

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

PUBLICATION PREPARED BY: THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

## 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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### ***Recognize February as Black History Month***

The school board presented a proclamation to Bishop Raymond Watkins, a representative of the Local Chapter of the NAACP, in recognition of Black History Month.

The Board of Education is committed to honoring African-Americans and recognizing their contributions to the history and culture of the United States and believes it is important to make African-Americans aware of their appreciation.

### ***Recognize February as Career and Technology Education Month***

The school board presented a proclamation to Candy Canan, principal and supervisor at the Career Center, in recognition of Career and Technical Education Month.

Career and technical education provides Americans with a school-to-careers connection and is the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce, which fosters productivity in business and industry and contributes to America's leadership in the international marketplace.

The everlasting cooperative efforts of career and technical educators, business and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of our local economy and that of the entire nation by preparing graduates for career fields forecast to experience the largest and fastest growth in the next decade.

Career and technical education gives high school students experience in practical, meaningful applications of basic skills such as reading, writing and math, thus improving the quality of their education

and giving all students leadership opportunities in their fields and in their communities.

The school system encourages all citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the career and technical education programs in this community and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual work skills and productivity.

### ***Legislative Update***

Dr. Cox highlighted for the school board several bills at both the federal level and within the General Assembly that could impact education. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has been reauthorized from the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) version to the most current Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Regulations for this act are in the process of being written which will likely return control to state and local districts. This process could take up to two years to complete.

HB 352 would repeal the requirement for school systems to conduct legislative audits. Both the Public Schools Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM) and the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) are in support of this legislation.

Bills being reintroduced again this year and being opposed by PSSAM and MABE include financial literacy, increasing the amount of physical education, and opening schools after Labor Day. While ACPS is in support of financial literacy courses, educators are in opposition of mandates that could interfere with the ability to deliver the program.

Several calendar-related bills being introduced include repealing Easter

Monday, adding Veteran's Day as a public school holiday, and removing the 180-day requirement for schools. These bills are also being opposed by PSSAM and MABE.

There are several proposed changes in special education laws including requiring IEP translation and changing the burden of proof for due process cases for special education placements. There is also legislation being introduced that would require home school students to be allowed to participate in sports, clubs and activities. These bills are also being opposed by PSSAM and MABE.

SB 704 is emergency legislation that would require the State Superintendent to be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate. Current Interim State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jack Smith, has recently accepted a position as Superintendent in Montgomery County. A search is underway for a new state superintendent.

HB 141 would place a 2% cap on federal, state and locally mandated tests, with equates to 21.5 hours per year, and HB 657 would require only a random sampling of students take the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessments (KRA) as opposed to all students.

Dr. Cox also mentioned the BOAST tax bill, a seatbelt bill and a food and nutrition bill.

### ***Calendar Update***

Dr. Cox updated the school board on delays, closures and early dismissals, to-date, for the 2015-2016 school year.

ACPS has had two system wide two-hour delays; five system wide closures; one three-hour early dismissal; and one regional closure (Mountain Ridge District) with the rest of the system operating on a two-hour delay. These decisions were the result of snow, ice and extreme cold temperatures. The five built-in days at the end of the school calendar have now been exhausted. Any further system wide closures will result in the addition of days on to the end of the school year.

## WORK SESSION NOTABLES

### ***Making Strides Against Breast Cancer School***

#### ***Challenge Results***

Ms. Katelyn Mock, Community Manager for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Western Maryland, updated the school board on the first annual School Challenge event as well as recognized several school winners. South Penn Elementary School was the 2015 Challenge winner, raising a total of \$1,466.02 for the cause.

Other participating schools/offices included Mountain Ridge High School, the Board of Education's Central Office, Westernport Elementary School, Parkside Elementary School, Braddock Middle Schools (cheerleaders and volleyball teams), Northeast Elementary School, John Humbird Elementary School, Washington Middle School, Cresaptown Elementary School, Bel Air Elementary School, Frost Elementary School, and Westmar Middle School. The School Challenge was successful in raising a total of \$8,524.27 for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

For their participation in the School Challenge, all registered team leaders were entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card from PharmaCare Floral and Gift Shoppe. Julie Kyle of Westernport Elementary was the lucky winner.

