

BOARDROOM CHATTER

PUBLICATION PREPARED BY ACPS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Crystal Bender, President
Mr. Robert Farrell, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Frank
Mrs. Tammy Fraley
Dr. David Bohn
Mr. Jeff Blank, Superintendent
Ms. Brooklyne Noel, SMOB

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Recognition of ACPS Retirees

The school board recognized the following 2022 ACPS retirees and thanked them for their service and dedication to the students of Allegany County Public Schools:

- Jean Harden, 45 years
- Ricky Scaletta, 44 years
- Ellen Walker, 43 years
- Jill Robertson, 42 years
- Robert Thompson, 42 years
- Esther Greco, 40 years
- Mark Morral, 39 years
- Scott Heavner, 39 years
- Linda Ketterman, 36 years
- John Howard, 34 years
- Krista Trenum, 34 years
- Barbara Yoder, 33 years
- Janet Lancaster, 33 years
- Maria Weber, 33 years
- Brenda Ayers, 32 years
- Darlene Fletcher, 32 years
- Larry Jackson, 32 years
- Eric Yoder, 31 years
- Corrie Humbertson, 31 years
- Tara Fazenbaker, 30 years
- Cynthia Cecil, 30 years
- Lisa Lehman, 28 years
- Terri Lavin, 27 years
- Linda Kenney, 26 years
- Jay Moon, 24 years
- Edward Wagus, 22 years
- Michelle Shook, 21 years
- Kelli Mallow, 20 years
- Brenda Blackburn, 20 years
- Candee Armbruster, 20 years
- Marianne Spencer, 19 years
- Mark Malone, 19 years
- Jolene Shippy, 19 years
- Cynthia Everline, 19 years
- Melissa Lopez, 16 years
- Cheryl Riley, 16 years
- Carla Diehl, 16 years
- Karla Bateson, 16 years
- Jewel Lambert, 15 years
- Karen Hayes, 15 years
- Harry Morgan, 13 years
- Karl Nickel, 12 years

Recognition of 2022 Student Salute Winners

The school board recognized three ACPS graduates for being selected as the 2022 recipients of the WCBC/Frostburg State University Annual High School Student Salute Program scholarships. Abigayle Spangler, Fort Hill High School, will receive a \$5,000 one-year scholarship to FSU for the 2022-2023 academic year. Haley Llewellyn, Mountain Ridge High School, and Noah Logsdon, Allegany High School, are the second and third place recipients of \$500 scholarships to FSU for the upcoming year.

The Student Salute Program is a collaborative effort to recognize high school seniors who excel in the classroom founded by WCBC and sponsored by Chessie FCU, FSU, the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, and the Allegany County Board of Education. Through the program, those students identified as exceptional academic achievers, based on GPA, school and community leadership, and who intend to enroll at FSU, earn the opportunity to qualify for scholarships.

Applications are distributed and then collected by ACPS. The information on all students applying is converted into "on-air" salutes that run daily on WCBC radio sponsored by Chessie FCU. The applications are then forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, who reviews all applications with the names removed to ensure unbiased selection of the FSU scholarship recipients. Juli McCoy, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and Mary Clites, WCBC General Manager, were in attendance to present the awards.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for meeting held on May 10, 2022.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of May 1-31, 2022.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of May 1-31, 2022: Consider approval of FY22 Master Plan for School Facilities; Bid award recommendation for Braddock Middle School elevator addition.
4. Receive monthly financial report.

Recognition of MPSSAA State Championship Winners

Tracey Leonard, ACPS Supervisor of Health, PE and Athletics, recognized the following students as State Championship winners:

- Allegany High School Girls' Softball team
- Avery Miller, Allegany, 800-meter run and long jump
- Mary Delaney, Mountain Ridge, 1600-meter run
- Hannah Custer, Fort Hill, pole vault
- Brooklyn Noel, Fort Hill, triple jump
- Brandi Gochenauer, Allegany, shot put
- Carly Bennet, Fort Hill, discus
- Mountain Ridge High School 4x800 relay team – Reis Howard, Casey Culler, Will Stark, Will Haberlein
- Carter Hess, Fort Hill, discus

FY23 Operating Budget

Mr. Larry McKenzie, ACPS Chief Finance Officer, updated the school board on the FY23 Operating Budget. He noted that there were a few changes from the original budget submission to the County. Unrestricted revenues increased by \$5,549,510. The school board approved staff to move forward with bids that were received for the Mountain Ridge High School weight room and locker room and the field house at Allegany High School. These two projects, including a 3% retainage, are included in the Capital Outlay category for \$4,549,510, and will be funded from the Fund Balance. The other \$1,000,000 in revenues, which was a result of Blueprint funding, is being allocated as follows:

- Mid-level administration - \$100,000
- Transportation - \$500,000
- Instructional equipment - \$400,000

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Second Reading of School Board Administration Policy (File: CF)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to identify how the principal exercises his or her authority in administrative matters related to school personnel and program management.” The policy states, “The school principal shall serve as the chief administrative officer of respective buildings and grounds for the administration of various programs and services within the broad scope of adopted Board policies and state law. The principal shall be responsible for and shall have authority over the actions of students, professional and support staff members, visitors, and persons hired to perform special tasks. All school personnel will work under the direction of the principal in the performance of his or her duties with final approval of the Superintendent of Schools.”

