

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's Advance Update

Dr. Cox updated the school board on the Superintendent's Advance, which was held for two and a half days at the beginning of August and organized by Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, ACPS Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. George Brown, ACPS Supervisor of Professional Learning. The annual Advance serves as a back-to-school planning session for instructional leaders including principals, assistant principals, and instructional supervisors.

The group heard presentations from Dr. Susan Rice on the GRR, specifically guided instruction; Marilee Snyder on critical vocabulary words; ACPS principals who had been a part of the State's review of new standards; and an opioid task force panel. Teacher leaders also had the opportunity to hear similar presentations and can now serve as building resources for other teachers.

Important 2017-2018 Dates

Dr. Cox updated the school board on the following key dates for the upcoming school year:

- August 23 – First day of school for teachers
- August 24 – Live Stream Convocation
- August 29 – First day of school for students (3 hour early dismissal)
- September 6 – Pre-K and kindergarten begin (KRA administered before they arrive)
- December 22 – Christmas break begins
- January 2 – Schools reopen
- June 8 – Last day of school for students with five built-in make-up days (3 hour early dismissal)

The 2017-2018 calendar is available on the ACPS website at www.acpsmd.org.

WORK SESSION NOTABLES

Anti-Drug Club

Cumberland City Councilman, Seth Bernard, approached the school board with a proposal to form an Anti-Drug Club in Allegany County Public Schools. The membership program would be designed to help all students in grades 9-12 to stay drug-free. With drug use and abuse spreading so rapidly throughout the nation and local communities, Mr. Bernard feels that it is important to make every effort to educate students on the dangers of drug addiction. Accomplished through in-school rewards, community incentives, and public awareness, the ACPS program would work collaboratively to keep students on the right track for a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

At the beginning of the school year, students would have the chance to voluntarily join the club for an annual membership fee of \$10. This fee would help to offset club expenses including drug testing. Schools would be responsible to organize program activities for members throughout the school year. Members will be randomly drug tested during the year, and all results will be kept confidential. If a test result is positive, only the program coordinator and the parents would be made aware of the results.

Mr. Bernard suggested partnering with local businesses to offer incentives and rewards for members including discounts at various businesses, field trips, cash prizes, and scholarship incentives.

Maintenance and Construction Update

ACPS Director of Facilities, Vince

Board of Education

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for Work Session and Business Meeting July 18, 2017.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of July 1-31, 2017.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of July 1-31, 2017.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of July 1-31, 2017.
5. Approve 2017-2018 table of rates for school bus contractors.
6. Receive Monthly Financial Report.
7. Approve continuation of refuse hauling contract with Burgmeier's Hauling from September 1, 2017, to August 31, 2018, in the amount of \$7,444.29 per month.

The school board approved the consent agenda.

Work Session Notables continued on page 2.

WORK SESSION NOTABLES CONT. (2)

Montana, updated the school board on various ongoing or upcoming maintenance and construction projects. They are as follows:

- **Allegany High School Project:** The contractor is doing the following at the site –
 - Continuing to pour concrete in the auditorium
 - Area C: finishing gypsum wall board on the 2nd and 3rd floors; hanging gypsum wall board on the upper level; completing the brick on the south and north sides; installing sprinkler mains and branch lines on the lower level; installing exterior glass
 - Area B: installing electrical duct bank in the kitchen area; completing block walls in the locker and wrestling areas; installing exterior window framing at the cafeteria; continuing masonry walls in the cardio/health areas; installing metal siding on mechanical penthouse #2
 - Area A: completing block at the music room; continuing block walls in the auditorium; setting door jambs and exterior windows in the admin area; installing the auditorium roof; installing music suite roof; applying spray on fire proofing
 - Site: installing perimeter track drain; placing topsoil at the football field; building retaining wall at the football field; excavating and filling the area for the overflow parking lot; preparing to pour concrete at the loading dock; fenced lower parking lot and transferred Lions' Center employee parking to this lot; began the excavation of the existing Lions' Center parking area
- **FY 2018 CIP:** The IAC made its final funding recommendations to the IAC on May 4th. The recommendations include full funding of ACPS requests for Allegany High School and the roof replacement project at Mt. Savage.
- **ASP:** The PSCP has issued the application forms for the FY 2018 ASP funds. Staff is planning to apply for projects soon. These projects will include the Frost roof replacement project and other priority projects as funding allows.
- **Maintenance Department:** The replacement of the carpet with vinyl tile at Bel Air is complete, the installation of the new ceiling in the cafeteria is complete, and the installation of the new floor tile is also complete. Installation of the new flooring at West Side is complete. Staff is currently fabricating new handrails for the sidewalk at West Side. Maintenance crews have completed the installation of thirteen Active Learning Labs and are currently working to complete alterations to the furnishings. Staff is installing or moving approximately 100

Smartboards/short-throw projectors/Lightraise in all of the elementary schools. As of last week, crews had spent more than 1,000 man-hours on this work over the summer.

- **Braddock and Washington:** The County's Director of Public Works, Paul Kahl, approached ACPS in June about providing County Roads Division crews to improve the roads and Braddock and Washington. County staff visited both schools, developed a scope of work and an estimate. ACPS and the County agreed that the County would provide the equipment and manpower and that the school board would pay for all materials. Crews began work to seal the roads at both schools on July 24th. The work completed included patching and chip-sealing the road and parking lot at Washington. The road at Braddock was more deteriorated and required leveling with blacktop before chip sealing. The work has greatly improved the roads and is expected to extend their life three to five years.

Middle School Schedule Update

Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, ACPS Chief Academic Officer, addressed the school board with several middle school updates. During the 2016-2017 school year, an A-B schedule for science and social studies was piloted at the 8th grade level. The pilot was implemented due to concerns about the transition to the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA). MISA is an integrated Earth, Life, and Physical Science assessment given at the end of 8th grade. Science courses at the middle school level are also being integrated via a three-year transition plan that began in 2015. The integrated courses introduce the science skills and processes as they apply to Earth, Life, and Physical Science content knowledge identified in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Grades 6 and 7 have an integrated science course. 8th grade students will be enrolled in Physical Science. In the 2018-2019 school year, all three grades will have an integrated science course. Principals indicated that they received input from staff during the year regarding the pilot. There was consensus among the principals that the A-B schedule would provide for greater consistency for all students. Beginning in the fall, all students will have science and social studies on an A-B day, instead of an A-B semester. Therefore, students will have the course all year long. Since the MISA is given in March, this ensures that all students are at the same point in their science class when the assessment occurs. Work is also continuing at MSDE on a social studies assessment that may take place in middle school. The A-B schedule will provide a similar benefit if a social studies assessment is administered in 8th grade.

Staff recently submitted an application for the Public School Opportunities Enhancement Grant Program (after school

program) for the maximum funding of \$250,000 per year for all four middle schools. This program would have a STEAM focus and provide enrichment activities. Components of the grant include academic support and tutoring; character education and physical education; college and careers through a partnership with FSU; environmental literacy/stewardship; service learning projects; and a parent/family focus on nutrition, healthy living, and drug-free lifestyles through a partnership with the YMCA OAKs program.

Staff also submitted an application for a robotics grant in the amount of \$12,525 to help fund a robotics program at the four middle schools. The robotics program would be integrated into the after school program and during the co-curricular period. The grant award would provide the funding necessary to purchase the Lego Robotics kits. A local non-profit group REACT (Robotics Engineering Allegan County Together) would provide mentoring support to the coaching staff and students. At the middle school level, students will use the competition and community project guidelines of the First Lego League (FLL).

Dr. Kalbaugh also spoke about the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland, which was established by HB1403 in 2016. This is a state grant program that provides funding for college access through non-profit organizations to enhance college and career awareness and college completion for low-income Maryland high school students. Grants provided to non-profits to administer a program that provides guidance and services to students pre-qualifying for the Guaranteed Access Grant in eligible school systems. Any Maryland high school senior who demonstrates financial need according to grant requirements is eligible to apply for a Guaranteed Access Grant. Awards are made by the total family income, high school GPA, and other admission requirements. Other participating school districts include Baltimore City, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Prince George's, Somerset, and Wicomico. Required components of the grant include a high school graduation plan; summer work or internship opportunities; financial aid literacy assistance; career interest assessments; mentorship and one-on-one counseling; visits to college campuses and workplaces; an intensive summer bridge program for students entering an institution of higher education directly from high school; and a plan to matriculate and graduate from an institution of higher education. This is a potential 3-year grant, dependent on state funding.

By June 2018, within the Next Generation Scholars framework, 7th, 8th, and 9th graders with qualifying FARMS indicators will receive essential college and career ready services from the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) in alignment with ACPS. MBRT will identify students to be served by the grant at Washington Middle School and Fort Hill High School. MBRT will also determine career interests of qualified students; create awareness of the interconnection of academic preparation, college coursework, and career goals; and expose students to career pathways through workforce volunteer learning engagements. ACPS and MSDE are scheduled to review the MBRT proposal soon, and notification of grant awards will be forthcoming.

Dr. Kalbaugh also spoke about the EVERFI Financial Critical Skills Impact Report. For the past several years, ACPS has worked collaboratively with EVERFI, HRDC, and PNC Bank to provide financial literacy resources to middle school students. The number of students involved in these programs has continued to increase. Last year, 468 6th graders completed one module or more of the Vault: Understanding Money program; 550 7th graders completed one module or more of the Venture: Entrepreneurial Expedition program; and 664 students at the high school level completed the Financial Literacy for High Schools program as an extension of their financial literacy class. 93% of ACPS teachers who taught these courses indicated that they would recommend the EVERFI course to a fellow teacher. Pre to post course student growth scores were as follows: 1) Making Plans with Money: 60% to 81%; 2) Smart Shopping: 59% to 88%; and 3) Banking: 44% to 88%.

Dr. Kalbaugh updated the school board on a new 8th grade financial literacy resource from EVERFI called FutureSmart, which allows students to be educated on the aspects of daily financial decisions and the payoffs of long-term planning. Through a compelling narrative in which students play the Mayor of a town, local citizens are helped with real-life decisions. From weighing opportunity costs to delaying instant gratification for long-term gain, students face important questions on their way to becoming FutureSmart.

Dr. Cox, along with Dr. Kalbaugh and Katie Buskirk, Supervisor of ELA and World Language, is working to transition the highly successful and award winning Chinese Partial Immersion Program from West Side to the middle school level. West Side began hosting a kindergarten partial immersion Chinese program at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. Students in the program have the opportunity to develop communication skills and academic proficiency in both Mandarin Chinese and English. Students enrolled during the first year of the program will be in grade five this year. Stakeholders and Steering Committee input will be an integral part of the transition process.

WORK SESSION NOTABLES CONT. (4)

After School Program Update

Mr. Gary Delaney, Coordinator for the 21st Century After School Program, updated the school board on the status of the program, which is funded by a federal grant administered by the State to develop community learning centers. ACPS's SAFE (Students and Families Excelling) grant is in its 14th year and has received more than \$5 million. It is available in four elementary schools – South Penn, John Humbird, West Side, and Northeast – with a capacity of 200 students and is offered four days a week from 3:30-6 p.m. for students in grades one through five. The program is currently running at full capacity and has waiting lists available in the event that students enrolled move or dropout of the program. The program's student to teacher ratio is 1:10, which is required by the grant, and all teachers are highly qualified. Its targeted population serves students that are identified as FARMs with an emphasis on lower achieving students as determined by assessments and teacher evaluations.

Students in the after school program receive a meal prepared by HRDC, which is delivered in hot boxes each evening. They then received one hour of academic instruction per night along with one hour of enrichment and homework assistance. The program has a concentrated STEM component and staff works collaboratively with partners to provide various field trips and activities for students. Students participate in service learning projects; attend performances at the Cumberland Theatre and Frostburg State University several times per year. The program works closely with the Maryland extension and Food Supplement Nutrition Education to provide nutrition lessons from Maryland approved curriculum. The Maryland Extension also provides financial literacy lessons. The after school program utilizes Echo Stars, which are students from FSU, to assist with homework and hands-on activities for students.

For more information about the program and to see activities in action, visit <https://vimeo.com/164569907>. The program begins on September 11, 2017.

Financial & Technology Reports

Nil Grove, ACPS Chief IT Officer, provided the following department updates:

- Teacher Principal Evaluation system updated with the new 70/30 model and is ready to use for the upcoming school year
- Assessments (SAT, ACT, AP) have been imported into Aspen and provided on student transcripts
- Single sign-on for Aspen which will be easier for staff to use
- Real estate tax assistance for the County as they transition to Tyler Tax. Tyler conversion for the school system is also underway
- ACPS has 1G of internet bandwidth for no cost thanks to fiber connections
- E-rate reimbursements to date total \$145,000, which will be used for technology upgrades
- Updated approximately 1,000 desktop/laptop units in preparation for a new school year

Larry McKenzie, ACPS Chief Finance Officer, provided departmental updates to the school board:

- Busy time of year for the Finance Department as they close the books on FY17 and begin the process of making sure schools are ready to open for FY18.
- Staff continues to work on the audit
- Staff continues to work with representatives from Tyler on that transition.
- Health insurance claims for the year were covered by premiums.
- Legal fees for one open case have totaled approximately \$45,000

RFP for Redistricting

At the March school board meeting, the board approved the development of an RFP for a redistricting plan for the county and the assembly of a redistricting committee to assist the consultant. A draft of this RFP was shared with the school board that was complied with information from school districts around the state that have engaged in this type of work. A final draft of the RFP was shared with the school board, and a supplemental business meeting will be scheduled for approval to proceed with the selection of a consultant and subsequent advisory community group.

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Laurie Marchini

Mrs. Marchini congratulated fellow school board member, Tammy Fraley, who was recently nominated and selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

Ms. Alexis Lashbaugh, SMOB

Alexis informed the school board that the Allegany County Association of Student Councils held its first informal planning meeting to discuss the upcoming school year. ACASC president, Delanie Blubaugh, proposed an idea for a countywide fundraiser to benefit 4 Diamonds for the Kids, and organization committed to conquering childhood cancer. ACASC members attended a summit in Hershey, PA, to gather an outline of the program and learn about fundraising opportunities. At the end of the year, ACASC will host a minithon to celebrate and reveal the amount of money that was raised for this cause during the 2017-2018 school year.