### ***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 revised plans were available for the contractors on January 26<sup>th</sup>. All five of the original bidders have picked up the drawings. A pre-bid meeting was held on February 4<sup>th</sup>, which most of the contractors were in attendance for. The bids will be received at 1 p.m. on February 24, 2016. The MBE documents are due at 1:30 p.m., at which time the bids will be opened.
- **CIP 2017:** Staff presented an appeal for funding of the Allegany and Mt. Savage roof projects at the BPW meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The appeal was well received. The BPW members questioned the representatives from each county

about the escalating cost of school construction.

- **Braddock Roof Replacement:** The pre-construction meeting was held on January 28<sup>th</sup> at the school. Discussion included the sequence of work, storage of materials and limiting the impact of the project on the operation of the school. Mr. Carter, Braddock principal, attended the meeting and plans to be involved in the development of the work schedule.
- **Miscellaneous:** Plans for the South Penn air conditioner have been submitted to the IAC for review; Electrical and computer wiring as well as new light fixtures have been installed for the two Active Learning Labs at Washington Middle School; Staff is compiling information for FEMA concerning school system expenses for snow removal following the January 22<sup>nd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup> snow storm.

### ***PARCC Update***

Marsha Miller, ACPS Coordinator of Accountability, updated the school board on PARCC assessments. Two studies recently conducted indicate that PARCC is one of the nation's premier tests. The Thomas B. Fordham Institute studied the tests at the elementary and middle school levels for grades 5 and 8, and the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) studied the test at the high school level for English 11 and algebra II.

The study was designed to determine if the assessments place a strong emphasis on the most important content for college and career readiness; do they require all students to demonstrate the range of thinking skills, including higher-order skills; and what are the overall strengths and weaknesses of each assessment relative to the examined criteria for ELA/literacy and math. The Council of Chief State School Officers developed the criteria for the study. In addition to the PARCC tests, other tests studied included Smarter Balanced, ACT Aspire, and MCAS.

The Fordham results indicated that for overall content and depth for ELA/literacy and math, PARCC assessments were rated excellent for ELA/literacy and rated good for math. HumRRO results indicated that PARCC was rated excellent in ELA/literacy content; uneven in ELA/literacy depth; excellent in math content; and good in math depth.

In preparation for upcoming assessments, the ACPS PARCC testing calendar is available to employees on the employee portal and is updated regularly. School visits will begin in March, and school test coordinator and teacher training is underway.

Ms. Miller updated the school board on the difference between accommodations and accessibility features. Accommodations are for students with and IEP, 504 or EL Plan; mitigate the effects of a student's disability; and do not

reduce students' learning or performance expectations. They include verbatim reading of the entire test, scribe, extended time, and a calculator. Accessibility features are for all students, including those with an IEP, 504 or EL Plan. Students can choose to use them or not, and their use should be part of instruction prior to the test. These features include color-coding, answer masking, audio tests for math, line reader tool, eliminator button, highlighter tool, magnifier and notepad.

The process for implementing accommodations and/or accessibility features begins with identification by the content teacher, student or parent of which are necessary to use on a test. A Personal Needs Profile will be completed, and finally, practice tests will be administered to allow students to become familiar with features. Complete PARCC elementary and middle school results for Maryland students will be available at [MdReportCard.org](http://MdReportCard.org).

### ***SMART Board Demonstration***

Ms. Melissa Blank, ACPS Technology Infusion Specialist, gave the school board a demonstration on a SMART Board. To date, the school system has trained 500 teachers on the use of SMART Boards as well as how to properly integrate them into their classroom instruction. As part of their training, teachers are also required to create a classroom lesson incorporating UDLs and differentiated learning. There are currently 30 teachers on a wait list for training. ACPS initially received two SMART Boards, and now they are being used in all content area classrooms, elementary classrooms, and even art and music classes.

