

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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Board of Education

Mrs. Laurie Marchini, President
Mrs. Sara-Beth Bittinger, VP
Mrs. Tammy Fraley
Mrs. Lorelee Farrell
Mr. Wayne Foote
Mr. Zachary Sterne, SMOB
Dr. David Cox, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Recognize Fort Hill Football Team & Homecoming Game Offensive and Defensive Players

The school board honored the Fort Hill High School football team, along with head coach Todd Appel, for winning their fourth consecutive State 1A Championship against Havre de Grace. In addition, Raen Smith and Nathaniel Graves were awarded the Homecoming 2016 Offensive and Defensive Players of the Game, respectively.

Recognize Allegany High School Marching Band

The school board honored the Allegany High School marching band, under the direction of Larry Jackson, for winning their 17th consecutive Chapter 5 Championship in the Tournament of Bands. Chapter 5 consists of all of western and central Maryland, Pennsylvania, the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, and northern Virginia. Allegany's band program has earned this title 20 of the last 22 years.

Winter Weather Schedule Change Consideration

Dr. Cox updated the school board and the public on the many factors that are considered when making a decision to delay or close schools. The first consideration is for the safety of the students traveling to and from school, including the outside access to school buildings. ACPS transportation department personnel survey road conditions as early as 3:30 a.m. on mornings of inclement weather, traveling on routes that are representative of some of the critical

areas for safe school bus travel. Staff also consults with the National Weather Service out of Pittsburgh, PA, and Sterling, VA, AccuWeather Service information, State Highway weather stations, and other automated weather stations for weather forecasts and updates. While the school system does not require absolute "bare road" conditions to be in session, ACPS personnel regularly consult with County Roads Departments, the State Highway Administration, local municipality road crews, and surrounding counties' transportation offices to gather the best information available to make a reasonable decision.

On days when road conditions are passable, but extreme cold temperatures present safety concerns, ACPS uses as a baseline for delaying or closing schools for cold temperatures only, air temperature at or below 0° and/or sustained wind chill temperatures of -15° or below. Decisions are made based on current conditions, predicted conditions, how the cold temperatures will affect the operation of school buses, and properly clothed children. However, it is rare that cold temperatures are the only factor being considered when making a decision to delay or close schools.

Announcements concerning delays or closures will be posted on the school system's website, www.acpsmd.org, no later than 5:30 a.m.

Announcements to close schools during an initial two or three-hour delay will be made no later than 8 a.m.

Early dismissal announcements will be made no later than 11 a.m., which will in turn cancel all sessions of afternoon pre-kindergarten.

School closings due to inclement weather may not always automatically cancel after school and evening activities. The Superintendent will consult with the appropriate staff to determine if weather conditions have improved to allow for the activity or event to take place. This decision will most often be made by noon the day of the scheduled activity or event.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for December 13, 2016, Work Session and Business Meeting.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of December 1-31, 2016.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of December 1-31, 2016.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of December 1-31, 2016.
5. Receive Monthly Financial Report

The school board approved the consent agenda.

WORK SESSION NOTABLES

Election of Officers

Mrs. Laurie Marchini was unanimously elected as school board president, and Mrs. Sara-Beth Bittinger was elected by a 3-2 vote as school board vice president. Both seats are one-year terms.

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 currently pouring concrete footers and pies in sections A & B; Installing water proofing on section C wall and back filling; Laying concrete block in section B; Continuing to install temporary panels on the exterior of section C for winter protection; Installing electrical conduits and temporary lighting in section C; Continuing work on the retaining wall adjacent to Lion's Center and construction of the retaining wall at the main parking lot; Pouring the concrete floors on the second and third levels of section C; and erecting the remaining steel in section C.
- **FY 2017 CIP:** Staff received notice from the IAC on January 5th indicating that they have approved partial funding for requests for funding for Allegany and the roof replacement at Mt. Savage. Staff also received notice that the BPW will receive testimony from LEAs supporting their requests on January 25th.
- **ASP:** Staff is waiting for the release of the FY 2017 ASP funds to reapply for the Frost roof replacement project.
- **Maintenance Department:** Maintenance and Operations crews worked over the weekend monitoring the buildings during cold weather. Cold weather procedures are in place to protect buildings in such conditions. However, there were still two failures (see below).
- **Cresaptown Power Failure:** Power failed at Cresaptown on a Sunday. The boilers failed to reset when the power was restored. The electric motors on one of the hot water circulating pumps and the temperature control air compressor burnt up, likely as a result of the outage. This effectively disabled the heating system. Seven of the heating

coils froze before the custodian discovered the problem on Monday morning. Maintenance crews isolated those heaters and repaired the four that had frozen and burst. Heat was restored to most of the school by 9 a.m. Repairs were complete and all of the heat was restored by 4 p.m.

- **Allegany Power Failure:** Power failed at Allegany as well. There are two roof-mounted air handlers on the roof of the cafeteria. Over the weekend the fan motors in both units burnt up. Staff was able to locate one motor and repair one of the units on Wednesday. The motor for the second unit was ordered. Over the years it has been difficult maintaining heat at Allegany when the outside temperature drops to single digits. Much of the school has single pane windows. The heaters in the gym wing are under-sized, and the hallways are unheated. There are two separate heating systems that just can't keep up anymore.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to express the academic and conduct standards for students participating in extracurricular activities other than athletics."

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

The school board approved, by a 3-2 vote, the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to define a wellness and nutrition policy for students and employees."

NEW BUSINESS

Consider First Reading of Policy for Policy Development (File: BG)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to identify the process for developing, adopting, revising and reviewing policy.”

Consider First Reading of Policy for Audio-Video Recording (File: IJ)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to describe the limitation on the use of audio-video recording devices during Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.”

Approve Resolution to Add Larry McKenzie, CFO, to First United National Bank and Trust on the Food Service Account

First United National Bank and Trust recognized that the school system had not added Mr. Larry McKenzie, ACPS Chief Business Officer, as a signature on the account. The previous CFO was still listed.

Vote to Meet in Executive Session in February

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, pending any appeals or unfinished business.

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zachary Sterne, Student Member of the Board

Zach reported the following updates to the school board:

- The Allegany County Association of Student Councils held a Spirit Night on January 12th to benefit the organization.
- Student council members have begun discussing a lobbying project for a local matter.
- ACASC’s Annual Advocacy Day will be held in Annapolis on March 1st and gives students the opportunity to sit in on various sessions of the General Assembly.

NEXT MEETING

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