

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

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## Board of Education

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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### **Enrollment Update**

Dr. Cox updated the school board on system enrollment. The official enrollment for ACPS is calculated based on the enrollment as of September 30<sup>th</sup> each year; however, calculations are still being made. The three-year enrollment comparison is as follows:

- Overall Students – (2015) 8,865; (2016) 8,812; (2017) 8,705
- Pre-K Students – (2015) 508; (2016) 495; (2017) 490
- Part-Time Students – (2015) 23.25; (2016) 30.25; (2017) 26.5
- Paid FTE – (2015) 8,332.75; (2016) 8,283.75; (2017) 8,185.5

It is important to note that the Maryland State Department of Education does not pay for pre-k students. Part-time students count for one FTE if they are taking four or more classes; .25 FTE for one class; .5 FTE for two classes; and .75 FTE for three classes.

ACPS is down just under 100 FTEs, which results in an approximate \$1.3 million decrease in anticipated funding for FY 2018.

### **Report from Annual MABE Conference**

Dr. Cox gave an update on the annual conference of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, which was recently held in Ocean City, MD.

Accompanying him to the conference this year was school board president, Dr. Edward Root, and Student Member of the Board, Zachary Sterne.

During the conference, attendees had the opportunity to hear from several noteworthy guest speakers and attend informative sessions. The Public Schools Superintendents' Association of

Maryland met in conjunction with school board attorneys to hear several legal briefings on issues across the state and nation. Attorneys also met separately to review changes in COMAR regarding the appeals process.

Zach Sterne enjoyed seminars for student members of boards on topics including school construction, undocumented students, engaging students' voices, and risk management.

### **2017-2018 Calendar Update**

Dr. Cox updated the school board on the 2017-2018 calendar as it pertains to the Governor's Executive Order mandating that schools can't open for the year before Labor Day and must conclude by June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Maryland State Board of Education recently met to discuss this issue. They have indicated that they will consider and quickly act on waiver request from local boards if local districts want to start the school year before Labor Day.

Dr. Cox gave the school board two DRAFT calendars for the 2017-2018 school year to review, one with a PRE-Labor Day start and one with a POST-Labor Day start, as well as a comparison chart. These calendars were not shared with the school board as a recommendation, but just to outline what these calendars could look like based on the Executive Order and subsequent waiver.

Both mock calendars and the comparison chart have been placed on the school system's website for feedback as well.

The school board will be asked to take action on a calendar at their November board meeting so that should the elect to request a waiver could submit that to the state board for consideration in November

as well.

### **Legislative Audit Exemption Request Update**

The school board asked the Chief Business Officer to send a letter to the Office of Legislative Audits to request an exemption in the upcoming cycle. The letter has been sent; however, no response has been given to date. Staff will follow-up on the status of the exemption request and report back.

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for September 13, 2016, Work Session and Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of September 1-30, 2016.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of September 1-30, 2016.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of September 1-30, 2016.
5. Approve Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for School Facilities.

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:** *(In an effort to better explain the updates, Mr. Montana directed the school board to view the [time lapse camera](#) at the construction site.)* Work has begun on stair tower #4 in the classroom wing of the building, which will be completed next week. Once stair #4 is complete, work will begin on stair tower #2 and the adjacent elevator shaft. Water proofing is being applied to the retaining wall between sections C and B. Once completed, the wall will be backfilled and step footers poured for the section B walls. The structural steel began arriving on site on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The delivery was delayed by one week as a result of rain. Somerset Steel Company has begun setting the steel columns. Work is continuing on the concrete retaining wall at the west side of areas A and B. This work is expected to be complete by the end of October. Work will continue on the underground electrical and plumbing in areas A and B. Installation of concrete footers and piers in areas A and B is scheduled to be complete by the end of November. The ground floor concrete slab is also scheduled to be complete by the end of November.
- **Braddock Middle Roof Replacement:** The roof replacement is substantially complete. There are a few small items to be completed as noted in the final inspection of the project.
- **South Penn Chiller Replacement:** This project is complete.

## ***PARCC 2016 District Level Results***

Marsha Miller, ACPS Testing Coordinator, updated the school board on the 2016 PARCC results, highlighting the scores for all students at the county level, the changes in performance levels 4 and 5 from 2015 to 2016, and parent reports. As a review, Ms. Miller reminded the school board that the scales scores for PARCC range from 650 (lowest obtainable scale score) to 850 (highest obtainable scale score). There are also five performance levels in PARCC, which are as follows:

- Level 1 – Did not yet meet expectations
- Level 2 – Partially met expectations
- Level 3 – Approached expectations
- Level 4 – Met expectations
- Level 5 – Exceeded expectations

The goal in ACPS is to get students to advance to higher performance levels, specifically levels 4 and 5, in both English 11 and Algebra II. 2016 PARCC English Language Arts results

for students in grades 3-8 and English 10 and 11 showed overall improvement from 2015 to 2016. Notably, more than 40% of students taking the PARCC ELA 4 and 5 and English 10 scored at performance levels 4 and 5. PARCC English 10 results showed the greatest gain from 2015 scores increasing more than 24 percentage points. Students in grades 3-8 and English 10 who scored at performance levels 4 and 5 showed gains on the PARCC ELA tests from 2015 at all levels.

2016 PARCC math results for students in grades 3-8 and Algebra I and II showed overall gains from 2015 to 2016. Notably, more than 40% of students taking the PARCC math 3 and 4 scored at performance levels 4 and 5. Students in grades 3-8 and Algebra I who scored at performance levels 4 and 5 showed gains on the math tests from 2015, with the exception of grade six, where scores dipped slightly.

Ms. Miller shared a sample parent notification, produced by the Maryland State Department of Education, to identify the different parts of the parent letter. In ACPS, parent letters were distributed in a variety of ways, including at parent conferences and by being mailed home. MSDE's sample notification is posted on the school system's website, under the Parent Resources section. Parent letters share a student's performance level; a student's score; school/district/state scale scores; how students in Maryland performed; a student's reading and writing performance; and score breakdowns for a student.

## ***Professional Development Update***

Dr. George Brown, ACPS Assistant Supervisor of Professional Development, updated the school board on the "what", "why", and "how" for professional learning occurring within the school system. As a system, ACPS is on the path to more student-centered learning because both content and skills/processes are in alignment with student-centered learning.

Seven survival skills for students, as developed by Dr. Tony Wagner of Harvard University, are as follows:

1. Critical thinking and problem solving
2. Collaboration across networks and leading by influence
3. Agility and adaptability
4. Initiative and entrepreneurialism
5. Effective oral and written communication
6. Accessing and analyzing information
7. Curiosity and imagination

These seven survival skills align with the following learning expectations in Maryland:

- Maryland College and Career Ready Standards (English Language Arts and Math)

## WORK SESSION NOTABLES CONT.

- Next Generation Science Standards and College (NGSS) and Career and Civic Life (C3 Framework)
- Literacy standards in reading, writing, speaking and listening

Dr. Brown explained the Gradual Release of Responsibility (GRR) and the Universal Design for Learning (UDL), as ACPS is taking an integrated approach to student learning. GRR is focused instruction (teacher modeling, content purpose, language purpose, social purpose, noticing), guided instruction, collaborative learning, and independent learning. The UDL are the principles, guidelines and checkpoints that provide students opportunities to practice self-regulation and executive function skills (multiple means of representation, multiple means of action and expression, multiple means of engagement).

Dr. Brown shared his Lesson Study model for professional learning, a project he created related to the UDL as part of his UDL fellowship through the Presidential Scholars Program at Towson University. This model is analogical to the idea of collaborative learning for students. The Lesson Study model is made up of four components: 1) Study – Study MDCCRS to determine long-term goals for learning and development; 2) Plan – Plan research lesson and data collection; 3) Do Research Lesson – One team member facilitates, others collect data; and 4) Reflect – Share data, determine what was learned about student learning, and determine what new questions need to be asked.

According to an ACPS cohort of sixth grade science teachers, ninth grade ELA teachers, and high school government teachers, “The principles of UDL go hand in hand with the GRR instructional framework, providing students multiple means of representation during focused and guided instruction helps all students to build skills and understanding; providing multiple means of action and expression during collaborative and independent learning helps all students to practice and apply skills and understanding without barriers, and providing multiple means of engagement supports all students through each of the four components of the GRR framework.”

If students are to be prepared upon high school graduation to face the 21<sup>st</sup> century demands in front of them, educator-centered classrooms across the nation need to be replaced by student-centered classrooms. The integration of the GRR and UDL instructional frameworks creates a good learning design that will allow students to ultimately construct their own knowledge as the teacher/facilitator enables such an experience. This is the path that ACPS has chosen, and as the school system moves forward with the GRRUDL instructional framework, the plan for the next several years is as follows:

- This school year: district and school administrators; all K-12 teachers and school counselors; secondary teacher cohorts in science and social studies; new teacher induction; Active Learning Labs
- 2017-2018: secondary teacher cohorts in ELA and math; new teacher induction
- 2018-2019: new teacher induction; elementary teacher cohorts

### ***Outdoor School Update***

Mr. Michael McGowan, ACPS Elementary Supervisor, updated the school board on this year’s fifth grade residential outdoor school held at the 4-H Center in Garret County, Maryland. This year, nearly 630 students attended ODS, and 156 parents and grandparents volunteered their time to attend as chaperones. A total of 180 environmental education lessons were taught over the six-week period, allowing for the opportunity for hands-on experiences that students simply can’t get in a traditional classroom. Mr. McGowan shared a fun fact with the group as well – in addition to the main course meals, staff served a total of 4,800 salads to students! This year, however, was a difficult one for staff, as long time resident teacher, Marc Delaney, lost his battle with cancer. Thankfully, Karen Goetchius, stepped in to fill Marc’s shoes and did a wonderful job.

Mr. McGowan shared with the board several pictures of the scenery, plant and wildlife observed by students and staff at this year’s ODS. Additionally, a video highlighting all that the [ACPS Outdoor School](#) has to offer fifth graders was shown to the board and audience.

### ***Policy Regulation: Student Interrogations/Searches/Arrests (File: JIH-R1)***

The school board heard the regulations for the above policy, whose purpose states “To authorize a reasonable search of a student and seizure of unlawful items.”

## NEW BUSINESS

### ***Consider First Reading of Policy for Student Interrogations/Searches/Arrests (File: JIH)***

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose states “To authorize a reasonable search of a student and seizure of unlawful items.”

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

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session in November pending any appeals or unfinished business. **Please note the date change as a result of schools and offices being closed on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, for Election Day. The meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016.**

## CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS

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

Mrs. Fraley addressed the school board to express her gratitude to the school system for funding the fifth grade Outdoor School program. She has a son in fifth grade who recently attended ODS, and she indicated that he learned a great deal during his week at the center and came home at the end of the week a more independent child.

## REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Zachary Sterne, Student Member of the Board***

Zach updated the school board on various happenings within the school system as it relates to students and student organizations:

- The Allegany County Association of Student Councils held its first meeting of the year.
- All three comprehensive high schools are currently preparing for Homecomings.
- Fort Hill High School held a successful blood drive in September.
- Allegany High School is planning a homeless sleep out to raise funds for the Campers Cubby, which provides items for students in need.
- Members of ACASC are in the planning stages for the Maryland Association of Student Councils annual convention.
- School-wide mock presidential debates are currently underway, and the countywide debate will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Career Center at 6:30 p.m.
- The next ACASC General Assembly is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> at Braddock Middle School.

## NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 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.

**Please note the date change as a result of schools and offices being closed on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, for Election Day.**