

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### *Present Proclamation Recognizing American Education Week and Education Support Professionals Day*

The school board presented a proclamation to John Reuschlein, President of ACEA, recognizing November 16-20, 2015, as the 94<sup>th</sup> observance of American Education Week, and November 18, 2015, as Education Support Professionals Day.

The proclamation stated, "Public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality. By equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future. Education employees, be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians, work tirelessly to serve children and communities with care and professionalism. Schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise."

### *Recognize Danny Carter for being nominated for AEMS Arts Leadership Award*

Danny Carter, principal at Braddock Middle School, was honored by the school board for being nominated for the 2015 Alvin and Louise Myerberg Arts Leadership Recognition Award. Mr. Carter has prioritized the need for students to have access to meaningful arts-rich experiences, and he utilizes professional artists from the community to assist with drama and musical performances, broadening the students' horizons. Speaking on Mr. Carter's behalf was Brooke Weslow, art teacher at Braddock.

### *Enrollment Update*

Dr. Cox gave the school board an enrollment comparison between last year and this year. Overall, ACPS has 8,812 students enrolled; however, the Maryland State Department of Education does not fund pre-k students. This year ACPS has enrolled 495 pre-k students. Additionally, part-time and/or dually enrolled students count for one full time equivalent (FTE) if they are taking four or more courses - .25 FTE for one class; .5 FTE for two classes; .75 FTE for three classes. This year, ACPS has 30.25 part-time or dually enrolled students. Therefore, the paid FTE for the 2015-2016 school year is 8,283.75 students, down 49 FTE students from last year.

### *Present FY 2016 Budget Calendar*

Mr. Randy Bittinger, Chief Business Officer, updated the school board on the tentative budget calendar for FY 2017. This calendar is as follows:

- **December 4, 2015-** Superintendent and chief officers determine basic budget parameters; budget requests received from chiefs, directors, supervisors, and principals to the finance office.
- **January 4, 2016-** Superintendent's senior staff prioritizes budget requests.
- **January 13, 2016-** General Assembly Session begins
- **January 22, 2016-** Revenue estimates in from State of Maryland
- **February 2016-** Special budget requests distributed to BOE
- **February 9, 2016-** Present preliminary State Aid estimates at work session; present preliminary superintendent's budget concepts

## 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

- **March 4, 2016-** Present superintendent's budget to BOE and public
- **March 8, 2016-** BOE votes on request to County Government
- **March 17, 2016-** BOE presents request to County Commissioners
- **April 11, 2016-** General Assembly ends – 90-day period; County Government releases preliminary budget
- **May 2016-** County Government releases five-year CIP budget
- **June 2016-** County Government adopts budget and sends letter to BOE; Superintendent recommends final budget adjustments; BOE adopts final budget; adjustments on BOE budget due to County Government; County Commissioners approve final adjustment to BOE budget

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss at this meeting.

## CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS

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

# 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:

- **Allegany High School:** The architect has begun updating the plans and specifications to reflect the value engineering items identified for the project. Staff will meet with the architect, county staff, and Allegany's principal to discuss the proposed changes to the plan. Staff has submitted the revised request forms to IAC staff for review.
- **Lighting Retrofit Program:** ACPS has received the lighting rebates from Potomac Edison for eleven of the twelve projects.
- **CIP 2017:** Staff will submit the revisions to the IAC November 11<sup>th</sup>, and the appeal will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Braddock Roof Replacement:** Staff has submitted the Request for Contract Approval to the IAC.
- **Frost Roof Replacement:** Staff will request funding for the project as an FY 2017 ASP project.
- **South Penn A/C:** Staff has submitted the project to the IAC for funding as an FY 2016 ASP.
- **Westernport Stairs:** The work to replace the concrete stairs at the front of the school is complete, and new handrails were fabricated and installed.
- **Fort Hill and Washington:** Maintenance department staff worked with the ACPS Supervisor of Science and school staffs to prepare sites at both schools for planting American chestnut trees as part of a program sponsored by the Maryland Sea Grant College of the University of Maryland.

## ***PARCC Update***

Marsha Miller, ACPS Accountability Coordinator, updated the school board on the initial PARCC scores recently released for the high school level. This data sets a new baseline that will help to determine if students are on track to graduate ready for college or careers.

Nearly 24% of high school students taking the PARCC Algebra I assessment last spring scored at a Level 4 and 5 combined – the two highest levels on the PARCC five-point score scale. More than 48% scored at Levels 3 through 5 combined. For high school students, achieving Level 4 or 5 indicates readiness for college and is intended to help students avoid the need to take additional coursework before taking credit-bearing courses beyond high school. The scores required to meet these thresholds were determined over the summer by Maryland educators and their peers around the country.

