Consider Regulation Review of Wellness and Nutrition Policy**

- Approved

### **Consider Review of Educational Equity Policy Policy**

- Approved

### **Vote to Renew Legal Services**

- Approved

### **Vote to Approve Prolonged State of Emergency Virtual Education Plan**

- Approved

### **Vote to meet in Executive Session June 11, 2024 (as necessary)**

- Approved