

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 All State Chorus Students

The school board recognized the following students for being selected to All State performing organizations: Audrey Jones, All State Mixed Chorus; Patrick Godfrey, All State Mixed Chorus; Robin Godfrey, All State Mixed Chorus; and Katie Miller, All State Women's Chorus.

Mr. Jeff Avey, ACPS Coordinator of Fine Arts, specifically recognized Robin Godfrey for making All State for the sixth time, the maximum any student is allowed. Less than 10% of students reach this level of accomplishment.

Recognize NAACP Essay Contest Winners

The school board recognized ACPS students, Benjamin Shertzer and Evan Hostetler, for winning the Allegany County Branch #7007 NAACP's essay contest, "Freedom is Not Free: Give Peach a Chance." The contest was held in an effort to promote diversity awareness in schools and to provide students with a means to express their opinions. Both winners received a scholarship award from the NAACP. Additionally, both winning students had the opportunity to read aloud their selected essays.

Recognize 2016 Carson Scholars

The school board recognized two ACPS students as 2016 Carson Scholars. Kinsey Hostetler, fourth grader at Cash Valley Elementary School, and Chase Muir, fifth grader at George's Creek Elementary School, were selected at first-time scholars this year for demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and humanitarian qualities.

Kinsey and Chase were among 626 students in grades 4-11 from across the country selected as Carson Scholars.

These students will all receive a \$1,000 college scholarship award for being chosen.

In addition, ACPS is home to eleven repeat scholars this year. They are as follows: (8 times) Noah DeMichele, Hayden Lindsey; (6 times) Evan Hostetler, Garrett Ternent; (4 times) Sabrina Frost, Joshua Trenum; (2 times) Robert Moffett, Brooklyne Noel, Dylan Rice, Taya Sloan, Dawson Ternent.

For more information on the Carson Scholars Fund, visit www.carsonscholars.org.

Recognize Braddock Middle School Math Counts State Finalists

The school board recognized Braddock Middle School's Math Counts team, coached by teacher, Ray Short, for their outstanding achievement in winning a fourth consecutive regional competition, thus advancing to the state finals. Their exceptional performance secured the team's 21st first place win at the regional competition and the 26th opportunity in the last 32 years to advance to the state finals.

Team member, Sean Fiscus, finished as a top 25 individual among the 218 individual competitors. The team of Sean Fiscus, Omaer Naeem, Eve Hutcherson, and Mitchell Septoff competed in the team event, finishing in the second group, 14th – 28th place. The finals consisted of 28 teams, of which half were private or magnet schools. Moss Summerfield also participated in the event as an individual.

Recognize Maryland State Class 2A Indoor Track and Field 800 Meter Champion

The school board recognized Mountain Ridge High School senior, Mollie

Offstein, as the Maryland State Class 2A Champion for girls' indoor track and field in the 800-meter run. Mollie is also ranked first in her senior class at Mountain Ridge and plans to attend Elon University in the fall to run track.

Introduce Allegany County Teacher of the Year

The school board recognized the 2016-2017 Allegany County Teacher of the Year, Tania Pressman, teacher at Cresaptown Elementary School. Tania received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education in 2003 and a Master of Education Degree in Reading in 2013, both from FSU. Tania will now join other local Teachers of the Year as a candidate for the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

Eight other teacher representatives recognized at this year's TOY banquet included: Kim Aikman, Westernport; Tamarra Edwards, Allegany; Dawn Hipp, John Humbird; Nadine Beechie, Mountain Ridge; Jennifer Holloway, Beall; Heather Malec, Mountain Ridge; Kate Tummino, Parkside; and Brian White, Allegany.

Present Proclamation Recognizing April as Library Media Month

The school board presented a proclamation to Mrs. Lisa Stevenson, ACPS Coordinator of Library Media, recognizing April as Library Media Month. The library media program is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information. The library media specialist's role is to provide the leadership and expertise necessary to ensure that the library media program is an integral part of the instructional program in schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONT.

The school board has entrusted the library media specialist in each school to teach the skills of locating and using information through traditional resources and new technologies to provide literature appreciation activities and to guide and encourage content and recreational reading to every student.

Lifelong learning begins and is systematically developed through the library media curriculum of the elementary and secondary schools. The library media program contributes to the individual growth and development of all students, while fostering both excellence and equity in education.

In addition, the following ACPS library media specialists gave a presentation on a variety of ways they have integrated technology at their respective schools: Mike Fiscus, Northeast Elementary; Angie Fentress, Flintstone Elementary; Jenna Haberlein, Washington Middle; and Jill Durst, Mountain Ridge High.

Legislative Update

Dr. Cox updated the school board on several legislative highlights from the recent session of the Maryland General Assembly.

- A bill introduced that would cap assessments at 2% did not pass.
- HB460/SB376, which was an initiative of Governor Hogan and targeted western and eastern Maryland, dealt with applying for a P-Tech planning grant. The bill was amended to extend to the entire state. ACPS has applied for this \$100,000 planning grant.
- Legislation passed regarding legislative audits. If a local school board, county government and delegation agree, the group can petition to not have to participate in the audit.
- Washington County submitted legislation, which passed statewide, entitled the Motor Fuel Tax Exemption. School buses are now exempt from paying state tax on fuel.
- Two bills passed which target school districts with 50% or higher FARMs populations. One will offer summer and afterschool opportunities for students, and the other is the Next Generation Scholars program.
- Legislation passed that will allow local districts to either administer the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) to a random sampling of students or entire populations, so long as it is completed by October 1st.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Substance Abuse by Students (File: JICH)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "To prohibit the use, abuse, sale, possession or distribution of proscribed substances by students on school property or at school-related activities. The underlying rationale of this policy is to protect students and promote their health and well being."

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Federal Awards (File: DDC)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is as follows: "The Super Circular has imposed a duty on a recipient of federal awards to establish written procedures to comply with federal requirements in order to receive federal awards. As to all federal awards, recipients are required to establish written procedures for 1) requesting payment; 2) determining the allowability of costs; 3) regulating procurement; and 4) identifying and avoiding conflicts of interest."

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Access to School Facilities (File: ECAB)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to assign responsibilities for controlled access to school facilities and offices."

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Evaluation of Professional Staff-Teachers (File: GCAG)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to establish the Board's position regarding teacher evaluation."

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Records Retention and Disposal (File: EHB)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to describe when to store paper or electronic records, when to convert paper records to electronic media, and when to destroy paper or electronic records."

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Student Data Privacy (File: JRA)

The school board approved the second 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."

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Staff Data Privacy (File: GBIA)

The school board approved the second 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."

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:** Bids for the project were received on February 24th. Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. of Altoona, PA, submitted the low bid. The combined value-engineering changes and elimination of some of the add-alternates reduced the cost of the project by an estimated \$7 million. The Request for Approval of Contract Award has been submitted to the IAC for approval. The architect has issued a draft contract for review by the contractor and the school board. The contractor has submitted the remaining Minority Business forms, the informational prices for ineligible equipment, and the resumes of the staff to be assigned to the project. The contractor's staff will have to be approved by the architect and a school board representative. IAC approved the award of contract on March 31st.
- **CIP 2017:** The BPW has approved partial funding for the Allegany project, and staff is awaiting the final funding recommendations, which will be approved at the BPW meeting on May 11th and may include funding for the Mt. Savage Roof project.
- **Braddock Roof Replacement:** The material has been delivered to the school. Work will begin as soon as weather permits.
- **Frost Roof Replacement:** The plans have been submitted to DGS for review.
- **Mt. Savage Roof Replacement:** The plans have been submitted to DGS for review.
- **South Penn Chiller Replacement:** The bid opening was held on March 16th. The Request for Approval of Contract Award has been submitted to the IAC for approval at their April 21st meeting. The Bid Award recommendation was discussed at the Business Meeting.
- **Central Office:** Maintenance Department staff has completed the reconstruction of the porch on the west side of the building to accommodate the installation of the new wheelchair lift. The new lift will be located under the porch roof, which will protect it from the weather and extend its life. The lift is being built, and should be completed by the

NEW BUSINESS***Consider Approval of Bid for Chiller Replacement at South Penn Elementary School***

The school board approved the bid for the South Penn Chiller Replacement from the low bidder, C&T Mechanical, Inc. of Cumberland. The total contract award is \$348,810. The base bid work will include the replacement of the cooling tower. Add Alternate 1 will upgrade the chiller to a more energy efficient Variable Frequency Drive model, and Add Alternate 2 includes the replacement of the chilled water system Air Separator and Expansion Tank.

The project is being funded by \$195,582 through the Aging Schools Program and \$162,228 from the school board's construction fund.

Consider First Reading of Policy for School Attendance Area (File: JC)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to establish school attendance areas." The regulations for this policy were discussed at the Work Session.

Consider Approval of Allegany High School Replacement State Funding Protocol

In order for the school board and the County Commissioners to take advantage of the increased construction cost for FY2017 and subsequent increase in state funding for the project, the following actions are required:

- The school board must request rescission of the CIP funding that was approved for the project in FY2014, FY2015, and FY2016, as well as rescission of the state funding participation in the site work contract.
- The school board must submit a new request for funding in the FY2017 CIP, using the current September 30, 2015, enrollment projections and providing information on the current scope of the project.
- The County Commissioners must provide evidence of support for projects in the FY2015 CIP, that is, an acknowledgement that the County will support all costs not covered by the state.
- The County or the school board must indicate that it will reimburse the state the \$1,079,342 that has been expended to date on the site work contract.

A total of \$16 million has been allocated to this project, including the amount for expended site work. The full amount will be reverted to the statewide contingency account that is reserved for ACPS, and will thus be available for allocation to the project in FY2017. The amount reimbursed to the state will be returned immediately within the total allocation that will be approved by the Board of Public Works for FY2017. This is simply a bookkeeping transaction and does not represent in any way a penalty levied against the project.

Vote to Meet in Executive Session in May

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session in May pending any appeals or unfinished business.

end of May.

- **Flooring Replacement Projects:** Preparations are being made for flooring replacements at several schools. The projects will include the removal of asbestos containing tile at Washington and the replacement of carpet with vinyl tile at Bel Air. Materials have been ordered, and work will begin as soon as the school year ends. Smaller projects are being considered at other schools and will be completed by maintenance staff as time allows.
- **FEMA:** Staff has met with the FEMA representative to review the documents for snow removal expenses following the January 22-25 snowstorm. Staff will be submitting the material within the next 60 days. FEMA will reimburse ACPS for 75% of the eligible expenses.

Graduation, College and Career Ready, and Accountability Pathways

Dr. Kim Green, ACPS Chief Academic Officer, updated the school board on the three distinct pathways that district officials must consider and follow in regards to student performance and accountability: Graduation Assessment Requirements (diploma), CCR/Senate Bill 740 Requirements, and ESSA/Accountability Requirements.

Graduation Assessment Requirements as indicated by COMAR state that students must meet administered assessments and meet minimum passing scores on PARCC algebra I, PARCC English 10, biology and government assessments prior to graduation. New minimum scores on PARCC algebra I and PARCC English 10 will be determined by the Maryland State Board of Education prior to the fall of the 2016-2017 school year. One possible plan that is being considered involves a graduated approach. Such a model would phase in the minimum passing score for the graduation assessment requirement, starting with a requirement of 725 (performance level) and gradually increasing it to 750 (performance level 4). PARCC level 4 is the designation for College and Career Readiness. Level 3 is the approximate score that would be equivalent to the HSA English 10 and algebra I requirements. For the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, students assessed on PARCC algebra I and English 10 met graduation assessment requirements through participation. Next year, students must meet minimum scores on these tests. There will not be any changes to the minimum scores on biology and government HSAs. These requirements will challenge students, as they must do their best on every assessment. Districts will need to have a two-tiered system for high school students – PARCC algebra I and PARCC English 10 as well as HSA government and HSA biology. Additionally the HSA biology will also be transitioning to the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) in the 2017-2018 school year. Districts will also need to accurately track the graduated minimum passing scores for each cohort of students as well as accurately track any options available for students, such as Combined Score Options or Bridge Plans.

The basic requirements of the Maryland College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 include enrollment in math each year of high school beginning with ninth graders enrolled during the 2014-2015 school year. The 2017-2018 seniors will be the first class affected by this new requirement. In ACPS, this will raise the minimum for graduation to 23 credits. In addition, all high school students will be assessed by the 11th grade in English and math using acceptable college placement exams. Students will need a PARCC English 11 score of 4 or 5 (an English 10 score of 4 or 5 will currently satisfy the CCR determination during this transition period); an algebra II score of 4 or 5 (11th graders only - a geometry score of 4 or 5 will currently satisfy the CCR determination during this transition period. However, for 11th graders enrolled in geometry, a score of 4 or 5 does not indicate placement in a college-bearing course. These students who score a 4 or 5 on PARCC geometry and enroll in algebra II in their senior year as their transition experience are not required to be reassessed in their senior year.); an SAT score of 500 or greater; an ACT score of 21 or greater average; an AP exam score of 3, 4 or 5; an Accuplacer reading score of 79 or greater, writing score of 6 or higher, and a sentence skills score of 90 or greater; an Accuplacer elementary algebra score of 110 or greater, a college algebra test score of 45 or greater; or admission to and enrollment in a Maryland IHE's appropriate ELA or math college credit-bearing course. Transition experiences or other instructional opportunities will be delivered to seniors who have not achieved college and/or career readiness by the end of 11th grade through one of the previously noted options. These students will then be reassessed. Students who entered the 9th grade in 2014-2015 are required to meet high school math enrollment requirements for each year of high school. During the 2015-2016 school year, 11th grade students are required to be assessed to determine if they are college and/or career ready. Next year, the implementation of the transition experience or other instructional opportunity for seniors will be available, and reassessment of these students will begin. Districts may need to dedicate more staff to teach extra math courses at each high school and the Career Center as well as have more staff dedicated to teach and facilitate the transition experiences. Courses will need to be developed to support these transition experiences as well. Additionally, there may be tuition costs associated with these requirements and potential costs for assessments and reassessments.

The re-authorized Elementary and Secondary Act, known as ESSA or Every Student Succeeds Act, was signed into law on

WORK SESSION NOTABLES

December 10, 2015. Districts must assess students in grades 3-8 in English/Language Arts and math annually and assess once in a grade band (3-5, 6-8, 9-12) in science. The substantive changes at the federal level will focus on ELL, identifying low-performing schools and testing schedules. At the state and local levels, ESSA focuses on accountability goals, interventions and supports, assessment options and standards. Districts will continue with the implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/NCLB during the 2016-2017 school year. The new ESSA provisions will be implemented during the 2017-2018 school year. MSDE, in collaboration with external stakeholder groups, will roll out the new accountability plans for districts and schools prior to the 2017-2018 school year.

Policy Regulations:

- **Access to School Facilities (File: ECAB-R1):** The school board was updated on the regulations for this policy, whose purpose is “to assign responsibilities for controlled access to school facilities and offices.” In order to promote safety and security in the schools, the Board directs the superintendent to control access to school facilities. Only authorized persons shall be granted the means of access to school facilities.
- **School Attendance Area (File: JC-R1):** The school board was updated on the regulations for this policy, whose purpose is “to establish school attendance areas.” The Board shall divide the county into appropriate school attendance areas. With the advice of the superintendent, the Board shall determine the geographical attendance areas for each school. A student shall attend the school designated to serve the attendance area in which his/her legal guardian resides unless the superintendent to attend a school in another attendance area in Allegany County has granted special permission.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at the Central Office, 108 Washington Street, Cumberland, MD. The Work Session will begin at 5 p.m., and the Business Meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Both meetings will take place in the Washington Boardroom.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for March 8, 2016, Work Session and Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of March 1-31, 2016.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of March 1-31, 2016.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of March 1-31, 2016.

The school board approved the consent agenda.

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Jenna Puffinburger, Student Member of the Board

Jenna recently attended the MASC three-day convention in Ocean City, MD, along with members of ACASC. It provided students with networking opportunities and the chance to attend several leadership workshops taught by students from across the state.

ACASC will hold elections for next year's officers on April 22nd. ACASC is currently in the process of organizing school wide fundraisers to benefit the Ark of Hope animal shelter, which was recently destroyed in a fire.

ACASC recently held a very successful and first ever mock presidential debate, which will continue to be an event in the future. The MASC vice-president has also indicated that this is an event that could be implemented statewide.

Jenna is in the process of researching ways to revise the curriculum for the Foundations of Technology course, which is a high school graduation requirement, to better align with advancements in technology since the course was originally created.

Legislation was passed to allow Talbot County to have two Student Members of the Board, one from each of its only two high schools. In other legislation, Montgomery County becomes the second in the U.S., along with Anne Arundel County, in which the SMOB has full voting rights.