

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### **Recognize Student Salute Winners**

The school board recognized three students as the 2016 recipients of the annual Student Salute Program scholarships. Lucas Lowry of Mountain Ridge will receive a \$5,000 one-year scholarship, to be used for tuition, to Frostburg State University for the 2016-2017 academic year. Katelyn Suesse and Blake Geatz, both seniors at Allegany, are the second and third place recipients of \$500 scholarships to FSU for the upcoming year.

The Student Salute Program is a collaborative effort to recognize high school seniors who excel in the classroom. Through the program, those students identified as exceptional academic achievers, based on GPA, school and community leaders, and who intend to enroll at FSU, earn the opportunity to qualify for scholarships.

The school system distributes and collects applications for the program, which are converted into "on-air" salutes that run weekly on WCBC radio station. The Chamber of Commerce's Education Committee reviews the applications and selects the FSU scholarship recipients.

### **Recognize AFS Students**

The school board recognized the following six American Field Service exchange students and their host families:

- Sol Nassif Escontrela (Argentina), Allegany, hosted by William and Sharon Derlan
- Felipe Alyaga Ramirez (Chile), Allegany, hosted by Donelle Keech and Alan Septoff
- Deniz Pekar (Turkey), Allegany, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Courtney
- Nicola Menna (Italy), Mountain

Ridge, hosted by David and Karen Treber

- Ines Sendin (Portugal), Mountain Ridge, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Norris
- Solos Lymkhanakhom (Thailand), Mountain Ridge, hosted by Dr. Hang Deng and Dr. Stephan Luzader

In addition, two ACPS students received scholarships from AFS Mountain Maryland and Friends Chapter to study abroad this summer as part of the AFS international student exchange program. Benjamin Fiscus of Allegany will study in Nepal, and Claire Hoffman of Mountain Ridge will study in Kenya.

Thorne Lindsay of Allegany was also recognized for receiving a National Security Language Initiative scholarship from the U.S. Department of State to study abroad this summer in Korea.

### **Recognize Skills USA and FBLA State Winners**

The school board recognized several Skills USA students from the Career Center who will advance to the National competition this summer for placing first in their respective categories. Advisors also in attendance were Tom Krukowsky, Gary Taylor, and Larry Negley. The students were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Opening/Closing Ceremonies – Cassie Bingaman, Rebecca Shockey, Malakia May, Jordyn Hansford, Lexi Guthrie, Katelyn Rump, Delaney Shipley
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Teamworks – Caleb Wilt, Brady Baker, Ryan Coleman, Brayden Pennington
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Screenprinting – Erica Miller
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Graphic Dye Sublimation – Sarah Garrison

## 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

The school board also recognized Future Business Leaders of America students from Allegany and the Career Center for their performances at the State Leadership Conference. The top four students or teams in each event are now eligible to advance to the National Leadership Conference in June. Allegany's FBLA advisor, Tammy Edwards, and the Career Center's FBLA advisor, Mike Dignan, were also in attendance. The students are as follows:

- 4<sup>th</sup> place Networking Concepts – Richard Mellott (CCTE)
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Computer Problem Solving – Trevor Cutter (CCTE)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Computer Problem Solving – Nathan Sacchetti (CCTE)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Computer Problem Solving – Brandon Sears (CCTE)
- 4<sup>th</sup> place Help Desk – Colby Twigg (CCTE)
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Business Law – Thorne Lindsey (AL)
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Business Plan – Drew Peterson, Isaak Glasser, Sean Wade (AL)
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Hospitality Management – Katelynn Suesse, Sabrina Upole (AL)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Word Processing – Kasey Phillips (AL)
- 4<sup>th</sup> place Business Ethics – Caeley McCagh, Bella Zornes (AL)
- 4<sup>th</sup> place Insurance and Risk Management – Nicholas Peterson (AL)

### **Recognize Maryland Humanities Council 2016 Letters about Literature Finalist**

The school board recognized Mountain Ridge High School junior, Ben Shertzer,

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONT.***

for being selected as a finalist for the Maryland Humanities Council 2016 Letters about Literature, which is an annual writing contest that promotes reading and writing, inspires creativity and encourages young people to be lifelong readers. Mountain Ridge English teacher, Dr. Stephanie Marchbank, introduced Ben, who read aloud his winning essay, which was a letter to author, Mark Twain, about his famous novel, "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

### ***Recognize STEM Festival T-Shirt Design Contest Winner***

The school board recognized Mountain Ridge High School junior, LeeAnn McKenzie, for winning the STEM Festival t-shirt design contest. Melissa Blank, ACPS STEM Coordinator, explained that each year a different high school is selected to participate in the designs. Art teachers are asked to recruit students to submit designs for the contest. The guidelines for submissions indicate that the drawing must include the word STEM, the date of the festival, and must be interesting and imaginative.

### ***Recognize Maryland Music Educators Association 2016 School Administrator Award Winner***

The school board recognized South Penn Elementary School principal, Scott Sisler, for receiving the 2016 School Administrator Award for Excellence from the Maryland Music Educators Association for his outstanding achievements in ensuring that students have a strong and complete music education. Also speaking on Scott's accomplishment was South Penn teacher and nominator, Jennifer Kauffman. At South Penn, two full-time arts teachers are given additional planning time to collaborate with classroom teachers to incorporate art integration techniques.

### ***Present Proclamation Recognizing May 2-6, 2016, as Teacher Appreciation Week***

The school board presented a proclamation to John Reuschlein, president of ACEA, recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers make public schools great, and teachers open children's minds to the magic of ideas, knowledge and dreams. Teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship, and they fill the many roles of listeners, explorers, role models, motivators and mentors. Teachers continue to influence us long after school days are only memories.

### ***Present Proclamation Recognizing May 2-6, 2016, as School Nutrition Employee Week***

The school board presented a proclamation to Mary Davis, AFSCME representative, recognizing School Nutrition Employee Week. Nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the school day. The staff of the Food and Nutrition Services Department in ACPS is committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to the children in the school system. The men and women who prepare and serve school meals help nurture children through their daily interaction and support.

### ***P-Tech Planning Grant Award***

Dr. Cox announced that the Allegany County Public School System is the recipient of a \$100,000 planning grant from the Maryland State Department of Education for the establishment of the Allegany County Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-Tech) School. Through the collaboration with Allegany College of Maryland, the new P-Tech program will be located at the Career Center.

The P-Tech program is a 9-14 school model, which combines high school, college and the world of work. The mission is to provide students with an education that starts in grade nine, continues through high school completion with a high school diploma, and culminates in the attainment of an Associate Degree program.

As part of the planning grant, ACPS will partner with Allegany College of Maryland. Students in the program will gain workplace skills, mentoring and other career experiences through a partnership with the Western Maryland Health System. In addition to WMHS as the lead industry partner, Exclamation Labs, Willetts Systems, Inc., and First United Bank and Trust have agreed to participate in providing mentorships, internships, worksite experiences and guest speakers to the students enrolled in the P-TECH program.

The school system now has until September 2017 to create a plan for implementing the program. The intent of ACPS is to create an innovative and collaborative model that builds on existing strengths and benefits students in Allegany County.

### ***Recognize ACPS Chief Financial Officer***

The school board presented a proclamation to Randall Bittinger, ACPS Chief Financial Officer, to honor him for his service and dedication to the school system and the Board of Education. He served the students, staff and school board since 2005, and has been a valued member of the Superintendent's Senior Staff providing essential input and recommendations. Randy also provided critical analysis and recommendation to manage the negative impacts of significantly lessening state and county funding since 2009, and he worked with his staff to meet the many reporting and audit requirements and deadlines. He provided and presented detailed budget information for the school board in numerous work sessions, meetings and presentations to County Government. A [tribute video](#) to Randy was also presented.

Mr. Bittinger has accepted a position at Garrett Community College. His last day with the school system is May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Recognition of Retirees**

The school board honored the following ACPS retirees for their extraordinary service and contributions to students, the community and the school system:

- David Kuhn, 42 years
- Karen Bonner, 40 years
- William Payne, 39 years
- Sheree Witt, 38 years
- Mary Moran, 38 years
- Charles Merritt, 37 years
- William Hunt, 37 years
- Charles Eberly, 37 years
- Beverly Metheny, 36 years
- Beth Green, 36 years
- Sally Buser, 35 years
- Toby Eirich, 34 years
- Patty Moulden, 34 years
- Natalie Tenaglio, 33 years
- Robert Ritchie, 32 years
- Arlene Tummino, 30 years
- Kevin Davis, 30 years
- Rosalie Femi, 29 years
- Carol Shank, 28 years
- Terri Danner, 28 years
- Dorothy Prato, 26 years
- Linda Valentine, 25 years
- Colleen Zaloga, 23 years
- Rhonda DiUbaldo, 23 years
- Paula Smith, 23 years
- Ross Pysell, 22 years
- Mary Metz, 20 years
- Janet Morris, 19 years
- Mark Baumann, 19 years
- Jennifer Bonig, 18 years
- Lorelee Farrell, 17 years
- Robert Wills, 15 years
- Todd Eirich, 15 years
- Deborah Jackson, 12 years
- Shirley Robertson, 12 years
- Patty Moulden, 11 years

**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:

- **Allegheny High School:** The request for approval of

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

The school board approved, by a 4-1 vote, the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish school attendance areas.”

The policy states, “The County shall be divided into appropriate school attendance areas by the Board. 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 special permission has been granted by the Superintendent or designee to attend a school in another attendance area in Allegheny County. The Board recognizes that exceptions may also be granted by state and/or federal laws such as kinship care and/or homelessness.”

**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.”

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Approval of Bid for Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Services Contract**

The school board approved the occupational/physical therapy services contract for the 2016-2017 school year. For the first time, this contract was placed out for competitive bid. Once the bids were opened, two bidders were eligible. A committee reviewed both eligible bids and recommended unanimously to award the contract to School Therapy Services. 62% of the contract will be funded using local money, and 38% will be funded using restricted funds.

**Vote to Meet in Executive Session in June**

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

contract award was approved by the IAC on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The contractor's surveyor has been on site to begin the layout work (making the location of the building corners, locations of roads, storm water structures, retaining walls, elevations). They plan to begin mobilizing equipment before the end of May. Maintenance and Operations Department staff are preparing for the groundbreaking ceremony, which is scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2016. They will construct a stage; coordinate seating, P.A. system, and other miscellaneous items. A pre-construction meeting with the architect, contractor, school board and County staff has been scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>.

- **CIP 2017:** The IAC has approved the final recommendations for funding for the FY 2017 CIP. The recommendations include full funding of the request for Allegany High School. The request for funding for the Mt. Savage roof replacement was not approved. Staff will request funding for this project as part of the FY 2018 CIP.
- **Braddock Middle Roof Replacement:** Work has begun on the gymnasium wing of the building and will progress to the auditorium as weather permits.
- **Frost Roof Replacement:** Staff has received notice of the available Aging Schools funding for FY 2017. A request will be submitted for this project by the end of the month.
- **South Penn Chiller Replacement:** the school board approved the bid award on April 12<sup>th</sup> and by the IAC on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The contractor has completed the demolition work (removing the old chiller, pumps, valves, and cooling tower). Delivery of the new chiller is expected before the end of the month.
- **Central Office:** The new wheelchair lift was delivered and installed on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The lift will be placed in service after the required inspection by the State of Maryland. Maintenance and City of Cumberland crews worked to replace the main sewer line in the alley beside the building. The line was crushed in three places.
- **Flooring Replacement Projects:** Preparations are being made for flooring replacement projects 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 Department staff if time allows.
- **Snow Removal:** Pertinent information has been submitted to FEMA.

### ***Attendance Update***

Dr. Ben Brauer, ACPS Supervisor of Student Services, updated the school board on attendance notifications that are sent out by the school system. As of information dated April 27<sup>th</sup>, a total of 11,766 attendance notification letters have been sent this year to 6,867 students. It is important to note that up to the 12<sup>th</sup> day, a recipient can receive up to three letters, as they are generated and sent home at the five, nine and twelve day marks. There has been a 42% decrease between the five and nine day notifications, and a 35% decrease between the nine and twelve day notifications.

The goal of attendance notification letters is to make parents aware of a student's cumulative absences as the State requires school systems to have a 94% attendance rate to remain satisfactory. Over the past six years, ACPS attendance has steadily increased.

### ***Budget Update 2017***

Mr. Bittinger updated the school board on the 2017 budget and planned reductions to remedy an approximate \$1.8 million budget shortfall. The school board will be asked to approve a budget at their June meeting. Although the County has not yet voted on a budget, they have indicated their intentions to fund the school system once again at the lowest level allowable by the State, Maintenance of Effort.

Several of the planned reductions include:

- The Athletic Trainer Program implemented at Fort Hill would not be expanded to Allegany and Mountain Ridge High Schools. The pilot program will continue at Fort Hill.
- Reducing staff by 19.5 teachers and 2 instructional assistants
- Eliminating the establishment of a Teacher Academy at the Career Center
- No expansion of funds for professional development; the PD budget would hold constant with the current year's budget
- Reduced technology purchases
- Eliminating the establishment of math coaches

## REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Jenna introduced the newly elected Student Member of the Board, Zach Sterne from Allegany High School. Other 2016-2017 Allegany County Association of Student Councils officers are as follows:

- Reid Buskirk, ACASC President/Alternate SMOB
- Zach Steren, ACASC Vice-President/SMOB
- Jared Klemm, Secretary
- Delanie Blubaugh, Public Relations Officer
- Nick Warnick, Parliamentarian
- Morgan Edwards, Environmental Affairs Coordinator
- Katie Sterne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

Jenna also reported that AP and PARCC testing have been going smoothly in schools.

Jenna reached out to science teachers and supervisors in advance of Earth Day, which is celebrated on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, to encourage them to plan something in celebration of this event. Many schools did host Earth Day activities.

Jenna attended an input session for Bridges to Opportunity, which hosted youth from around the county, community members and local business people, to discuss and brainstorm ways to increase youth involvement in the area. Many good ideas were shared.

### ***Mrs. Tammy Fraley, Constituent***

Mrs. Fraley addressed the school board regarding the FY 2017 budget shortfall and encouraged parents and constituents to express their concern to county government about the lack of sufficient funding for the school system. She is the parent of two current ACPS students and one recent school system graduate.

Mrs. Fraley also asked that the public be provided some information about potential programmatic cuts within this budget so that community members are better informed when speaking out against minimum level funding for education. In addition, Mrs. Fraley stressed that lack of funding for school systems is not strictly an educational concern, but an entire community concern as larger class sizes and lack of sufficient learning resources may contribute to students experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for April 12, 2016, Work Session and Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of April 1-30, 2016.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of April 1-30, 2016.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of April 1-30, 2016.

The school board approved the consent agenda.

## NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 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.