

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

West Side Elementary School's Chinese Immersion Program – Trip to China

Several fifth grade students enrolled in West Side Elementary School's Chinese Immersion Program recently traveled to China as a culminating activity of their time in the program. These students gave a presentation to the school board that documented their time abroad in Beijing, Chengdu, XI'an, and Shanghai. Speaking in both Mandarin and English, the students showed pictures of Air China, new friends, the National Performing Arts Center, the Great Hall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, Chinese cuisine, the Legend of Kungfu Show, the Summer Palace, the Marble Boat, the Buddhist Temple, the famous Giant Buddha, the Giant Panda Research Base, Swan Lake at Panda Park, People's Park Teahouse, the Chengdudong Railway Station, the Terra-Cotta Soldiers Pit, a Taichi lesson on the ancient city wall in XI'an, Juneyao Air, and the Shanghai Museum.

Recognition of Carson Scholar

The school board recognized Cameron Breighner, a fifth grade student at Beall Elementary School, for being selected as the most recent Carson Scholar in the Allegany County Public School System.

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students in grades 4-11 who excel academically and who are dedicated to serving their communities. Scholarship winners also receive a medal and trophy for their school to celebrate their accomplishments. Previous winners of Carson Scholarships are eligible to reapply for recognition annually, and in ACPS there are currently four multi-year Carson Scholars.

A student must be nominated by an educator at his or her school to be able to compete for a Carson Scholarship. Only one student from each school is able to apply, ensuring that each nominee epitomizes academic excellence. Carson Scholars must be of high academic standing and display humanitarian qualities through community service.

Recognition of ACPS Mathcounts Accomplishments and Tri-State Math Contest Results

Dr. Stephen Thompson, ACPS Assistant Supervisor of Math, recognized members of the Mathcounts participants as well as announced the results of the Tri-State Math Competition. ACPS students captured the top team and individual honors at the 2019 ACM Tri-State Mathematics Contest. Mountain Ridge High School won the individual team award, while Mountain Ridge student, Bereketab Tessema, won the individual honor, which included a \$1,000 scholarship to Allegany College of Maryland. One hundred twenty students from ten area high schools participated in this 32nd annual competition open to high school juniors. Additional award winners from ACPS included Stephen Hess, Fort Hill - 2nd place individual and a \$500 ACM scholarship; Noah Peterson, Allegany - 10th place and a \$250 ACM scholarship; and Jason Chen, Mountain Ridge - 10th place and a \$250 ACM scholarship.

Additionally, 36 regional middle school champs and qualifiers from across Maryland met at John's Hopkins University in Baltimore for the Maryland State Mathcounts Finals. Allegany County was represented well with teams from Braddock and Bishop Walsh, as well as individuals from Braddock and Washington.

Board of Education

Mr. Robert Farrell, President
Dr. David Bohn, Vice President
Mrs. Tammy Fraley
Mr. Wayne Foote
Mrs. Debra Frank
Dr. David Cox, Superintendent
Ms. Eesha Bokil, SMOB

CONSENT AGENDA

The school board voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda:

1. Approval of minutes for Special Budget Meeting March 1, 2019; Open Session and Public Meeting March 12, 2019; and Open Session and Public Meeting March 26, 2019.
2. Receive routine personnel actions for period of March 1-31, 2019.
3. Receive school construction/ maintenance report for period of March 1-31. 2019.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of March 1-31, 2019.
5. Receive monthly financial report.

Fresh off of its seventh straight regional championship, Braddock defeated 28 finalists and finished in the elite eight. This was the highest finish for an Allegany County middle school in sixteen years. 253 of the top math students in the state took part in the very difficult four-hour competition.

Braddock 7th grader, Colin Sheeche, had the 19th best score of the day. Braddock's team included Colin Sheeche, Cole Fiscus, Quinn Cohen, and Daniel Gregory. Braddock also had three individuals - Ian Kiddy, Zac

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Septoff, and Emmanuel Kujenga. Bishop Walsh's team included Max Mathews, Maddy Brown, Lilly Stasko, and Gloria Nelson. Washington had one individual - Brayson Fleegle.

