

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### ***Recognize 2015 International Spirit Award Recipient***

The school board recognized one of West Side Elementary School's Partial Chinese Immersion program teachers, Ms. Fan Qin, for being the recipient of the International Teacher Exchange Services (ITES) Spirit Award for her outstanding contributions to International Education Week.

Ms. Qin was successful in bringing the world into her classroom in a fun and creative way, engaging her students in activities to promote learning about her country, culture and customs. Ms. Qin is the assistant/guest teacher for West Side's second and third grade Chinese Immersion program students.

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State designed to promote programs that prepare American students for the global environment. The Spirit Award, sponsored by ITES, challenges teachers to bring the world into their classrooms with creativity and student engagement.

Ms. Qin received \$500 for herself as well as \$500 for West Side for her ongoing dedication to students.

### ***Recognize Fort Hill High School Football Team as Maryland Class 1A Champions***

The school board recognized Fort Hill High School's varsity football team for making history through achieving the third consecutive Class 1A Maryland State Football Championship for the 2015 season.

The team defeated Havre de Grace on December 5, 2015, at the championship game in Baltimore, MD, by a score of

44-14. Fort Hill's head coach is Todd Appel with assistant coaches Rich Shook, Shaun Lewis, Rusty Swarner, Jerry Meeks, Jeff Brode, John McKenney, Shane Steckman, Carson Stewart, Zack Alkire, Scott Rice, Jaleel Moore and Gavin Palumbo.

The school board also recognized Brayden Brown and Brayden Conley for receiving the Homecoming Offensive Player of the Game and Defense Player of the Game, respectively.

### ***Recognize Allegany High School Marching Band as Chapter Champions***

Mr. Jeff Avey, ACPS Coordinator of Fine Arts, recognized the Allegany High School marching band, under the direction of Larry Jackson, for winning their 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive Chapter 5 Championship. Chapter 5 consists of all of western and central Maryland, the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, and northern Virginia. Allegany has won this competition a total of nineteen of the last 21 years. In addition, Mr. Avey commended the band for competing in the Atlantic Coast Championship, and while placing second, achieving their all-time high score of 97.15 out of 100.

### ***Recognize Allegany High School Color Guard as Best Color Guard***

Mr. Avey also recognized the Allegany High School Color Guard, under the direction of Matt Stoops, for earning the title of Best Color Guard in Group II for the third consecutive year at the Atlantic Coast Championship. Last year was the first time that a color guard in Maryland ever repeated as Best Color Guard. The group earned a high score of 19.7 out of 20.

## Board of Education

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for December 8, 2015, Work Session and December 8, 2015, Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of December 1-31, 2015.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for period of December 1-31, 2015.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of December 1-31, 2015.
5. Approve new bus contractor, Barnes Bus Service.

The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

# WORK SESSION NOTABLES

## *Election of Officers*

Dr. Edward Root was elected to serve as the new President of the Board of Education, and Laurie Marchini was elected to serve as the Vice-President of the Board of Education. Both members will serve in their respective capacities for one year.

## *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 Campus: The contractor has completed all of the work and documentation. The project is now complete. Staff will continue to monitor the storm water system as required by the Maryland Department of the Environment until the construction of the school begins.
- Allegany High School: The architect is completing the revised drawings and specifications. The documents will be available to the original bidders on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The revised bids are due on February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- CIP 2017: Staff will appear at the BPW meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> to request full funding for the Allegany and Mt. Savage projects.
- Braddock Roof Replacement: The contracts have been issued, and the contractor has submitted information for the products to be used on the project. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled next month.
- Frost Roof Replacement: The architect is completing the revised drawings for the roof. The roofing material will be changed to single-ply system. This will reduce the project cost to an amount close to the available state funds.
- Mt. Savage Roof Replacement: Phase II of the project was requested as part of the FY 2017 Capital Improvements Program. To date, the project has not been approved by the State. The architect is preparing the plans and specifications, which will be submitted to the State for review as soon as possible.
- Miscellaneous: Staff is working with the engineer to complete the bid documents for the South Penn A/C. These will be submitted to the IAC for review; Maintenance and Operations staff have refinished the stage floor surface at Braddock; The main sanitary sewer line at Fort Hill from the gym wing was replaced by Maintenance staff due to frequent service interruptions; Plans are being made to convert two classrooms at Washington into Active Learning Labs. The work in the rooms should be completed by the end of January; Maintenance Department crews have been concentrating on making repairs to the heating systems, including replacement of a condensate return

line in the steam tunnel under Parkside.