Consider Second Reading of School Climate Policy (File: CFE)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to reaffirm the Board’s position regarding the importance of establishing a school environment conducive to learning.” The policy states “The BOE desires to provide safe, orderly, and caring learning environments in which all students feel comfortable, share the responsibility for maintaining a positive school climate, and take pride in their school and their achievements.”

Consider Second Reading of Student Registered Sex Offenders – Entry on School Property Policy (File: JKCA)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to provide for the education of students who are registered sex offenders in accordance with requirements defined by Maryland Annotate Code §11-722.” The policy states, “A student registered as a sex offender is prohibited from entering onto school property or attending Maryland public schools. Allegany County Public Schools is responsible for providing an education in accordance with state law for students who are registered sex offenders through other methods in a location other than public school property.”

Consider Repealing Administrative Intern Program Policy (File: CJ)

The school board voted to repeal the above policy, whose purpose was “to describe an intern program for people who aspire to a career in school administration.”

Consider Repealing Administrative Consultants Policy (File: CK)

The school board voted to repeal the above policy, whose purpose was “to endorse the use of outside consultants to provide professional assistance or training to staff.”

NEW BUSINESS

Preseason Practice Heat Acclimatization Guidelines for Student Athletes

Mrs. Tracey Leonard updated the school board on preseason practices and heat acclimatization guidelines for student athletes. Each year, high school athletes experience serious injury and even death resulting from heat-related illnesses. The need to dramatically increase awareness of the issue, recognize the symptoms of heat illness, and treatment of suspected cases has become a primary consideration for early season practice routines. The Maryland General Assembly recognized the risk and has provided legislation to address the problem. The document that was created provides Maryland schools with assistance in the formation of heat acclimatization guidelines, which were developed through a collaborative effort of representatives from MSDE, DHMH, local school systems, MPSSAA, MATA, and licensed physicians who treat student athletes. The document addresses the education of coaches, parents, athletic administrators, and student athletes; important definitions; hydration awareness; environmental and non-environmental risk factors; heat acclimatization timeline; and a basic emergency action plan. These guidelines attempt to strike a safe balance between a gradual introduction and assimilation into athletic practice and competition with the need to properly teach safe playing techniques. The mitigation of other serious injuries must be considered in any preseason practice format.

Each school system is encouraged to carefully consider this model policy when formulating specific guidelines for acclimatization of athletes to warm weather conditions. Resources for all sections of this document may be found on the Health and Safety page of www.MPSSAA.org. The school board voted to adopt and approve the guidelines set forth in the document.

Consider Approval of FY23 Operating Budget

The school board voted unanimously to approve the FY23 Operating Budget to include the amendments presented by Mr. McKenzie in earlier meeting updates.

Consider Approval of Special Education Staffing Plan for FY23

Mrs. Debbie Metheny, ACPS Supervisor of Special Education, updated the school board on the FY 2023 Special Education Staffing Plan. The plan was developed with the goals and objectives of the Allegany County Master Plan in mind, and the components have been publicly discussed as part of the budgetary process. ACPS has not used federal special education funds to reduce the level of expenditures from local funds for the education of students with disabilities. ACPS, through its fiscal expenditures, will meet the criteria established in IDEA concerning Maintenance of Effort. The local application for federal funds is the single grant mechanism through which each jurisdiction receives funds from Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to support the local school system and public agencies' special education programs and services. These funds are as follows:

- State Grant Pass-Through: \$2,244,238 (PPSS \$38,200)
- Local Implementation for Results: \$232,439
- Special Education Advisory Committee: \$2,500
- Preschool Passthrough 1.0 Classroom Teachers: \$75,415 (PPSS \$527)
- Family Partnership: \$16,000
- Infants and Toddlers: \$282,831

ACPS has 1,242 students receiving special education services. ACPS attempts to maintain a ratio of one teacher to every 12-15 students. Related services are provided by both full-time and contracted personnel. There are currently 431 students receiving OT and 268 students receiving PT. ACPS attempts to maintain speech therapist caseloads at approximately 50 students per therapist. Currently, there are 710 students receiving speech therapy. The special education department will employ the following providers at the beginning of the school year: teaching positions, 87.4 (increase of 1); full-time IAs, 91; part-time IAs, 37 (increase of 7); related service providers, 27.4; and SEFs and specialists, 25.2 (increase of one grant-funded position.) Finally, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future funds will be used for 10 teaching and specialists (increase of 3) and 10 IAs (increase of 4). The school board voted to approve the FY 2023 Special Education Staffing Plan.