Recognize April as Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month

The school board presented a proclamation recognizing April as Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month, designated by the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics, a collaborative effort of the American Mathematical Society, the American Statistical Association, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. Both math and statistics play a significant role in addressing many real-world problems including Internet safety, sustainability, disease, climate change, the data deluge, and more. Research in math, statistics, and other areas is ongoing, revealing new results and applications every day in fields such as medicine, manufacturing, energy, biotechnology, and business. They are drivers of innovation in our technical world in which new systems and methodologies continue to become more complex.

NSBA Conference Report

Mrs. Tammy Fraley, school board member, had the opportunity as a member of the MABE executive board to attend a four-day National School Boards Association conference in Philadelphia. She heard from a number of guest speakers, and participated in several informative breakout sessions. One speaker in particular stated that school board members need to inspire and to remember the contributions that they make by changing lives on a daily basis. Other highlights included a presentation from a 20 year old who posed as a high school student; ensuring that students get an education that prepares them for their careers; making sure that administrators, teachers, board members are all walking the talk and not letting students down; and making sure that you have happiness in your lives. Mrs. Fraley also gathered information about the difference between the roles of a board member and that of a superintendent and plans to share that information with her colleagues at a retreat in May.

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATES

Update on Middle and High School Schedules

Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, ACPS Chief Academic Officer, along with Mr. Joseph Carter, Principal at Fort Hill High School, and Mr. Joseph Brewer, Academic Dean at Fort Hill High School, provided the school board with information on an ABC block schedule that will be piloted during the 2019-2020 school year. A scheduling committee was formed and provided surveys to both teachers and students to gather feedback on the current A/B block schedule. Results showed that both were overwhelmingly against the A/B block. A schedule for next school year was narrowed down to three possible options:

- 8-period day with no Pride Time (remediation occurring in Bridge classes)
- ABC 8-period day (65 minute classes meeting morning, afternoon, and then no class)
- 7-period day with Pride Time (elimination of 2-hour 5th period)

Departmental meetings at Fort Hill then narrowed the schedule selection down to either the ABC day or the 8-period day. The final vote was on the ABC schedule. At Fort Hill, the ABC schedule will have most classes meet two out of three days, which are always consecutive days, in the morning one day, in the afternoon the next day, and then have no class on the third day. This will give teachers and students the opportunity to have class in the morning and afternoon, which has proven to be pedagogically beneficial. Periods three and four will be held every day to accommodate some college level courses that require a set schedule. When classes are held in the afternoon, the order will be reversed to minimize gaps in the schedule for seniors on an abbreviated schedule. The total time in class will be longer than the current A/B schedule and an 8-period day that also considered. Teachers who had previously taught under an ABC schedule were nearly in unanimous support of it based on positive instructional outcomes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Second Reading of School Safety and Security Policy (File: ECAE)

The school board voted 3-2 to send this policy back to the policy committee to adjust the language in it regarding the two positions outline in the policy – Mental Health Coordinator and School Safety Coordinator. Dr. Bohn wants these positions to be administrative positions and would like the language regarding their selection to state, “The superintendent shall nominate a Mental Health Administrator/School Safety Administrator and the Board shall confirm.” Mrs. Fraley and Mrs. Frank both opposed this amendment indicating that this change would be in direct violation of Maryland law.

Consider Second Reading of Equity Policy (File: IMAA)

The school board voted unanimously to approve the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to foster the success of each student in our schools. For that success to occur for each student in lifelong learning and the world of work, the BOE prioritizes educational equity by recognizing and removing institutional barriers and ensuring that social identifiers are not obstacles to accessing educational opportunities and supports that benefit each student. Achieving equity means implicit biases and students’ identities will neither predict nor predetermine their success in school. Educational equity should be a lens through which all policies, procedures, and practices are viewed and decided.”

NEW BUSINESS

Policy Review Process (Files: BDE, BDF, BG)

School board member, Mrs. Tammy Fraley, made a motion that the three policies below be sent back to the policy committee to be cleaned up and clarified, and to specifically separate out Policy BG to be a stand alone policy. The motion passed unanimously. These three policies are as follows:

- Board Committees (File BDE): “To describe the Board’s position on the use of standing and ad-hoc committees made up of its members.”
- School Board Policy Process (File: BG): “To identify the process for developing, adopting, revising, and reviewing policy.”
- Advisory Committees (File: BDF): “To identify the Board’s position on citizen advisory committees.”

