

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATES

Class of 2019 Report

Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, ACPS Chief Academic Officer, updated the school board on the Class of 2019. Students in the graduating Class of 2019 were accepted to 31 different colleges, universities, and technical schools across the country. Of the 365 graduates, 282 of them have chosen to continue their studies locally at either ACM or FSU. 225 students were offered at least one scholarship, and a total of \$8,941,980 was offered in merit, athletic, academic, and senatorial scholarships. 68% of students surveyed plan to pursue technical or post-secondary education. That breakdown is as follows:

- 211 grads plan to attend a 2-year college
- 177 grads plan to attend a 4-year college
- 27 grads plan to enter the military
- 7 grads plan to pursue technical education
- 139 grads plan to enter the world of work
- 5 grads were undecided about future plans

Dr. Kalbaugh also updated the school board on projected advanced placement and dual enrollment numbers for the 2019-2020 school year. These projections are as follows:

- AP Computer Science Principles – 74 (96 in 18-19)
- AP English Language/Composition – 105 (117 in 18-19)
- AP English Literature/Composition – 95 (175 in 18-19)
- AP Spanish – 17 (13 in 18-19)
- AP Government and Politics – 81 (84 in 18-19)
- AP Human Geography – 46 (74 in 18-19)
- AP World History – 81 (107 in 18-19)
- AP US History – 67 (162 in 18-19)
- AP Psychology – 87 (165 in 18-19)
- AP Calculus – 52 (75 in 18-19)
- AP Statistics – 1 (9 in 18-19)
- AP Environmental Science – 131 (115 in 18-19)
- AP Biology – 5 (48 in 18-19)
- AP Chemistry – 17 (18 in 18-19)
- AP Physics I – 12 (26 in 18-19)
- AP Physics II – 2 (11 in 18-19)
- College English – 241 (220 in 18-19)
- College Speech – 142 (147 in 18-19)
- College Psychology - 110 (84 in 18-19)
- College Algebra – 149 (98 in 18-19)
- College Probability and Statistics – 178 (108 in 18-19)
- College Biology I – 89 (54 in 18-19)
- College Biology II – 47 (43 in 18-19)

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 Open Session and Public Meeting for June 11, 2019, and for Open Session and Budget Meeting for June 18, 2019.
2. Receive routine personnel actions for period of June 1-30, 2019.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for period of June 1-30, 2019.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of June 1-30, 2019.
5. Receive monthly financial report.
6. Approve 2019-2020 table of rates for bus contractors.

Class of 2019 Report Cont.

- College Computer Literacy – 71 (27 in 18-19)
- College Computer Logic – 37 (14 in 18-19)
- Criminal Law – 2 (4 in 18-19)
- Criminal Evidence and Procedure – 2 (4 in 18-19)

FINANCIAL UPDATES AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Larry McKenzie, ACPS Chief Finance Officer, updated the school board on the following regarding the FY2018 Financial Audit as well as monthly financial information for June 2019:

- The cost of legal fees saw a significant increase over last year, in part due to several employee legal costs and all legal fees associated with the superintendent's exit and interim search.
- The cost for substitutes was fairly even compared to last year.
- The cost of equipment showed a positive variance, but there are still purchases in the works.
- The cost of non-public placements is down compared to last year.
- Transportation costs are relatively even compared to last year, up just a bit.
- Utilities and Retirement costs are trending well compared to last year and are still both under the current year's budget.
- Healthcare costs are up from last year, in large part due to the number of large claims. This year, there were 21 individuals with claims over \$150,000 compared to just eight last year.

Consider Second Reading of Teaching Controversial Issues Policy (File: IMB)

The school board voted to send the above policy, whose purpose is "to establish guidelines for the teaching of controversial issues in the classroom and/or during other educational activities that are under the supervision of a teacher during the course of a regular school day" back to the policy committee for additional edits at the suggestion of Dr. David Bohn and Mr. Evan West to include input from the teachers' association.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of Interim Superintendent Recommendation

The school board voted 3-0, with members Tammy Fraley and Deb Frank abstaining, to recommend Mr. Jeff Blank as the Interim Superintendent for next school year while the search for a permanent replacement for Dr. Cox was conducted. The State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Karen Salmon, must approve this recommendation. Mrs. Fraley and Mrs. Frank abstained because they felt that the process was tainted with Mr. Foote failing to recuse himself from voting. Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, current ACPS Chief Academic Officer, was another candidate for the interim position and is also a state's witness against Mr. Foote.

Status on the Request for Declaratory Ruling

The school board voted unanimously at their meeting on June 11th to seek a declaratory decision from the state Board of Education regarding sections 4-103 and 6-201 and the definitions of certified vs. non-certified and professional vs. non-professional as they relate to the policy ECAE School Safety and Security. Mr. Llewellyn, school board attorney, noted that he received a draft petition to the state board from Dr. Cox last week but hasn't yet had time to review it. He could provide an update, if necessary, at the August meeting. Mrs. Fraley insisted that the response needed to be complete prior to Dr. Cox's departure.

Personnel Action

Mr. Jeff Blank, ACPS Chief Administrative Officer, asked the school board to approve the appointment of Mr. Richard King

as the interim principal at the Career Center for the 2019-2020 school year to fill the vacancy left by Candy Canan, who will be the new principal at Fort Hill High School. Mr. King has served as the Assistant Principal at the Career Center for the past several years. The school board approved this appointment.

Accept the FY 2018 Audit

Mr. Ed Huber of Huber, Michaels, and Co. presented information and highlights on the FY2018 audit. The independent auditors' opinions noted that the financial statements of the school board presented fairly in all material respects the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component unity, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the school board for FY 2018. Mr. Huber highlighted the following from the report:

- As of June 30, 2018, the fund balance was \$13,778,392. The food service account showed \$314,643. \$1,320,570 has been set aside for school construction.
- The fund balance on the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes for governmental funds showed a surplus of \$5,265,826. There was no surplus or deficit in the restricted fund. Food service shows a surplus of \$144,717. School construction shows a deficit, but that is only because the money allocated for Allegany High School was previously recognized as income and is now being spent.
- The technology fund showed a change in net position of \$68,490; however, there was enough money in the fund balance to absorb that deficit and still leave \$57,984 in the

NEW BUSINESS (CONT.)

fund.

- The balance at the end of the year in the Greenway Avenue Stadium fund was \$258,446, and the balance at the end of the year in the Mountain Ridge Stadium fund was \$59,889.
- When comparing the budget to actual in the general fund, the school system had a surplus of \$5,265,826 for FY 2018. The bulk of this surplus came from savings in the categories of instructional salaries and fixed charges. Instructional salaries had a positive variance of \$1,507,323, due in large part to utilizing substitutes as opposed to full-time employees. Fixed charges had a positive variance of \$2,442,885, due in large part to there not being as many healthcare claims in FY2018.
- In the School Activities funds, all schools had positive fund balances.

The school board voted unanimously to accept the FY2018 Audit.

Retiree Health Plan Subsidy for 2019-2020

The school board approved the retiree health plan subsidy for the 2019-2020 school year. Highlights of this plan include the following:

- The maximum total subsidy will be \$315,000, which is included in the FY 2020 budget.
- The subsidy will be paid in a lump sum in December 2019 to eligible retirees.
- The plan is not guaranteed in future years, nor is it to be considered a continuing agreement.
- Anyone retiring July 1, 2002 or thereafter is not eligible to participate in this plan. Those retirees must participate in the Retiree Insurance Fund plan, if eligible.
- The total paid in December 2019 may be reduced if retirees would receive a greater individual benefit than individuals in the Retiree Insurance Fund would. If this happens, a benefit level that equalizes the two plans will be processed.

Consider First Reading of Board Committees Policy (File: BDE)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to describe the Board’s position on the use of the Policy Committee, other standing committees, and ad-hoc committees that include its members.”

Consider First Reading of School Board Policy Process Policy (File: BG)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to identify the process for developing, adopting, revising, and reviewing policy.”

Consider First Reading of Behavioral Threat Assessment Policy (File: JLDAC)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish procedures for the assessment and intervention with students, staff, and other non-affiliated individuals whose behaviors pose a threat to the safety of the school environment.”

Consider First Reading of Threat Assessment Team Policy (File: JLDAD)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish and provide for the structure, function, and training of a Threat Assessment Team.”

Vote to Meet in Executive Session August 13, 2019, as Necessary

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The Open Public Session, which follows the Executive Session, will begin at 6 p.m. at the Central Office.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS

Mr. Evan West, ACEA UniServe Director

Mr. West addressed the school board regarding concerns he and several members of the teachers union have had regarding the policy on Teaching Controversial Issues. Mr. West said that some of his concerns with this policy involve syntax that could confuse its meaning and intent. He agrees that that the statement “Controversial issues may be presented and discussed in secondary school classrooms” should have the word “secondary” removed because these issues are not limited to secondary schools. West suggested removing a second definition of a controversial issue and to edit the first to simply say “A controversial issue is one that may result in dispute and disagreement due to the differences of opinions.” Mr. West noted that the addition of the second to last paragraph muddies the waters rather than clarifies things, especially the statement “The teacher has the obligation to assist students in achieving a scholarly competence, to teach factual information and concepts upon which truth is based. . . .” because he feels that an individual’s truth may be based on any number of things other than facts. He suggested removing that paragraph and rather give the superintendent the discretion to create regulations for this policy that align with COMAR and the state Board of Education’s regulations so that experts in curriculum can determine what a controversial issue is and how they should be approached.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Tammy Fraley

Mrs. Fraley read a prepared statement during the discussion and vote on the Interim Superintendent section of the meeting. She noted that in order for the school board to maintain public and internal trust, they must adhere to laws and local policies. She feels that the process to select the interim superintendent should be done so with transparency and the most qualified candidate should be put forth. Unfortunately, she feels that the current school board has tainted this process because Mr. Foote refused to recuse himself. She plans to vote based on what she believes will move the system forward with integrity, but she will work cooperatively with the interim superintendent regardless of who is ultimately approved by the state superintendent of schools. Mrs. Fraley also currently serves as the Treasurer for MABE and will continue in that capacity until new officers are elected at the annual conference in October. She encouraged all school board members to attend this conference, which will be held October 1-4 in Annapolis.

Mrs. Debra Frank

Mrs. Frank made statements during the discussion and vote on the Interim Superintendent section of the meeting. She noted that she’s grown weary of the constant fighting among school board members and that the group has lost their focus and purpose. She ran her campaign on transparency and truth. The school board interviewed three qualified candidates for interim superintendent, and she vows to work well with whomever is ultimately confirmed for the position. However, she has real concerns about the selection process because of the participation of Mr. Foote which now makes this an unfair and prejudicial process.

Mr. Wayne Foote

Mr. Foote noted that he was elected by the people of Allegany County and said he can vote. He also plans to give each school board member brochures created to promote the Center for Career and Technical Education.

Mr. Michael Llewellyn, School Board Attorney

Mr. Llewellyn was asked if he thought there was a conflict of interest in Mr. Foote voting on the interim superintendent position. He stated that he sees no legal reason that would prohibit Mr. Foote from voting in this situation. He also noted that the legal definition of conflict of interest is based on financial gain and not on subjective bias.