

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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Board of Education

Mr. Nicholas Hadley, President
Dr. Edward Root, VP
Mrs. Laurie Marchini
Ms. Sara-Beth James
Mr. Wayne Foote
Ms. Jenna Puffinburger, SMOB
Dr. David Cox, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Enrollment Update

Dr. Cox updated the school board on ACPS enrollment. While the school system is not in the position to give an official September 30th enrollment figure, the preliminary count, based on the best information available at the present time, is 8,813 students. This number is down only slightly from last year; however, these figures tend to fluctuate slightly from year to year. The official count will be known after the Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) considers those students in the system with partial schedules.

Dr. Cox noted that the kindergarten and first grade enrollment figures this year are higher than those for the junior and senior classes, which is indicative of where enrollment growth is occurring. Historically, when using the cohort survival method to project enrollment, numbers tend to remain steady within cohorts. The likelihood is very good that the kindergarten and first grade figures this year will be very similar when these cohorts reach their junior and senior years of high school.

The official ACPS enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year will be reported at the November meeting.

Report from Annual MABE Conference

Dr. Cox, Dr. Root, Laurie Marchini and Gary Hanna attended the annual Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) conference in Ocean City, MD, at the end of September. All attendees agreed that the event was filled with good information and was an opportunity to network and share best practices with colleagues from across the state. The keynote speaker, Thomas El, spoke on the importance of engaging all students to help them reach their full

potential. Board members also participated in workshops ranging in topics from educational law, to legislative advocacy, to effective governance and leadership.

WORK SESSION NOTABLES

Maintenance and Construction Update

ACPS Director of Facilities, Vince Montana, updated the school board on various ongoing or upcoming maintenance and construction projects. They are as follows:

- **Braddock Roof Replacement Project:** Bids were received on October 7th. Staff is in the process of reviewing those bids and will make a recommendation to the board for contract award in the near future.
- **Frost Roof Replacement:** Funds for this project will be deferred, and the project will be resubmitted as an aging schools project for FY 2017. State approval was granted to install single ply EPDM roof, which will significantly reduce the cost of the project.
- **South Penn Chiller:** Staff will submit the project to replace the chiller under aging school funds for FY 2016. The air conditioner for the school expired in April, and staff has been cooling the school with a rental unit since then.

Allegany High School Project Update

Bids for the Allegany High School Replacement Project were received on September 2, 2015. All five of the bids that were submitted exceeded the available funding for the project, which is \$35.2 million. The low base bid was \$46,974,000 and ranged to \$49,492,000. The school board worked to include add-alternate bid options to further reduce the project cost. The auditorium, one bank of classrooms (nine classrooms) and the athletic fields, and several other items were bid separate from the base bid. The bids received for the nine classrooms ranged from \$1,162,000 to \$1,470,000, and the bids received for the auditorium ranged from \$4,925,000 to \$5,678,000.

The state approved scope of work for FY 2014, at a 93/7 funding formula, was for projected enrollment of 719 students, \$240.80 approved cost per square foot, and a state eligible square footage of 115,440. Total approved state funding is \$26,776,377. The state approved scope of work for FY 2017, at an 83/17 funding formula, is for a projected enrollment of 782 students, \$335.53 approved cost per square foot, and a state eligible square footage of 125,520. The total estimated range of state funding is \$35.8 million to \$36.7 million.

The options available to the school board for the project to proceed are as follows:

1. Cancel the project
2. Post-bid addendum; negotiated award after unsatisfactory competitive sealed bidding

WORK SESSION NOTABLES CONT.

3. Changes to the maximum state construction allocation
4. Rescind funding approval and submit new request

At the recommendation of the Public School Construction Program procedures, the school board voted to authorize staff and design consultants to issue a post-bid addendum and request new bids from the five original bidders based on that addendum. Currently, staff is gathering cost-cutting suggestions from the original bidders. Additionally, in order to receive increased funding, the school board would need to request to rescind the original approved project, and this requires a letter of support from County Government. The school board also voted to authorize Dr. Cox to draft a letter requesting this support and they will vote to consider rescinding the original project at their November meeting.