Consider Request to Dispose of Surplus Property at Former Allegany High School

The school board voted unanimously to dispose of the surplus property at the former Allegany High School. Per COMAR, a local school board must submit a request to the IAC to transfer any school property which is no longer needed for school purposes to the county government. The IAC will review the request and make a recommendation to the Board of Public Works, which will authorize the transfer. It was also recommended by school system staff that the school board subdivide the property and retain ownership of the two athletic fields for use by the school’s athletic teams for practice. Staff will attempt to establish a shared use agreement between the school board and the City of Cumberland that will promote community use of the fields when they are not in use by the school.

Consider Request to Transfer Surplus Equipment from Braddock Campus Hospital

The school board voted unanimously to transfer various pieces of equipment and materials that were salvaged from the Braddock Hospital and from several other schools to Allegany County Government for use in the Western Maryland Works, Makers’ Spaces in LaVale. Some of these items include laboratory casework and countertops, ceiling tiles, electrical panels, transformers, disconnect switches, workbenches, shop

equipment including a drill press, table saw, joiner, and air compressor.

Vote to Meet in Executive Session on May 6, 2019, as Necessary

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Monday, May 6, 2019, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The meeting will be held at Allegany High School at 6 p.m. Please note the date change.

CONSTITUENTS’ COMMENTS

Mrs. Kim Sloane, ACEA President

Mrs. Sloane addressed the school board to ask them to do their part to ensure that they provide enough funding to raise salaries by an average of 3% in order to get a match of an additional 1.5% from the state. She noted that it was an important opportunity for the school board to show teachers that they mean what they say when they tell them how much their hard work is appreciated.

Mr. Evan West, ACEA UniServe Director

Mr. West addressed the school board to ask that they do everything they can to show their support and appreciation for educators’ hard work and advocacy by providing funding to meet the Teacher Salary Enhancement Grant portion of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

Mr. Ed Taylor, Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization

Mr. Taylor addressed the school board to request a meeting to discuss the possibility of allowing students at West Side Elementary School to take walking tours of the historic cemeteries in the area.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Ms. Eesha Bokil, SMOB

Eesha updated the school board on the following items involving the Allegany County Association of Student Councils (ACASC):

- The ACASC Environmental Committee met to organize environmental initiatives.
- The ACASC Executive Board had the opportunity to attend Garrett County's elections.
- Members of ACASC recorded radio ads for the new campaign on the Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs.
- Members of ACASC attended the annual Senior Citizen Prom.
- Eesha introduced next year's Student Member of the Board, Mr. Omaer Naeem of Allegany High School.

Mr. Wayne Foote

Mr. Foote would like to create a committee consisting of parents, teachers, and community members to reevaluate the school board's current cell phone policy in an effort to make it stricter. All recommendations will be brought back to the ACPS policy committee to review.

Mrs. Deb Frank

Mrs. Frank thanks ACEA members for all that they are doing to advocate for educators in the system and will help any way she can to support the "Red for Ed" movement. She also asked the public to do its homework after school board meetings to ensure that members are being held accountable for the votes they are casting. Mrs. Frank sincerely believes that the vote to change the language in the school security policy was in direct violation of the Education Article 6-201 that very clearly states what positions should be appointed by the school board vs. the superintendent and the distinction between certificated and non-certificated positions. She finds it very suspicious that several members of the school board are singling out this particular position and feels that there is an underlying motive for doing so.

Mrs. Tammy Fraley

Mrs. Fraley continues to be unhappy that several members of the school board are implying that schools in ACPS are not safe as they stand noting that in doing so is disingenuous and insulting to the School Resource Officers, Safety Officers, and Coordinator of School Safety currently employed by the system who are charged with ensuring student and staff safety. Additionally, Mrs. Fraley also noted that if the school board revises the safety policy as voted on 3-2 wouldn't ensure that the school board follows the law.

Mr. Robert Farrell

Mr. Farrell feels that any job that involves supervision, especially the supervision of students, is too important not to be scrutinized and appointed by the school board.

Dr. David Bohn

Dr. Bohn noted that he wants the security position to be one that is successful, especially since this was one of his campaign platforms.