English 10 and Algebra II scores were also released. Over 17% of students taking the English 10 test scored at a Level 4 and 5 combined, while nearly 6% reached those Levels in Algebra II, the first-ever Algebra II test in the State.

Ms. Miller stressed that ACPS cannot compare the PARCC results with any other test that has been administered in the State, including MSA and MSPAP, because this is a new test with new baseline data based on Maryland's College and Career Ready Standards. These standards set the bar higher for student learning. These tests go beyond "fill in the blank" questions and emphasize that students demonstrate critical thinking, problem solving, clear writing and real world application. PARCC uses a five-point score set by Maryland and other PARCC educators:

- Level 5 – Exceeded Expectations
- Level 4 – Met Expectations
- Level 3 – Approached Expectations
- Level 2 – Partially Met Expectations
- Level 1 – Did not Yet Meet Expectations

Future PARCC test results will be available sooner as more students are assessed online. 100% of students in Allegany County took online assessments during the PARCC administration last year. During the Maryland State Board of Education meeting on December 8, 2015, MSDE will release grades 3-8 PARCC data, and this data will subsequently be posted on the MD Report Card website, [www.mdreportcard.org](http://www.mdreportcard.org).

## ***Maryland Assessment Report***

Dr. Kim Green, Chief Academic Officer, updated the school board on the commission to review assessments and testing in Maryland. HB 452 requires a commission to make recommendations regarding how local school systems and the State can improve the process in which local, State and federally mandated assessments are administered. MSDE is required to survey and assess how much time is spent in each grade and in each local school system on administering local, State and federally mandated assessments. MSDE is also required to compile the results of the survey into documents that are consistent across local school systems and grade levels.

The survey covers federal, State and local assessments that are mandated for all children in a grade level or a specific course or discipline. HB 452 excluded teacher-developed quizzes or tests from the definition of assessment. MSDE developed common understandings of the questions in HB 452.

A blank survey was sent to each school district. ACPS provided a narrative and responded to the survey questions. Then MSDE survey teams visited ACPS staff in July, after which time local

districts reviewed narrative and surveys for a second time in August. By November 30<sup>th</sup>, local school boards are to review and consider the MSDE survey and make comments and recommendations. The State Board will review and consider the survey and make comments and recommendations on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The survey will subsequently be submitted to the General Assembly.

The commission will report to the State Board, each local board and the General Assembly on its findings and recommendations in July 2016. Local school boards will review and consider these findings and recommendations and make comments as to whether they accept or reject them in September 2016. The State Board will review and consider the findings and recommendations and make comments as to whether they accept or reject them in October 2016. Finally, the State Board will submit this compilation to the Governor and the General Assembly.

**Legislative Priorities – Discussion**

Dr. Cox shared with the school board a draft of the Allegany and Garrett Counties 2016 Legislative Session Core Values and Priorities. They are as follows:

- **Adequate and Equitable State Funding:** equity in funding; Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers (BOAST) Tax Credit; a commission on education finance, equity and excellence should be established and subsequent legislation supported; disparity grants; Maintenance of Effort; adequate state funding to improve school buildings; the exploration of a new funding mechanism should be explored for public school construction; further increases in the transfer of pension costs; teacher retirement supplemental grants; net taxable income adjustments; fund pre-kindergarten.
- **Local Control:** continued governance authority for local Boards of Education to set educational policy and school budgets; charter schools; labor relations board; free and appropriate education – burden of proof; school calendar; mandated post-Labor Day start; mandated start time for the school day; assessments.
- **Mandates Should be Limited and Fully-Funded by the State**
- **Additional Consideration**

The Boards of Education from both Allegany and Garrett Counties have scheduled a legislative breakfast with the Western Maryland Delegation on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, at Northern Middle School to discuss these core values and priorities.

**Policy Regulations**

- **Directory Information (File: JRB-R1):**  
The school board was updated on the regulations to the above policy, whose purpose is “to ensure distribution of directory information in accordance with existing laws.” The policy states “ACPS will disclose personally identifiable information only on condition that the party to whom disclosure is made will not disclose the information to any other party without prior written consent of the parent or eligible student. Allegany County Public Schools will seek assurance that disclosed information will be destroyed after the use for which it was intended.”
- **Automated External Defibrillator (File: JLCEC-R1):**  
The school board was updated on the regulations to the above policy, whose purpose is “to provide procedures in the operation and use of automated external defibrillators (AED) in the event of a cardiac arrest emergency.” The policy

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approve minutes for October 12, 2015, Work Session and October 13, 2015, Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of October 1-31, 2015.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for period of October 1-31, 2015.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of October 1-31, 2015.
5. Approve professional service agreement between the Board of Education and Footprints to Hope Behavioral Health Services.