### ***CTE Updates and Teacher Academy***

Mrs. Candy Canan, principal at the Career Center, updated the school board on several changes to CTE programs, countywide, beginning next school year. The new Entrepreneurial Studies courses, designed to promote creativity, leadership, self-esteem, teamwork and critical thinking, will be introduced next year. The creation of these courses was a collaborative effort between business education teachers, industry leaders and post-secondary partners, the Chamber of Commerce, the Local Advisory Council, the Program Advisory Council, the curriculum team and the school board. These courses were redesigned as the result of a decrease in enrollment in traditional business courses offered at CCTE and the comprehensive high schools. The new courses available for the 2016-2017 school year include Leadership (1/2) credit; Business and Marketing Essentials (1 credit); and Principles of Entrepreneurship (1 credit). Each of these courses is available to all students. Leadership and Business and Marketing Essentials will be offered to students in grades 9-12, and Principles of Entrepreneurship will be offered to students in grades 10-12. There will be no prerequisite required for any of these courses. Single classes can be taken or all may be taken over the course of a student's high school experience. In an effort to recruit students to enroll, staff has given presentations to middle and high school incoming freshman.

Mrs. Canan also updated the school board on the Teacher Academy of Maryland program, which is being designed for students entering the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The program is anticipated to run based on student interest surveys and will be offered at the Career Center in the Fall of 2016, pending enrollment. The program will prepare students for further education and careers in the education profession. It will consist of four high school credits that will be offered for program completion. Courses include Honors Human Growth and Development (1 credit); Honors Teaching as a Profession (2 credits); Honors Foundations of Curriculum and Instruction (1 credit); and Honors Education Academy Internship (2 credits). These credits are designed to articulate to a Maryland post-secondary teacher education program. Upon completion of the program and passing the ParaPro test, high school graduates are ready for employment in the teaching profession. CCTE staff has focused recruitment efforts on posters, brochures, mass mailings and radio advertisements. If the course enrollment supports a program offering, the position for a Teacher Academy instructor will be posted. In addition, a Program Advisory Council will be developed to submit a program proposal to MSDE. The Teacher Academy of Maryland's MSDE State Program of Study will be approved as long as all of the necessary documentation is submitted. Finally, textbooks will be ordered, and a selected instructor will be scheduled for required summer training.

There is a new articulation with Allegany College of Maryland for the IT Networking Academy, which allows student who successfully completes the program to earn 12 or 13 FREE college credits towards an Associate Degree in Applied Science Cybersecurity or another computer science degree or certificate. Two new courses have also been added at the Career Center, which include College Computer Logic and College Computer Literacy for the upcoming school year. Additionally, CCTE has established an internship experience for students to work with the central office IT department.

The CCTE's reserve grants have been released and will be used for professional development during the 2016-2017 school year. The Career Center has also participated in several community service projects, including the HVAC, electrical and carpentry for Habitat for Humanity; welding at the Canal Place Restoration Project; and graphic communications collaboration with the Garden

Club of Cumberland for Governor Hogan. The SkillsUSA regional competition was held recently, and more than 60 competitors will advance to the state level competition in April. The school's National Technical Honor Society will hold its annual induction ceremony on March 16, 2016, at 6 p.m. Project Lead the Way Engineering will conduct its site visit to the Career Center on April 29, 2016, and mock interviews for all seniors are scheduled for the week of May 2-6, 2016. Finally, the CCTE awards ceremony will move to a new location this year from the Allegany County Fairgrounds to the theatre at Allegany College of Maryland. The event is schedule for May 12, 2016, at 6 p.m.

### ***Budget and State Aid Update***

Mr. Randy Bittinger, ACPS Chief Business Officer, updated the school board on the budget and State Aid. According to the State Aid updated received by the school system on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, ACPS is scheduled to receive approximately \$1.75 million more in State Aid for the next fiscal year than what it is currently receiving. State Aid estimates are heavily influenced by enrollment counts. The five enrollment counts used include total full-time enrollment, free and reduced meals, limited English proficient, special education, and disabled transportation. Other factors that led to an increase in State Aid for Allegany County was the increase by the State in per pupil amounts by 0.2% and the net taxable income provision expansion from 40% to 60%. This equates to an increase for ACPS of just over \$500,000. A final factor influencing State Aid is wealth, which is defined in state formulas as real property assessments, personal property assessments, and taxable income. While Allegany County is one of the poorer counties in the State, the difference between the statewide average and Allegany County has decreased. This year, the State grew at 3.5% in wealth, and Allegany County's wealth grew at 1%. Therefore, Allegany County got "poorer", resulting in more State Aid.