## *PARCC Update*

Marsha Miller, ACPS Coordinator of Accountability, updated the school board on PARCC assessments. Middle and high school home reports were mailed for ELA and math in grades 5-8 and for algebra I and English 2. Home reports at the elementary level were sent home with students in take-home folders for ELA and math in grades four and five.

The HSA in biology and government is currently being administered. The next test administration will be the MSA science, in March. In the meantime, teachers and staff are preparing for PARCC assessments, which will begin after the science MSA. Personal Needs Profiles, which identify students needing accessibility features (for all students) or accommodations (for students with and IEP, 504 and/or ELL), are being developed. Administrators are also conducting infrastructure trials to ensure that all schools are ready for testing.

Practice tests are also available online for students for ELA and math in grades 3-8 and in the content areas of algebra I and II, geometry, and I English 10 and English 11. These practice tests provide teachers with answer keys and have available a text-to-speech audio feature. Reports are also available for students to print their answers to help with future preparations. Other features of the PARCC practice tests include eliminate answer, color contrast, magnifier, line reader masking tool, notepad and highlighting tool. Ms. Miller also showed school board members examples of the online PARCC practice tests and explained a new TestNav app, which is the application that students utilize to take a PARCC test, now available for ACPS computers.

There are also a number of website resources available for parents on the MSDE website, which can be accessed via the ACPS website on the parent resources tab. One resource in particular, [www.greatkids.org](http://www.greatkids.org), is especially helpful as it allows parents to concentrate on a particular area of strength or weakness, based on the information received in parent home reports.

Complete PARCC elementary and middle school results for Maryland students will be available at [MdReportCard.org](http://MdReportCard.org).

## *Validation and Early Childhood Advisory Council Update*

Mrs. Dee Blank, ACPS Supervisor of Elementary Education, recognized eight schools for successfully completing the validation process for early learning programs. They are as follows: Beall Elementary School, Flintstone Elementary School, John Humbird Elementary School, Mt. Savage Elementary School, Northeast Elementary School, South Penn

## WORK SESSION NOTABLES CONT.

Elementary School, West Side Elementary School, and George's Creek Elementary School. Mrs. Blank recognized representatives from each of these schools in attendance and extended her gratitude to everyone involved in completing the validating process. Additionally, six additional ACPS schools are currently undergoing the validation process.

Mrs. Blank also updated the school board on the Early Childhood Advisory Council of Allegany County, which is a birth through age five program, comprised mostly of community members in an effort to support children and families so that students enter school fully ready to learn. Dee introduced several members of the Advisory Council's subcommittees, including Michele Walker of the County United Way and the Imagination Library of Allegany County, subcommittee literacy. The Imagination Library was the brainchild of country singer, Dolly Parton, and provides free books on a monthly basis to registered children from birth until their fifth birthday. At any given time in Allegany County, there are approximately 3,500 children in that age bracket, and the program currently has 2,037 registered. To date, a total of 1,046 children have graduated from the program, and a total of 80,095 books have been provided.

Mrs. Deb Kolb, Coordinator of the Judy Centers at Beall and South Penn Elementary Schools, leads the Advisory Council's subcommittee on family engagement and community supports. Her subcommittee provides numerous events and activities for family engagement including Family Literacy Nights and Family Fun Nights. There will be an Open House at the South Penn Judy Center on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Cooking on a Budget on February 3<sup>rd</sup> in South Cumberland; and the Annual School Readiness Fair at the Country Club Mall on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Debbie Metheny heads the Advisory Council's subcommittee on social and emotional foundations. The group's main focus last year was to provide better coordination of mental health services to children age birth to five. The subcommittee developed a brochure that lists all the providers in the area of mental health services for children in that age range and explains to parents how to access those services and what the insurance requirements are. The brochures were distributed to the hospital, the health department, private providers, pediatricians, PPWs and school counselors for ease of access for parents in need of this information. This year the subcommittee will be focusing on parent and provider training. The group has partnered with the Infants and Toddlers program, who received a grant from MSDE to be used for professional development, to bring to Allegany County a doctor from Chicago who will work with local area providers and ACPS staff on the latest research on drug affected newborns and children and how to better manage their behavior. The group is also working to form and train a group of parents to serve as parent mentors that would attend Family Literacy Nights to connect with other parents who may be having difficulties managing their children's behavior.

### ***Youth Engagement Survey Results***

Mrs. Nancy Forlifer, Youth Engagement Survey facilitator, and Melissa Clark, the survey Workgroup Chair, presented the results of the youth engagement survey, Bridges to Opportunity. Allegany County utilized the framework of the Rural Maryland Council, the Upper Shore Regional Council, and the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. Participating schools in the survey included Braddock, Mt. Savage, Washington and Westmar Middle Schools; Allegany, Fort Hill and Mountain Ridge High Schools; and private schools including Calvary Christian Academy, Lighthouse Christian Academy and Bishop Walsh School.

In the fall of 2015, 1,088 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in these schools participated in an online survey to measure their perceptions of their community, future education and career plans, and their desire to live in the local area in the future. The survey was administered in classroom environments with supervision. 48% of survey respondents were seventh graders, and 52% of respondents were ninth graders. Overall, females represented 49.6% and males 50.4% of total survey participants.

The youth focus groups included more than 250 representative middle and high school students. These students worked in small groups to discuss their current likes and dislikes regarding their communities, and their vision for their communities 10-20 years in the future should they stay or return as young adults.

Mrs. Forlifer and Ms. Clark shared the following survey highlight:

- Most students plan to attend college or technical school after high school at 73%.

- Youth are interested in a spectrum of career opportunities, with the most popular options being STEM (32%) and Arts/Broadcasting/Film/Printing/Journalism (32%)
- Youth feelings are mixed about their community providing a good quality of life with 31% rating it as an above average/excellent place to live and 25% as a below average/poor place to live.
- 46% of youth are interested in owning their own business in the future.
- Less than half of youth surveyed would like to live in the local area in the future at 41%.
- Youth are seeing more entertainment and recreation options and jobs.
- Many youth have not been asked for their input, but 75% would volunteer if asked.
- 84% of youth currently have access to high-speed Internet at home.

Results from the survey and focus groups were shared and suggestions for action were discussed. The Youth Engagement Workgroup will be further analyzing the data and following up on next steps. Possible actions are as follows:

- Identify additional resources, especially in gap areas, and promote to youth.
- Encourage and support youth that plan to attend college or technical schools, including financial aid, work experience and life skills.
- Ask youth to volunteer and connect them with civic engagement opportunities.
- Investigate Kids at Hope as a means of promoting future stories for youth.
- Hold focus groups with youth and organization representatives to discuss barriers to participation and strategies for increased engagement.

***Policy Regulation: Prevention of Disease/Infection Transmission (File: EBBA-R1)***

The school board was updated on the above policy, whose purpose is “to prevent the spread of infectious disease.”

The policy states, “All ACPS personnel shall endeavor to provide a sanitary environment and shall establish routines for handling body fluids that are recommended by appropriate health professionals.”

## NEW BUSINESS

***Consider First Reading of Policy for Prevention of Disease/Infection Transmission (File: EBBA)***

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to prevent the spread of infectious disease.”

The regulations to this policy were reviewed at the Work Session.

***Consider Changing the February Meeting Date***

Due to a scheduling conflict, the school board voted to change the date of the February board meeting from Tuesday, February 9, 2016, to Tuesday, February 16, 2016. The Work Session will begin at 5 p.m., and the business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

***Vote to Meet in Executive Session in February***

The school board voted to meet in an Executive Session on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, pending any appeals or unfinished business.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

THERE WAS NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

## CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS

THERE WERE NO CONSTITUENTS SIGNED UP TO SPEAK.

# REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *Ms. Jenna Puffinberger, Student Member of the Board*

Jenna informed the school board that students throughout the county seem to be settling back into a routine after the holiday break. She plans to attend a conference in Crystal City, VA, which is sponsored by the National Association of Student Councils, with various student council representatives and National Honor Society students from across the country. She will report on her experiences at the next school board meeting. Additionally, Jenna serves as the Environmental Affairs Coordinator for the Maryland Association of Student Councils, and as such has implemented “Green Goals of the Month” to provide tips for keeping the environment clean, healthy and safe. January’s theme was Waste and Consumption, and Jenna provided tips for packing a waste-free lunch, suggested using reusable grocery bags while shopping, and encouraged students to donate unwanted clothing or furniture items to a second-hand store to keep them out of landfills.

## *School Board Honors Outgoing President, Nicholas Hadley*

The school board presented Nicholas Hadley with a gavel board as a token of their appreciation for his service to ACPS, specifically his guidance and dedication to strengthen the bond between the community and the school system, as president for 2014-2015.

## NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Work Session and Business Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively. **Please note the date change from the originally scheduled first Tuesday of the month.**