



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. Alexandra Robertson, SMOB

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

October 10, 2023

The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

## Superintendent's Report

### Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Update

- Stephanie Wageley (South Penn Elementary School)
  - Ms. Wageley was nominated by the parent of the student she works with each day. "She goes out of her way to see that my child's needs are met. She also went out of her way to make sure Down Syndrome day was extra special for him. I can rest easy on a daily basis knowing my son is in her care and she will take care of him."
- Ashley Bothast (Bel-Air Elementary School)
  - Ms. Bothast was nominated by her administrator. "Ashley goes above and beyond in her duties as a close adult support to provide success to the student she services. She assures that IEP goals are met and offers important and effective feedback. She is extremely dedicated.
- Wes Haines and Karen Riser (Bus 150)
  - Wes and Karen have the very difficult job of being a bus driver and aid for a special education bus. Bus 150 is responsible for transporting children with intense needs. These children are in regionalized special programs, so they often times are on the bus for an extended period of time. Both Wes and Karen are so patient and understanding. They do everything in their power to be kind and meet children's needs. They are appreciated by all staff.
- Thomas Kutcher (Washington Middle School)
  - Mr. Kutcher was nominated by a parent. "He has provided my child with a positive, safe, and encouraging middle school experience as a sixth grader. He is a trusted adult who looks out for the physical and emotional well-being of his students. He is great when it comes to communication and through his effect on my child. I feel my child has found confidence and courage in attending school because he is such a kind, thoughtful, and hardworking teacher who believes in him."

# Superintendent's Report

## Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Update

- Michele Maust (Westmar Middle School)
  - Ms. Maust was nominated by several of her fellow staff members. They all had very similar things to say. “She goes above and beyond for her students who have IEP’s. She not only cares about their education, but she truly cares about them as a person and she makes sure their basic needs are met.” “She helps prepare all of her students for the future by helping them in class, tutoring them after school, and pulling small groups for instruction.” “She often stays at school long after hours to work on lessons and instructional aides for her students.” “She cares for her students as individuals and she is selfless and willing to do anything in her power to help them succeed in school and in life.”
- Jennifer Miller (Allegany High School)
  - Ms. Miller was nominated by one of her fellow staff members and a parent. They praised her for her reorganization of the Unified Sports team and that she teaches not only academics, but life skills as well. “My child has thrived since being at Allegany with Ms. Miller. There is a sparkle in my daughters eyes that wasn’t there before.”

“This is the first year for the Shining Star Award, to spread positive news about those people doing an exceptional job for special education in the school. These staff members are not only shining stars in education, but across the entire school system. We thank you for your heart, dedication, and commitment to providing the best services possible.”

– Mrs. Jill Fradiska, Chair of the SECAC



Pictured left to right: Front row: Michele Maust, Jennifer Miller, Ashley Bothast, Back row: Stephanie Wageley, Karen Rizer, and Wes Haines

SECAC’s mission is to provide information to develop knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed by families, educators, and other professionals, and community members to enable individuals with disabilities to have the maximum opportunity to become fully participating members of their homes, school, work, and community. The vision is to facilitate communication and collaboration between families, educators, administrators, and community leaders to enhance services available for students with disabilities and advocate for positive changes in special education services within Allegany County.

# Instructional Report

## Environmental Literacy – Secondary Science – Middle School Outdoor School

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 609 students
  - Offer a one day field trip to Evergreen Heritage Center in Rocky Gap
  - Students study “The Phenomenon called Water”
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 603 students
  - Commuter outdoor school program
  - Two and a half day program – two days at Rocky Gap and a half day in the schoolyard.
  - Alice Ferguson Foundation runs the program
  - “Talking Trash” in the schoolyard
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 626 students
  - Offer a one day field trip to Evergreen Heritage Center in Rocky Gap
  - Students study “Exploring Energy”



- Earth Space Science Classes
  - 566 students
  - Offer a one day field trip to Evergreen Heritage Center in Rocky Gap
  - Students study “What Lies Beneath” (Rocks and Minerals)
- AP Environmental Science Students
  - Offer a one day field trip to Rocky Gap with Alice Ferguson Foundation
  - Students study “Bridging the Watershed”
- Chemistry / Matter and Energy Students
  - 614 students
  - Offer a two day program in the schoolyard: Day 1 – Fertilizers and Day 2 – Water Testing



# Instructional Report

## Environmental Literacy

- Environthon
  - 10-12 teams = 50-60 students
  - Topics of: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and Wildlife



- Green Schools
  - All secondary, middle, and high schools are green
  - Allegany High School is a sustainable school
  - Three schools will be recertifying this year

## Hearing of Constituents

### Public Comment

- Kim Sloane – ACEA President

## New Business

### Consider First Reading of Evaluation of Students Policy (Grading Policy)

- Approved

### Consider Regulation Review of Evaluation of Students Policy (Grading Policy)

- No objections

### Consider Regulation Review of School Attendance Areas

- No objections

### Consider Regulation Review of alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Free Workplace

- No objections

### Vote to meet in Executive Session November 14, 2023 (as necessary)

- Approved

# Reports of Special or Advisory Committees

## Student Member of the Board

- Attended the MABE Conference as a member of the student panel
  - Spoke with the panel regarding different things going on in our school system
    - School safety
    - School security
    - Support groups
    - Opportunities for students
    - Online learning
- At the Allegany Association of Student Councils General Assembly
  - Spoke with students in workshops
  - Number one problem students concerned about is drug use

## Board Member Updates

- Ms. Fraley also attended the MABE conference
  - Elected to serve on the Maryland Board of Education Elected Board
  - Maryland Center for School Safety is launching a new program “Safe Schools Award Program”
    - Involves having the students and the school involved in the school security

“I just wanted to share with the community that Saturday night, I had the opportunity to go to the band competition. If you have haven’t had the opportunity to see our bands – Allegany, Fort Hill, and Mountain Ridge all performed. It’s rather amazing what our students are doing and how well they are performing. Thank you to the band directors, staff, and all the volunteers that work so hard within the band community. So, if you have the opportunity to see a performance, please do.”

-Jeffrey Blank, Superintendent of Schools