Consider Approval of Bid for Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Services Contract for 2022-2023 School Year

Per the MSDE approved bidding procedure, a notice of bid was placed in the paper and appeared on the school system's website, and was on Maryland Marketplace. Eleven companies submitted a bid on time and were considered an eligible bidder. A committee reviewed the bid, and only four of the eleven companies had the staff necessary to fulfill the contract. The committee recommended that the OT/PT contract for the 2022-2023 school year be awarded to School Therapy Services, who was the lowest qualified bidder. The school board approved this bid award.

Consider Approval of Bid for Interpreter for Individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing for FY23

Per the MSDE approved bidding procedure, a notice of bid was placed in the paper and appeared on the school system's website, and was on Maryland Marketplace. Six companies submitted a bid on time and were considered an eligible bidder. A committee reviewed the bid, and recommended that the Interpreter for Individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing contract for the 2022-2023 school year be awarded to Deafnet, who was the lowest qualified bidder. The school board approved this bid award.

Consider First Reading of Non-Instructional Support Services Policy (File: EA)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to establish that non-instructional support services are essential to a successful school system." The policy states "The BOE recognizes that non-instructional support services are essential to the educational function of the school system. The Board expects non-instructional support services to maintain high standards of safety, to promote the health of pupils and staff, to reflect the aspirations of the community, and to support environmentally the efforts of the staff to provide good instruction."

Consider Regulation Review of Student Registered Sex Offenders – Entry on School Property Policy (File: JKCA)

The school board reviewed the regulations for the above policy, which was approved on second reading under Unfinished Business.

Consider First Reading of Audits Policy (File: DIE)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to identify audits required by law and by the Board." The policy states, "The Board shall provide for one annual audit of its financial transactions and accounts. Specific mandated audits from other government agencies will be conducted as required. The annual audit shall be made by a CPA or a partnership of CPAs who are enrolled for practice by the State Board of Public Accountancy and approved by the State Superintendent. The annual audit shall be made in accordance with the standards and regulations adopted by the Maryland State BOE. The results of the annual audit are a matter of public record and shall be reported within three months after the close of the fiscal year for the county board to the State Superintendent and the county fiscal authority on the form and in the matter required by the State Board."

Vote to Meet in Executive Session August 9, 2022, as Necessary

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The time and location of the meeting is TBD. Please note that there will not be a public meeting in July.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES***Mrs. Deb Frank***

Mrs. Frank reminded everyone that the Primary Election Day is July 19, 2022, and there are seven candidates running for the school board for three open seats. After the primary election, those seven will be reduced to six candidates who will move on to the General Election in November. Mrs. Frank encouraged everyone to learn about the candidates and to remember to get out an vote.

Mr. Bob Farrell

Mr. Farrell wished all of the students and teachers well and congratulated them on a successful school year. He looks forward to seeing everyone back for the 2022-2023 school year in the fall.

Mrs. Tammy Fraley

Mrs. Fraley encouraged everyone to review a press release on the accomplishments of the Class of 2022 (see below), and noted that she was extremely proud of the students in ACPS and is looking forward to continuing to make strides in closing achievement gaps resulting from COVID.

CLASS OF 2022 PRESS RELEASE: The Allegany County Public School System is proud to announce that students in the graduating Class of 2022 have been accepted to 37 different colleges, universities, and technical schools across the country. Of the 622 graduates, 228 of them have chosen to continue their studies locally at either Allegany College of Maryland or Frostburg State University. In addition, 223 graduates were offered a total of \$6,240,281 in merit, athletic, academic and senatorial scholarships. The list of colleges, universities, and technical schools graduates of the Class of 2022 will be attending in the fall is as follows:

- Allegany College of Maryland
- Arizona State University Tempe Campus
- Austin Peay State University
- Coastal Carolina University
- Duke University
- Edward Waters University
- Frostburg State University
- Garrett Community College
- Geneva College
- Hagerstown Community College
- High Point University
- Hobart College
- Hood College
- Howard University
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Milligan University
- Miracosta College
- Morgantown Beauty School
- Mount Saint Mary's University
- Penn State University
- Pennsylvania College of Technology
- Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics
- Potomac State College of WVU
- Randolph-Macon College
- Slippery Rock University
- The Temple Paul Mitchell
- Towson University
- University of Delaware
- University of Maryland College Park
- University of Maryland Baltimore County
- University of Northern Ohio
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Pittsburgh Johnstown
- University of South Florida
- Virginia Tech University
- Waynesburg University
- West Virginia University