The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

**Policy Regulations Cont.**

states “ACPS recognizes the need to develop and implement an AED program for each of its schools as prescribed in Section 13-517 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and COMAR 13A.05.10. ACPS will comply with the Maryland Medical Services Systems requirements Annotated Code requirements and COMAR requirements for the implementation and maintenance of the AED program.”

# NEW BUSINESS

## ***ACPS Capital Improvement Projects***

- ***Approve Contract Award for Braddock Roof Replacement***

The ACPS Facilities Department received bids for this project on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The project specifications asked for an alternate cost for the installation of a “cold applied” built-up roof. This process will greatly reduce the asphalt fumes which are unavoidable using the “hot applied” roofing. Hot asphalt will only be used to adhere the insulation to the roof deck. The school board approved the contract award, at the recommendation of ACPS staff and the design consultant, to Hite Roofing of Cumberland for a total cost of \$1,246,000.

- ***Approve a Property Easement for the Allegany County Department of Public Works to Install Waterline at Career Center***

In June, the Allegany County Department of Public Works, Utilities Division, requested that the BOE consider granting the County a utilities easement at the Career Center. This easement will allow for the installation and maintenance of an 8” water line from the southeast side of McMullen Highway to Amcelle Street to create a main line loop for the water system.

After review of the plans, ACPS staff requested that the easement be moved south approximately 30’ to allow for the possible future expansion of the entrance to the CCTE academic building and a separate driveway for the bus garage. The County has also agreed to install two fire hydrants as part of the project, one near the academic building and one near the bus garage. The school board approved the easement for installation of the water line.

- ***Approve Amendments to FY 2017 CIP to Reflect the Rescission of and New Request for Allegany High School Project***

The school board approved the FY 2017 Capital Improvements Program revisions to reflect their decision to rescind the previously approved Allegany High School Replacement project. The amended project request will now reflect the most recent IAC approved cost per square foot allowance, the increased site improvement allowance and the increased enrollment projections. These changes, pending IAC endorsement, will potentially increase the State participation from \$26,776,000 to \$36,691,000.

## ***2015-2016 Board and Superintendent Goals***

The school board approved the 2015-2016 goals, which are as follows:

- Increase learner engagement and rigor at all levels
- Ensure the well-being and safety of students through nutrition, physical activity, and healthy relationships
- Support the growth and development of instructional leadership capacity, especially focusing on the secondary schools
- Support and promote the growth and development in the use of technology of professional staff
- Increase efficiencies of operating the school system
- Support the Allegany High School Replacement project
- Enhance communication with professional staff to support change and initiatives
- Continue work to improve school attendance in order to maintain or exceed the required 94% mark

## ***Consider First Reading of Policy for Directory Information (File: JRB)***

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to permit distribution of directory information in accordance with existing laws.”

The policy states, “Allegany County Public Schools will disclose designated ‘directory information’ without written consent, unless parents/guardians have advised the school district to the contrary in writing by September 30<sup>th</sup> each school year. Directory information may include: name, address, telephone listing, e-mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees/honors/awards received or institution attended, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

# NEW BUSINESS CONT.

## ***Vote to Meet in Executive Session in December***

The school board voted to meet in an Executive Session on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, pending any appeals or unfinished business.

## **REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Dr. David Cox, State Superintendent of the Year***

The school board publicly congratulated Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David Cox, for being named 2016 Maryland State Superintendent of the Year by The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM). Dr. Cox will now go on to represent Maryland in the 2016 National Superintendent of the Year program, which is coordinated by the American Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Cox is currently serving in his seventh year as Superintendent of Allegany County Public Schools. He was appointed to a four-year term beginning July 1, 2009, and was reappointed to a second four-year term beginning July 1, 2013. A committee of his peers made the selection of the Superintendent of the Year. Cox is the first Allegany County superintendent to receive this award.

The members of the elected Board of Education of Allegany County as well as former ACPS Chief Academic Officer and current superintendent of Garrett County Public Schools, Dr. Janet Wilson, nominated Cox for the award.

### ***Allegany High School Band Award***

Dr. Cox congratulated the Allegany High School Band for their performance at the Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championships. They finished in second place overall in Group II Open with a record school high score of 97.15. The school's color guard also earned the title, for the third consecutive time, as Best Color Guard.

The school board also wished all teams competing in playoff events good luck in their respective sports.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Work Session and Business Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively.