

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

Introduce 2016 Student Page, Alternate for Legislative Session

Allegheny High School senior, Caleigh Shade, was introduced as Allegheny County's Student Page for the 2016 Maryland General Assembly session in Annapolis. Reid Buskirk, senior at Mountain Ridge High School, will serve as this year's alternate.

The purpose of the Student Page program is to raise the youth awareness level in state government and legislative proceedings. Each selected Page will have an assortment of duties assigned to them during their two-week terms in either the House of Delegates or the State Senate. Such duties may include bookkeeping, distribution of materials, running errands, answering telephones, and delivering messages. A Page may also earn the opportunity to work within the legislative offices to assist staff members.

In order to qualify for the program, students must be in their senior year of high school at a Maryland public or private school and be at least sixteen years old. Candidates not only have to complete an application provided by the Maryland General Assembly, but they also have to appear before an interview committee of their Student Council peers and compose an essay highlighting their reasons for wanting to participate in the program.

Recognize Students Who Designed 2016 Holiday Greeting Cards

The school board recognized the winners of the 2016 Holiday Greeting Card Contest. The students are as follows:

- Tristen Pensinger, Grade 5, South Penn Elementary
- Eden Young, Grade 8, Washington Middle

- Hannah Nelson, Grade 11, Fort Hill High

Each student received complimentary copies of their cards for distribution.

Response from MSDE Pertaining to Pre-Labor Day Waiver Request

Dr. Cox updated the school board on ACPS's request for a pre-Labor Day start waiver. The Maryland State Board of Education recently met to give consideration to this issue. The action taken by the State Board was to develop a checklist and application that will need to be completed and returned in order to be considered. Therefore, ACPS has not been granted approval for a waiver request, but will anticipate having an update at the January board meeting.

Special Presentations

Dr. Cox and school board members paid tribute to two outgoing members, Dr. Edward Root and Mr. Nicholas Hadley, for their service and dedication to the Allegheny County Public School System and the Board of Education. Dr. Root served two terms on the school board, and Mr. Hadley served one.

Both men served the students of ACPS diligently and with conviction since they were first elected to the school board. They were active and ardent spokesmen for ACPS and represented their membership of the school board at numerous graduations, achievement awards, and other school functions.

Each school board member, board attorney, and student member of the board took the time to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Root and Mr. Hadley for their dedication and commitment to the education of all

students and wished them well in their retirement and/or future endeavors.

Both men received a resolution from the school board and several personalized parting gifts.

Newly elected school board members, Lorelee Farrell and Tammy Fraley, will assume the vacated positions on the board when they are sworn in to office on January 3, 2017.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for November 9, 2016, Work Session and Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of November 1-30, 2016.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of November 1-30, 2016.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of November 1-30, 2016.
5. Receive Monthly Financial Report

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 Project:** Stair tower four has been completed, and block is being placed for stair tower two, the elevator shaft, the exterior wall at the technology labs, and the interior partitions. Concrete walls and piers are being poured at Section A and C. The contractor is pouring concrete footers and piers in Sections A and B; installing water proofing on the Section C retaining wall and backfilling; laying concrete block in Section B; installing temporary panel on the exterior of Section C for winter protection as well as temporary heat; installing electrical conduits and temporary lighting in Section C. Construction has begun on the retaining wall adjacent to the Lions' Center. Before this work could begin, additional parking was added for Lions' Center and the traffic was rerouted in front of their facility. Construction has also begun on the retaining wall at the main parking lot.
- **CIP:** The Director of Facilities attended an IAC appeal, and on behalf of the school board, requested full funding of the FY 2018 requests for the Allegany High School project and Phase II of the Roof Replacement at Mt. Savage School.
- **ASP:** Staff is awaiting the release of the FY 2017 ASP funds to reapply for the Frost roof replacement project.
- **Maintenance Department:** For the first time this year, snowplow crews were called out due to inclement weather.

PARCC Update

Ms. Marsha Miller updated the school board on PARCC, and discussed specifically special education enrollment totals and trend data in response to a request from a board member at the November meeting. Ms. Miller also discussed the different types of PARCC reports available to schools and teachers.

Total student enrollment in 2016 is 8,812. Of that total, 18.2% of elementary students are in special education; 14.9% of middle school students are in special education; and 10.6% of high school students are in special education. Ms. Miller compared this data to 2006 total student enrollment, which was 9,715. In 2006, 13.3% of those students at the elementary level were in special education; 13.5% of middle school students were in special education; and 11.9% of high school students were in special education. The overall percent of students in special education this year is 15.3% compared to 13.9% ten

years ago. Ms. Miller also shared with the school board trend data in special education dating back to 2004.

Ms. Miller shared the variety of PARCC data reports available for schools provided by Pearson and MSDE. They include district and school level reports, evidence statement analysis, performance level reports, summary of schools reports, individual student reports, content standards roster, school student roster, individual student scores, and assessment performance results. Ms. Miller also shared with the school board examples several of the reports listed above and identified each section of these specific reports.

PARCC data can be found in a variety of places, including the Pearson Access Next website, Aspen, Drive, Assessment Management System, within School Improvement Plans, SWIFT Plans, IEPs, and on the mdreportcard.org website. The school system reviews PARCC data to help students become college and career ready, for accountability purposes, to help drive instruction and to make informed decisions, and for SLOs.

SWIFT Update

Mrs. Debbie Metheny updated the school board on SWIFT (Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation) priorities. The U.S. Department of Education gave a large grant to the University of Kansas. Kansas then took SWIFT and requested it be implemented in four states, one of which was Maryland. Each of those four states then selected four counties in which to implement SWIFT, and Allegany County was selected. In each selected county, four schools were chosen as SWIFT schools. ACPS selected Cash Valley, South Penn, and West Side Elementary Schools and Washington Middle School. This implementation process began in the fall of 2014 and will continue until the fall of 2017.

SWIFT has five distinct framework domains and features:

- Administrative Leadership
 - Strong and Engaged Site Leadership
 - Strong Educator Support System
- Multi-Tiered System of Support
 - Inclusive Academic Instruction
 - Inclusive Behavior Instruction
- Integrated Educational Framework
 - Fully Integrated Organizational Structure
 - Strong and Positive School Culture
- Family and Community Engagement
 - Trusting Family Partnerships
 - Trusting Community Partnerships
- Inclusive Policy Structure and Practice
 - Strong LEA/School Relationships

WORK SESSION NOTABLES CONT.

○ LEA Policy Framework

Each of the four schools in ACPS and the district was asked to select one or more priorities to address from one or more of the five SWIFT domains. Each of the SWIFT priorities has practices, which are purposefully selected interventions or activities designed to accomplish a priority. The four stages of implementation of SWIFT are as follows:

- Laying the Foundation – learn options/ choose practices
- Installing – prepare people and systems/ train
- Implementing – try out the practice; reflect and recommend improvements in practices and systems
- Sustaining Schoolwide Implementation – students and system outcomes show the practice works; competent, organized, well led system for practices

The priorities that each of ACPS's SWIFT schools have identified are shown below:

1. Cash Valley Elementary School
 - a. Priority #1 Tiered ELA Instruction
 - i. Practices: Tier II and III Interventions (installing stage); DI Data Analysis (installing stage); TIPS 2 (exploring stage)
 - b. Priority #2 Math Instruction
 - i. Practices: Think Thru Math (installing stage); Eureka Math Pre-k through 2 and grade 5 (installing stage)
2. South Penn Elementary School
 - a. Priority #1 Small Group ELA Instruction
 - i. Practices: Data meetings (implementing stage); Instructional coaching (installing stage)
 - b. Priority #2 Math Instruction
 - i. Practices: Think Thru Math (installing stage); Eureka Math Pre-k through 2 and grade 5 (installing stage)
 - c. Priority #3 Tiered Behavior Supports
 - i. Practices: Behavior Screener (implementing stage); Interventions (installing stage)
3. West Side Elementary School
 - a. Priority #1 ELA Intervention Block
 - i. Practices: Tier II Interventions (installing stage); DI Data Analysis (installing stage); ICT Enhanced with Protocols and Fidelity (installing stage)
 - b. Priority #2 Math Instruction
 - i. Practices: Eureka Math (installing/implementing stages)
 - c. Priority #3 Peer Coaching
 - i. Practices: Training from MSDE (exploring stage)
4. Washington Middle School
 - a. Priority #1 Academic Interventions
 - i. Practices: SRI (full implementation); SMI (full implementation)
 - b. Priority #2 Family Engagement
 - i. Practices: Outreach strategies (installing stage); School engaged opportunities (implementing stage)
 - c. Priority #3 Inclusive Behavior Supports
 - i. Practices: Behavior Screeners (exploring stage)
5. District
 - a. Priority #1 MTSS
 - i. Practices: Practice Profile (initial implementation stage); School Action Planning (installing stage)
 - b. Priority #2 Inclusive Practices
 - i. Practices: Gap Analysis Review (initial implementation stage); Co-planning and Co-teaching (installing stage)
 - c. Priority #3 GRR
 - i. Practices: UDL (initial implementation stage)

Each year, an independent evaluator from SWIFT visits the district to evaluate the SWIFT schools and determine how many features are in place. Currently, ACPS has a total of 74% of SWIFT features in place.

WORK SESSION NOTABLES CONT.

Budget Goals and Priorities

Dr. Cox shared with the school board FY 2018 budget development priority samples that they will be asked to consider that will provide guidance and direction to the Superintendent in the preparation of the 2018 Proposed Superintendent's Operating Budget. These sample priorities were as follows:

- Provide students with rich opportunities to be College and Career Ready
- Preserve as many student program opportunities as possible, based on course demand, graduation requirements, and/or student and parent interest
- Keep class size as low as possible
- Reductions in staffing should be accomplished mostly through attrition
- Every effort should be made to provide employees with negotiated benefits, including salary and health insurance benefits, such that their take home pay would not be less due to increased employee shared costs of health insurance
- Do not utilize the fund balance

Dr. Cox explained that in prior years, budgets have been prepared under assumed values and priorities. The school board may wish to assign a higher priority to some goals than others, or assign equal weight to one, more, or all.

Board/Superintendent Goal Indicators

Dr. Cox updated the school board on the 2016-2017 Board and Superintendent Goals, with a chart highlighting for each goal the indicators of potential evidence of attainment, the school board's role, and the superintendent's role. The four goals are as follows:

- Increase student achievement and learner engagement with special emphasis on the implementation of Maryland college and career standards
- Increase efficiency in the way we operate our schools
- Improve employee morale through effective communication
- Create a better working relationship with the County Commissioners

The goals and indicators document can be found on the school system's website, www.acpsmd.org, under the Elected Board section.

Policy Regulations:

- ***Wellness and Nutrition (File: EFA-R1)***: The school board heard the regulations for the above policy,

whose purpose is "to define a wellness and nutrition policy for students and employees." The policy states "The Allegany County Public School System is committed to ensuring all schools promote and protect the health, well-being, and achievement of all students and employees."

- ***Minimum Standards for Participation in Extracurricular Non-Athletic Activities (File: JJJ-R1)***: The school board heard the regulations for the above policy, whose purpose is "to express the academic and conduct standards for students participating in extracurricular activities other than athletics." The policy states "Participation in extracurricular non-athletic activities is regarded as an important privilege for students. Participation in such activities support students' personal growth and achievement. It also gives students the opportunity to be representatives of their schools. Therefore, students who desire to participate in extracurricular activities shall be required to meet minimum standards. Failure to meet minimum academic standards and conduct standards will result in a student losing the privilege of extracurricular activity participation."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Field Trips (File: IHOA)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to establish field trips as an educational and instructional experience." ACPS assumes no responsibility for and neither approves and regulates nor prohibits unsanctioned field trips. This policy only applies to sanctioned field trips.

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Naloxone (File: JLCED)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to establish a policy regarding administration of Naloxone in the Allegany County Public Schools." Naloxone is a medication indicated for reversal of opioid overdose in the event of a drug overdose that is a result of consumption or use of one or more opioid-related drugs.

Consider Adopting Budget Goals and Priorities

The school board adopted the following budget goals and priorities and ranked them in order of importance:

1. Preserve as many student program opportunities as possible, based on course demand, graduation requirements, and/or student and parent interest.
2. Keep class size as low as possible.
3. Do not utilize the fund balance to balance the budget.
4. Every effort should be made to provide employees with negotiated benefits, including salary and health insurance benefits, such that their take home pay would not be less due to increased employee shared costs of health insurance.

Consider Accepting Bids Submitted for Buses

The school board accepted the bids submitted by K. Neal International in the amount of \$88,177 for a 66-passenger bus and American Bus in the amount of \$94,935 for a 54-passenger bus with a lift gate. The Supervisor of Transportation reviewed the bid specifications for both buses and recommended accepting the bids.

Consider Approval of Board/Superintendent Goal Indicators

The school board approved the board and superintendent goal indicators, which can be found on the school system's website, www.acpsmd.org, under the Elected Board section.

Consider First Reading of Policy for Wellness and Nutrition (File: EFA)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy.

Consider First Reading of Policy for Minimum Standards for Participation in Extracurricular Non-Athletic Activities (File: JJJ)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy.

Vote to Meet in Executive Session in January

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, pending any appeals or unfinished business.

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zachary Sterne, Student Member of the Board

Zach updated the school board on various happenings within the Allegany County Association of Student Councils and individual school Student Councils. He also took the opportunity to congratulate and welcome newly elected school board members, Lorelee Farrell and Tammy Fraley. Other updates included:

- ACASC recently held its General Assembly at Braddock Middle School. During the assembly, Zach implemented a trial run of a constituent portion/forum, which proved to be successful.
- ACASC has planned a Spirit Night.
- Members of ACASC's Executive Board have plans to meet with the group from Bridges to Opportunity.
- Zach, along with Nick Warnick and Jared Klemm, attended the MASC Executive Board meeting in Silver Spring, MD, where they had the opportunity to vote on several constitutional amendments and to report on ACASC's plans to host the next MASC Convention.

CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS

Tamara Clarke

Ms. Clarke spoke to the school board regarding children with learning disabilities and behavioral disorders and their correlation with biochemical imbalances. She provided members with a packet of information based on the work of Dr. Doris Rapp.

Evan West

Mr. West addressed the school board to commend them for setting budget priorities, and noted that he was in agreement with Dr. Root in regards to being unable to only pick three of the six as priorities. He feels that prioritizing the items was a very difficult and daunting task, but that goals are meant to be aspirational. If any one of the six budget priorities were to be affected too severely or adversely, it would most certainly impact the students and staff of ACPS. Therefore, Mr. West feels that it is important for the school board to set the bar high, even if all of the priorities are not necessarily attainable. In addition, of the priorities that could be considered "bargainable", he hopes that the school board will put thought into how that will be communicated to the public. As a representative of ACEA, Mr. West indicated that the association would like to help collaborate with the school board on these issues, and that staff participation in this process would be very advantageous.

Tom Marsh

Mr. Marsh addressed the school board once again to voice his displeasure about school closings in the Westernport area years ago. He asked the school board to reconsider establishing a junior/senior high school in the Westernport area. Mr. Marsh also commended the school board on its decision to build a new Allegany High School.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 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.