While the school board would lose the state allocation of 93/7 for FY 2014, it would still receive more funding from the state under the FY 2017 formula of 83/17 as the result of increased cost per square footage and increased enrollment projections.

PARCC Updates

Marsha Miller, ACPS Coordinator of Accountability and Assessments, updated the school board on PARCC. This is the first year of results for the new assessments, so the scores will set a new baseline for academic growth and will allow systems to measure growth in the coming years. Since PARCC is new, the first assessment designed specifically to evaluate progress toward new standards, there is no drop in scores on a test that was never given before. Nor is there any statistical basis to compare these scores with other test scores.

Maryland relied heavily on the judgment of teachers, principals, higher education experts and other educators to determine PARCC scores. More than 200 educators, 25 of which were from Maryland, participated in a rigorous, extensive process examining each test item and judging how well students would perform on that item. They also looked at results from similar assessments to determine the right score to represent each of the five performance levels.

Districts will receive PARCC high school data in October; state and district level results will be announced publicly at the October 27th meeting of the State Board of Education. Districts will receive PARCC elementary and middle school data in November; state and district level results will be announced publicly at the December 8th meeting of the State Board of Education. It is estimated that high school reports will reach households in early to mid December, and elementary and middle school student score reports will reach household no later than early January.

Ms. Miller also updated the school board on PARCC Parent Score Reports. Key information provided on the score reports includes overall student performance, a score graph, score comparisons, reading and writing performance, detailed breakdowns, and explanatory icons. These score reports can be used by parents to begin discussions with teachers about a student's academic strengths and areas for improvement. The score report is outlined in greater detail at www.understandthescore.org.

Outdoor School Update

Mr. Michael McGowan, Supervisor of Elementary Education, updated the school board on the annual fifth grade residential outdoor school program held at the 4-H Center in Garrett County, Maryland. This year, more than 600 students participated with the help of 134 full-time parent volunteers. During the weeklong program, students have lessons in science, social studies, math and English; participate in orienteering and the use of handheld GPSs; take a nature hike, a bog hike, and a beaver hike; canoe and fish on the lake; and have evening campfires and programs. Mr. McGowan showed the school board a picture montage of what a typical week looks like at outdoor school and thanked them for funding the program.

Math Coaching for Approaching Target Schools

Mr. John Logsdon, Supervisor of Federal Programs, updated the school board on math coaching for approaching target schools. Target schools are those schools that need extra assistance in math, as determined by MSA subgroup scores. Mr. Logsdon, along with school principals, developed programs tailored to the needs of each respective school's student and teacher population. The goals of the programs were to build a safe learning environment where students take risks to share their ideas and strategies to build a deeper mathematical understanding and where teachers use high-level cognitive demand tasks to promote thinking and reasoning in communication among students.

Standards for mathematical practice that students experience with math solutions and coaches include making sense of problems and persevering in solving them; reasoning abstractly and quantitatively; constructing viable arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others; modeling with math; using appropriate tools strategically; attending to precision; looking for and making use of structure; and looking for and expressing regularity in repeated reasoning.

MSDE discontinued funding this program; however, Title I and professional development funds will be used to continue this program so that all elementary students and teachers will

have the math solutions and coaching experience by the end of this school year.

Energy Update

Steve Lewis, ACPS Energy Coordinator, updated the school board on the system’s energy management program. The program’s primary goals include eliminating energy waste, saving dollars, and maintaining comfort in occupied areas. The school system’s primary heating sources include electric, heating oil, coal, and natural gas. This year, ACPS realized 20% cost avoidance, which are the dollars that the school system avoided spending due to the implementation of an energy management program. The cumulative cost savings, as of June 2015, for the school system was \$6,232,373.

Athletic Trainer

Mr. Lewis also updated the school board on the ACPS athletic trainer pilot at Fort Hill High School. The objective of the athletic training program is to provide the highest level of service to student athletes. This includes the education, prevention, care and rehabilitation of athletic injuries as well as helping to direct the nutritional, physiological and psychological needs of the athlete. The care provided by the certified athletic trainer will be delivered with objectivity and a conscientious blend of concern for the healing of the athlete’s body and mind.

Trey Staley is the athletic trainer at Fort Hill this year. He, with the consultation and direction of physicians, is an integral part of the health care system associated with physical activity and interscholastic sports. Trey has the full responsibility for the operational procedures of the athletic training room. His responsibilities include, but are not limited to: prevention; evaluation and assessment; immediate care; treatment, rehabilitation and recognition; organization and administration; and professional development.

Mr. Lewis also updated the school board on the revised concussion/probable head injury protocol and school recommendations following a concussion. Students should return to academics with support and guidance from the community medical provider in collaboration with the Concussion Management Team (CMT). The CMT has the responsibility to implement, monitor, and adjust the student’s individualized return to academics plan.

Policy Regulations

- **Staff Ethics (File: GBEA-R1):**
The school board was updated on the regulations to the above policy, whose purpose is “to identify ethical principals to guide the behavior of employees.” The policy states that “In recognition that the conduct of its employees is viewed and appraised by colleagues, students and the community, the Board of Education of Allegany County acknowledges the need for each person in the school system to accept responsibility for maintaining exemplary standards of professional conduct.” Any employee who is found to have violated set codes of ethics may be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures.
- **Eligibility – Minimum Standards for Participating in Athletics (File: JJIC-R1):**
The school board was updated on the regulations to the above policy, whose purpose is “to express the academic and conduct standards for student athletes.” The policy states “Participation in athletics is regarded as an important privilege for students. Participation in such activities support students’ personal growth and achievement. It also gives students the opportunity to be representatives of



CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for September 8, 2015, Work Session and September 8, 2015, Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of September 1-30, 2015.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for period of September 1-30, 2015.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of September 1-30, 2015.
5. Approve Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for School Facilities

The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss at this meeting.

Policy Regulations Cont.

their schools. Therefore, students who desire to participate in athletics shall be expected and required to meet minimum standards. Failure to meet minimum academic standards and conduct standards will result in a student losing the privilege of athletic participation.”

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Accepting FY2015 Audit Report from Huber, Michaels & Company

The school board voted to accept the FY2015 audit report from Huber, Michaels and Company, who issued an unmodified opinion that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial condition of the organization.

Mr. Huber reviewed several areas of the audit, including the Statement of Net Position, the Statement of Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances, the Statement of Net Position for Proprietary Funds, the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for Proprietary Funds, the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position, the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position, the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Budget and Actual, School Activities Fund, and the Stadium Fund.

Mr. Randall Bittinger, Chief Business Officer, noted one highlight of this year's audit – the school board didn't have to use \$1.6 million dollars of its fund balance to balance this year's budget thanks to strong expenditure control. Every category, from administration to special education, came in under budget.

The finance department places the financial audit, as well as the operating budget, special presentation and other financial information on the school system's website for public viewing and can be accessed at www.acpsmd.org under the Finance Department link.

Recommendation for New Allegany High School Project Bids

The school board voted to authorize staff and design consultants to issue a post-bid addendum and request new bids from the five original bidders based on that addendum. The school board also voted to authorize the Superintendent to draft a letter to the County Commissioners asking for their support to rescind the original approved project.

Vote to Meet in Executive Session in November

The school board voted to meet in an Executive Session on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, pending any appeals or unfinished business.

CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS

There were no constituents sign up to speak at either the work session or the business meeting.

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenna Puffinburger, Student Member of the Board

Jenna informed the school board that the Allegany County Association of Student Councils (ACASC) held its first general assembly on September 23rd at Rocky Gap. Students rotated through workshops and participated in a variety of leadership activities. Jenna facilitated a Student Member of the Board workshop that was very successful. Two students even expressed interested in the position for next year. There was also a good amount of positive feedback from students on this year's teachers and staffing. At the next ACASC executive board meeting, Jenna plans to update members on current issues within the school system, including the Allegany High School Replacement Project.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Work Session and Business Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively.