

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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Board of Education

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Mr. Nicholas Hadley
Ms. Sara-Beth James
Mr. Wayne Foote
Mr. Zachary Sterne, SMOB
Dr. David Cox, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Opening of School

Dr. Cox took the time to thank staff for another successful opening of schools this year. He not only thanked principals and teachers, but also took the time to thank maintenance department, transportation and food service personnel for the smooth opening. He and administrative staff had the opportunity to visit all schools on the first day, and Dr. Cox also took his annual bus ride with students.

2017-2018 Post-Labor Day School Calendar

Dr. Cox updated the school board on what a draft calendar for the 2017-2018 school year would look like as a result of Governor Hogan's Executive Order mandating all public school systems in Maryland to open for the school year post-Labor day and conclude no later than June 15th.

Several things must be considered when creating an academic calendar, and the Annotated Code of Maryland requires schools to be closed on the following legal holidays: Thanksgiving Day and the day after; Christmas Eve through January 1st; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday; Presidents' Day; Good Friday and Easter Monday; Memorial Day; and Primary and General Election Days. So depending on the day of the week that Christmas and Labor Day occurs could change the amount of mandated days off by several.

In addition, Allegany County averages nearly seven snow days per academic

year, with some being as high as sixteen missed days due to inclement weather.

This school year opened nine instructional days prior to Labor Day, which allows for approximately two weeks more instruction before students are required to take the PARCC assessment.

The Governor's Executive Order includes a provision that does allow school systems to apply for a waiver to start school prior to Labor Day. The Maryland State Board of Education would be responsible for approving all waiver requests.

The Attorney General is currently in the process of gathering information on this topic and will issue an opinion in the future. There is also likely to be discussion about this Executive Order during the Maryland General Assembly session, which begins in January.

The draft 2017-2018 Post-Labor Day calendar is available on the school system's website along with a comparison of the 2016-2017 school year vs. 2017-2018. ACPS is also accepting comments and feedback from parents and the public regarding the Post-Labor Day start calendar.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for August 9, 2016, Work Session and Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of August 1-31, 2016.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of August 1-31, 2016.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of August 1-31, 2016.
5. Approve the nomination or reappointment of the following to the Local Advisory Council (LAC) for Career and Technology Education: James "Butch" Gattens, WMHS; Lisa McIndoe, Hunter Douglas; and Jake Shade, Allegany County Commissioners.

The school board approved the consent agenda.

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 contractor is completing the concrete piers in Section C. Under floor electrical conduits and sanitary sewer lines are being installed in Section C. The first retaining wall at Bishop Walsh Drive is nearly complete. Below grade masonry is being installed in Section C. Footers have been poured in Section B, and concrete forms are being set. Work will begin on the masonry stair towers and elevator shaft in Section C next month, and the concrete footers and piers in Section C will be completed. Work will continue on the footers, retaining wall, and piers in Sections A and B. Work will begin on the retaining wall near the loading dock. The structural steel for the C wing is scheduled to begin arriving on site September 26th.
- **Braddock Middle Roof Replacement:** The contractor has completed the replacement of the roof on the center classroom section of the building. The kitchen and breezeway roofs will be completed this week after which work will begin on the auditorium, music rooms and shops.
- **South Penn Chiller Replacement:** This project is complete.

PARCC Update/Testing Window

Marsha Miller, ACPS Accountability Coordinator, updated the school board on PARCC and the 2016-2017 testing calendar. The State Board of Education released state level PARCC data at their August 23rd meeting. School and system level data will be released on September 27th. Elementary students will receive PARCC letters at conferences on September 29th, and middle and high school level data will be sent home.

ACPS will have two PARCC administrations this year. The administration January 17-27, 2017, will be given to students who did not test during the school year and for those students who received additional time in ELA and/or math CCR experience during the first nine weeks of the first semester. The administration April 5 – May 19, 2017, will be given to students in grades 3-8 in ELA and math; students in ELA 10 and 11; and to students in Algebra I and II.

Beginning this school year, students must pass PARCC English 10 and Algebra I to graduate. The score on these exams can be as follows: 725 (Level 3) for students who test in 2016; 733 for students who test in 2017; or 750 (Level 4) for students who test in 2018. PARCC Bridge projects will be available for students who do not pass the tests. PARCC CCR requirements

for seniors are as follows: Level 4 or 5 on English 11 and Algebra II; and other CCR indicators including SAT, ACT, Accuplacer, AP, and Dual Enrollment.

The ACPS testing calendar for the 2016-2017 school year is as follows:

- October 19, 2016: PSAT for all 10th grade students (ACPS pays) and for any other student wishing to take the exam
- January 9 – 13, 2017: HSA for students who have failed or not taken the Government and Biology exams
- January 17-27, 2017: PARCC fall administration
- NAEP Testing Window: February 10, Flintstone grade 4; February 7, Washington grade 8; February 9, Westernport grade 4; and February 8, Westmar grade 8. This exam is for selected students only in math and reading.
- March 13 – 31, 2017: MSA science for students in grades 5 and 8
- April 5 – May 19, 2017: PARCC spring administration
- May 22 – 31, 2017: HSA for students in Government and Biology

Early Childhood Updates/Validation Recognition

Mrs. Dee Blank, ACPS Elementary Supervisor, updated the school board on several early childhood updates as well as recognized several schools for validation. Mrs. Blank began by thanking the school board for their support in changing the dates for the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), which is administered to all kindergarten students to measure each child's school readiness across four domains: Social Foundations, Math, Language and Literacy, and Physical Well-Being and Motor Development. This year, the KRA in ACPS was administered five days prior to the start of pre-k and kindergarten classes, which allowed teachers and IAs to conduct the assessment without taking time away from instruction. The implementation was a success.

Michelle Walker of the County United Way updated the school board on the Imagination Library of Allegany County. The Imagination Library is a program, first implemented by Dolly Parton in Tennessee, for children in Allegany County ages birth to five that provides an age-appropriate book in the mail once a month to registered children throughout the duration of the program. The program is free of charge to families, and costs to run the program are incurred by its partners, which include HRDC, the Community Trust Foundation, the Board of Education of Allegany County, the Allegany County Library System, the YMCA, the County United Way, and the Western Maryland Health System.

Since the implementation of the Imagination Library of Allegany

County five years ago, 94,372 books have been distributed to children, and partners have raised a total of \$280,000 to run the program. There are currently 2,004 children receiving books through the program, and 1,360 children have reached their fifth birthday and graduated from the program. The goal of the Imagination Library is to instill a love of reading in children from a young age and to encourage families to spend more time reading together, thus making children more ready to enter kindergarten.

Courtney Thomas from HRDC updated the school board on their pre-k expansion program. Last year, HRDC received a grant to implement a full-day pre-k program for 20 students. This program was housed at West Side Elementary School. HRDC was approved for a second pre-k program this year, which will be located at HRDC's Seymour Street location. Unfortunately, due to state regulations, the West Side location only measured big enough for 18.2 children this year, and that program has since been moved to Cresaptown Elementary School, which was able to accommodate the classroom size requirements. All pre-k programs are staffed by certified former Head Start teachers, and the curriculum aligns with the ACPS curriculum to ensure that students are fully ready for school when they enter kindergarten.

Deb Kolb, Coordinator for the Judy Center, updated the school board on various early learning initiatives and events occurring within ACPS. The Judy Center received nearly \$23,000 over an eight-year period from the Community Trust Foundation to aid families in need of financial assistance pay for childcare. All of Allegany County's childcare centers participate in Maryland Excells, which is a quality assurance program. Successful summer camps were held this year at both Beall and South Penn, serving approximately 90 newly enrolled students between both sites. These camps are an opportunity for students to establish a routine, meet friends and teachers, and begin work on curriculum. The Judy Center is working collaboratively with local agencies and PNC Bank to provide an early childhood conference in Allegany County in April that will host free Family Fun Nights as well as offer workshops for educators. The local Lions Club will be providing vision screenings to all pre-k students in Allegany County beginning in October. Playgroups are currently taking place at both Beall and South Penn for children ages birth to three. These play groups are held in conjunction with the county's Infants and Toddlers program. And finally, Family Literacy Nights continue to be held regularly at Jane Frazier Village and Benjamin Banneker Gardens.

Dan Snyder, Service Coordinator for South Penn's Judy Center, updated the school board on the implementation of the school's first full-day pre-k program. The program is filled to maximum capacity with 20 students, and offers an opportunity for extended field trips for the group. This year they are planning trips to see plays, to the Evergreen Heritage Center, and to Brookedale Farms. Additionally, Mr. Snyder spoke about a growing gardening program at South Penn that is housed in the school's green house. Thanks to the donations and time of several community partners, including the Western Maryland Health System, the Evergreen Heritage Center, and the University of Maryland Extension, the program provides wonderful opportunities for students and families as well as professional development for staff.

Finally, Mrs. Blank introduced the following six ACPS elementary schools being recognized for successfully completing the validation process of meeting the standards for high quality early learning programs as defined by the State of Maryland: Bel Air, Cash Valley, Cresaptown, Frost, Parkside and Westernport. There are only 58 out of 72 total programs with this distinction across the state, and of the 830 Maryland elementary schools, Allegany County is home to fourteen.

Policy Regulation: Staff Conduct with Students (File: GBEBB-R1)

The school board heard the regulations for the above policy, whose purpose states "Law and policy clearly define types of prohibited conduct between employees and students. There are, however, additional forms of conduct which are improper and are also prohibited in ACPS."

The policy states "Staff and other persons operating under the auspices of the ACPS shall not engage in improper relationships with students."

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of FY 2018 Capital Improvement Plan

The school board approved the FY 2018 Capital Improvement Plan, which includes the request for funding for the next year of the Allegany High School project. The remainder of the State funding has been requested over the next two fiscal years. To date, the Board of Public Works has approved \$24,242,000 for the project.

The FY 2015 State approved maximum funding for the Allegany project was \$26,776,000. Through efforts, which rescinded the original approval in order to take advantage of the increased cost per square foot allowance and the request for additional funding above the State maximum funding allowance, the total State funding was increased to \$40,192,000.

Once again this year, the school system has requested funding for the second phase of the roof replacement project at Mt. Savage School in FY 2018, which was deferred by the IAC last year. The first phase of the roof replacement was completed as a locally funded project in 2010. Future roof replacement projects are also included for the next four fiscal years.

Also included for the first time are requests for the replacement of the coal boilers at Washington Middle School in FY 2020; Braddock Middle School in FY 2022; and Fort Hill High School in FY 2023.

Consider Approval to Request Exemption from FY 2017 Legislative Audit

The school board approved a request for exemption from the FY 2017 Legislative Audit. There is a voluntary exemption process from the general requirement that the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) that at least once every six years conduct an audit of each local school system. The next audit cycle for local school systems will begin in FY 2017. For a local school system to be exempt from this upcoming cycle, the county governing body, the county board of education, and the county delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, must each submit a letter to the Joint Audit Committee requesting an exemption by November 1, 2016. This is the only opportunity to request an exempting in the upcoming cycle.

The committee will review the exemption requests, which may include a hearing to discuss previous audit findings and/or the reasons for the requests. The committee will inform each of the affected parties if a hearing is considered necessary and/or of its decision to grant or deny the exemption request.

Consider Appointments to the Ethics Panel

The Allegany County Board of Education Ethics Panel consists of five members, appointed by the Board and serving for overlapping five-year terms. One of the responsibilities of the Allegany County Board of Education Ethics Panel is to provide information regarding the purposes and application of the ethics regulations established for Board of Education officials and employees.

Currently, the Ethics Panel has three vacancies. The remaining members of the Ethics Panel made the following recommendations for replacements: Mary Ann Lasher, Scott Brill, and Debbie Wolford.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Staff Conduct with Students (File: GBEBB)

The school approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose states “Law and policy clearly define types of prohibited conduct between employees and students. There are, however, additional forms of conduct which are improper and are also prohibited in ACPS.”

The policy states “Staff and other persons operating under the auspices of the ACPS shall not engage in improper relationships with students.”

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Information Technology Responsible Use – Students (File: JIK)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose states “This policy established the foundation for responsible use of information technology by ACPS students.”

The policy states “Information technology use in ACPS is for educational purposes, such as accessing curriculum-related information, sharing resources, and promoting innovation that enrich the curriculum and the instructional program. Information technology extends the classroom beyond the school building by providing access to information resources on local, state, national, and international electronic networks such as the Internet. Use of the Internet for purposes of locating information and facilitating communication are critical literacy skills. Responsible use of information technology is required of students whether using personal devices and programs, school system devices, or school system programs.”

NEW BUSINESS CONT.

The school board accepted the nominations for appointment to the Ethics Panel .

Greenway Avenue Lease Agreement

The school board entered into a lease agreement for the concessions at Greenway Avenue Stadium, which stipulates that only lessees of the school board will be permitted to operate concessions or sell merchandise or apparel on ACPS property, with the Allegany and Fort Hill High School band parents, the Fort Hill High School F-Club, and the Allegany High School Gridiron Club.

Vote to Meet in Executive Session in October

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

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zachary Sterne, Student Member of the Board

Zach updated the school board on several things that the Allegany County Association of Student Councils (ACASC) has been working on since the start of school. The group is in the final stages of planning its annual picnic, firming up the agenda and planning for various workshops that will be offered. The ACASC Executive Board also recently attended the Bridges to Opportunity meeting with representatives from HRDC. Finally, the group is also currently working on plans to host the Maryland Association of Student Councils annual convention in Ocean City, Maryland.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 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.