In addition, Mr. Bittinger spoke to the school board about Education Effort, which was placed in law in 2012, and is defined as a county's appropriation to the local school system, divided by total wealth. The Education Effort is examined over a five-year period, is averaged and then compared to the statewide average. If a county is below the statewide average, then it may have to increase its Maintenance of Effort computation for the school system. Counties can always fund above the MOE level, which is a required minimum. The law states that the increase is the lesser of the increase of a county's wealth per pupil, the statewide average or 2.5%. According to a preliminary draft of calculations for FY 2017 for Maintenance of Effort as prepared by MSDE, there are nine counties that must increase their MOE computation. Allegany County is one of those counties, with an increase of 1.7%. Allegany County is currently being funded at the required MOE level for FY 2016 at \$29,837,545. The new MOE calculations indicate that the school system would receive, at a required minimum level, \$30,170,018.

### ***Policy Regulation:***

- ***Student Data Privacy (File: JRA-R1):*** The school board was updated on the regulations for this policy, whose purpose is "to establish a uniform, county-wide policy that protects personally identifiable student information while using online services requiring student data.
- ***Staff Data Privacy (File: GBIA-R1):*** The school board was updated on the regulations for this policy, whose purpose is "to establish a uniform, county-wide policy that protects personally identifiable staff information while using online services requiring staff data."

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to prevent the spread of infectious disease."

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approve minutes for January 12, 2016, Work Session and January 12, 2016, Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of January 1-31, 2016.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for period of January 1-31, 2016.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of January 1-31, 2016

The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

## NEW BUSINESS

### ***Consider First Reading of Policy for School Board Member Services (File: BI)***

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to describe services available to elected Board members.”

The policy states “Members of the Board of Education of Allegany County are entitled to specific services as elected officials. Included among these services are membership in the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, participation in Board meetings as a Board member-elect, professional development, and facilities and services.

### ***Consider First Reading of Policy for Student Data Privacy (File: JRA)***

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish a uniform, county-wide policy that protects personally identifiable student information while using online services requiring student data.”

The policy states, “Online services are recognized as a viable tool to create, share, store, distribute and manage personally identifiable information and student work. These tools can be accessed by students and/or parents and staff and used as a part of the school’s program in or outside of the school day. While

ACPS encourages the use of technological advancement in the furtherance of its mission, no tool that compromises protected student data shall be permitted.”

### ***Consider First Reading of Policy for Staff Data Privacy (File: GBIA)***

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish a uniform, county-wide policy that protects personally identifiable staff information while using online services requiring staff data.”

The policy states, “Online services are recognized as a viable tool to create, share, store, distribute and manage personal information and staff or student work. These tools can be accessed by students and/or parents and staff and used as a part of the school’s program in or outside of the school day. While ACPS encourages the use of technological advancement in the furtherance of its mission, no tool that compromises protected staff data shall be permitted.”

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

The school board voted to meet in an Executive Session on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, pending any appeals or unfinished business.

## REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Jenna informed the school board that she recently had the opportunity to attend the LEAD conference in Washington, D.C., which was a national conference with nearly 1,200 in attendance from 37 states and several countries. The focus of the meeting was to encourage student leaders to meet and interact with new people.

Jenna also recently participated as an ACPS panelist during the Chamber of Commerce’s annual Leadership Allegany Education Day. She had the opportunity to speak to class members about her position as the Student Member of the Board as well as learn about the school system’s biomedical science course offerings, newly implemented Active Learning Labs, and West Side Elementary School’s Chinese Partial Immersion program.

Finally, she informed board members that the Allegany County Association of Student Councils (ACASC) is in the process of revising its officer election packets for next year. Elections for 2016-2017 officers will be held in April. The organization is also planning to hold a fundraiser to benefit the Ark of Hope animal shelter.

## NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Work Session and Business Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively.