

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Introduce Student Page for 2018 Legislative Session

The school board recognized Ivy Mackereth of Fort Hill High School as the 2018 Student Page. This program is designed to get young adults interested in State Government while fostering leadership skills. Each Page will serve two non-consecutive in the State Senate or House of Delegates.

Ivy is Fort Hill's student body president, serves as a representative on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, is a National Honor Society tutor, and is a member of the Factions Political Debate Club and the cross country team.

Recognize Delegate for 2018 U.S. Senate Youth Program

The school board recognized Mountain Ridge senior, Morgan Edwards, for being selected as the #1 Delegate in the 56th Annual U.S. Senate Youth Program. Morgan will represent the State of Maryland in Washington, D.C., in March. In addition to serving as a Delegate for Maryland, he will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science.

Recognize Allegany County Robotics Team

The school board recognized the Allegany County Robotics team, under the direction of Dennis Dennison, for their performance in the FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge. Two teams competed at the Greater Washington, D.C. FTC Robotics Qualifier against 27 other teams. One of Allegany County's teams won the event and will advance to the FTC Maryland

State Championship to compete against the other top teams in Maryland and surrounding states for the chance to move on to the super regional event and world championship. Allegany County's other participating team was a finalist at the event. This was the first time a team from Allegany County has won this level of the competition.

Recognize Homecoming Award Winners

The school board recognized two Fort Hill High School football players for their performance at this year's annual Homecoming game against Allegany High School. Troy Banks II was awarded Offensive Player of the Game, and Kaleb Harden was awarded Defensive Player of the Game. Fort Hill's head football coach is Todd Appel.

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 doing the following in Area C – hanging, finishing, painting gypsum wall board throughout; installing ceiling grid and tile on all floors; installing casework on the entry and upper levels; installing ceramic tile on upper floors; installing the elevator and finishing the masonry at door openings; the state fire marshal is inspecting each section of the building prior to the ceiling installation; installing interior glass in hallways. The contractor is doing the following in Area B – installing ceiling grid in the kitchen;

Board of Education

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for Work Session December 12, 2017, and Business Meeting December 12, 2017.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of December 1-31, 2017.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of December 1-31, 2017.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of December 1-31, 2017.
5. Receive Monthly Financial Report.
6. Approve recommendation to renew 3-year contract with Huber Michaels Co. for independent consultant services.

The school board approved the consent agenda.

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installing refrigeration systems for the kitchen walk-in coolers and completing the exhaust hood; installing ceiling hung gymnasium equipment; installing the canopy at the bus drop-off. The contractor is doing the following in Area A – working to complete the curtain wall at the main entrance; completing the duct work, sprinkler lines, and lights in the auditorium; completed the exterior masonry at the music rooms; installing window frames and glass at the music rooms; building interior walls in music and laying the HDM units in the auditorium. Most of the site work is currently on hold. The remainder of the modules for the large air handler units has been delivered and are being assembled. Workers are installing lights, and wiring for intercom, fire alarms, and security systems and completing the duct work to the air handlers. The main water line to the building was charged last week. The contractor wisely decided to delay charging the lines in the building until this week. The lines are being charged individually for the various sections of the building. Staff will begin giving tours to local law enforcement officers, the Sheriff's Department, and Maryland State Police.

- **FY2019 CIP:** The FY2019 Capital Improvements Program was submitted to the PSCP on October 3, 2017. The IAC appeals for the FY2019 capital improvements requests were held on January 4, 2018. To date, the IAC staff has recommended funding of \$2.9 million of ACPS's requested \$3.95 million for Allegany. ACPS has also requested \$884,000 for the Bel Air roof replacement, which has not yet been funded.
- **Westernport:** Replacement of the cylinder for the elevator has been completed. The contractor began work in early December. The State required third party tests, which were completed last week, and the state inspector was at the school on Monday to certify the work. The elevator was returned to service on January 8th.
- **All Schools:** Recent cold weather affected three schools, and a coil in one of them had frozen. Maintenance crews were able to clean the classroom affected. The boilers at the Career Center shut down due to a momentary electrical outage that tripped the manual resets. A pump for the heating system at Mt. Savage failed and caused pipes to burst in six classrooms. Maintenance crews isolated the systems and restored heat to the remainder of the building. All units were repaired. The water to the Maintenance building had also frozen, but the main line is underground, and will have to thaw on its own.

Election of Officers

Each January, the Board of Education elects new officers to serve for one-year terms. The newly elected President is Dr.

Sara-Beth Bittinger, and the newly elected Vice President is Mrs. Tammy Fraley.

Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Grant

Carrie Pannone, the Coordinator for Allegany County's Next Generation Scholars Program (NGSP) at Washington Middle and Fort Hill High Schools. NGS is a state grant program established by Maryland House Bill 1403 in 2016 that provides funding for college access through nonprofit organizations to enhance college and career awareness and college completion for low-income Maryland high school students. The Maryland Business Roundtable for Education was awarded three grants by MSDE, one of which is in Allegany County.

Through the NGSP, the career interests of qualified students will be determined and will create awareness of the interconnection of academic preparation, college coursework, and career goals. The program will also expose students to career pathways through workforce volunteer learning engagements, field trips, and college visits and prepare them to consider how their GPA and/or test performances impacts their college options.

Currently in ACPS, Washington Middle School has a total of 74 out of 230 eligible students enrolled in the program, and Fort Hill High School has eleven out of 100 eligible students enrolled. Mrs. Pannone has worked hard to increase awareness and enrollment in the program through parent meetings and surveys, positive news coverage, and guest speakers.

Policies and Protocols Re: Bullying

Dr. Ben Brauer, Supervisor of Student Services, updated the school board on the school system's policies and protocols regarding bullying, harassment, and intimidation in school. An online investigation form is available on the school system's website, www.acpsmd.org, by clicking on the anti-bullying icon in the rotating photo stream on the main page. These forms are also available in every school office and at the central office building. After submitting an online report, Dr. Brauer gets an instant email notification, and either Dr. Brauer or a school administrator will contact the sender to open an investigation.

Testing and Bridge Updates

Ms. Trina McGregor, Assistant Supervisor of Assessment and Accountability, updated the school board on testing information. A Level 3 score of 725 on PARCC exams will continue to be the passing score used until the Class of 2024, and there will be no increasing transition. Seniors who are deemed not college or career ready (CCR) in math and in need of a reassessment option will be given the Accuplacer in place of the PARCC algebra II test. Seniors passing their technical skills

assessment at the Career Center will be deemed college or career ready in both math and English/Language Arts.

Winter PARCC testing in ACPS is currently underway in all high schools, and a retest group consists of students that were unsuccessful on graduation assessment. Students that are not CCR in ELA are retaking the ELA11 assessment. Due to spring 2017 being the first date of a passing score, test takers have increased from nearly 600 last January to more than 1,200 this December and January.

Seniors that are not CCR in math will take the elementary algebra portion of the Accuplacer as their reassessment option in January and February. A successful score on this portion of the test will then deem the student CCR in math. The only PARCC assessment that deems a student CCR for math is the algebra II test. CCR passing score is 750, Level 4, or above. This test consists of three 90-minute sessions as opposed to one session in algebra on the Accuplacer. Success on the Accuplacer could encourage students to consider this test as an option.

Graduation assessment requirements are as follows:

- Algebra I: Class of 2018 must take the algebra I PARCC. All other student requirements are based on the year of testing. Students taking PARCC prior to spring 2017 are “participate only.” Students taking PARCC in spring 2017 or later must pass PARCC with a 725, with a combined algebra I/ELA10 score of 1450, or complete the Bridge option.
- ELA10: Class of 2018 must take the algebra I PARCC. All other student requirements are based on the year of testing. Students taking PARCC prior to spring 2017 are “participate only.” Students taking PARCC spring 2017 or later must pass PARCC with a 725, with a combined algebra I/ELA10 score of 1450, or complete the Bridge option.
- Government: All students must pass the HSA government assessment with a score of 394, meet a combined score option, or complete a Bridge option. Combined score options can be any combination of government (394), biology (400), HSA algebra (412). One bridge project needs to be completed for every 22-point deficit of the 394 passing score.

After one unsuccessful attempt on assessments, Bridge is added to a student’s schedule as part of their coursework. There is only one Bridge Project for algebra and ELA, regardless of the score. Students will retest in the winter. After two unsuccessful attempts on assessments, students will continue to work on and complete Bridge projects, which are submitted to Ms. McGregor and sent to trained scorers. Projects are either accepted or marked for revision. Once accepted, students have

met that graduation requirement. There are currently 515 Bridge projects being completed at all high schools and the CCTE. School principals and School Improvement Teams are finalizing annual School Improvement Plans, which include and focus on data-driven goals derived from extensive analysis. Principals have also been working on root cause analysis of low-achieving subgroups and steps to improve in those areas.

Technology Report

Mrs. Nil Grove, ACPS Chief IT Officer, updated the school board on several highlights from her department during December. The failover for district Internet services are now in place in the event of an issue at County Government. ACPS will automatically route through a new connection – Pershing Street Museum to Market Street. ACPS received approval from E-Rate for the purchase of infrastructure equipment (85% reimbursement). This will fund new wireless access points, switches, and UPS units for the new Allegany High School as well as Braddock and Washington Middle Schools. The allocated \$100,000 of ARC funding was released as a result of E-Rate approval for Allegany fiber. Finally, IT has worked extensively with the finance department in order to schedule end-user trainings and to assist with the Go Live conversion to the new ERP system, Tyler-Munis.

Financial Report

Mr. Larry McKenzie, ACPS Chief Finance Officer, updated the school board on several departmental highlights. The school system continues to trend more positively this year compared to last year in overall expenses, utilities, non-public placements, and healthcare costs. Additionally, there is almost \$27 million cash balance in the bank compared to \$20.5 million last year.

Class Size Budget Discussion

At the request of the school board, class size discussion continued as much of the information they were given in December tie directly to several budget priorities set forth by the board to assist in developing the FY2019 Superintendent’s Operating Budget. Board members agreed that a main focus and priority should be on reducing elementary class sizes, not based on averages, but rather determine a maximum number that classes shouldn’t exceed. Additionally, this should be the focus as well at the secondary levels for certain critical content courses.

Policy Regulation: Electronic Signature (File EHBA-R1)

The school board heard the regulations for the above policy, whose purpose is “to allow the use of electronic signatures by ACPS personnel and to comply with relevant law.” The policy states, “ACPS recognizes the need to communicate electronically and to execute documents electronically. The

Work Session Notables Cont. (4)

written execution of documents is not always appropriate, convenient, or possible. Therefore, ACPS authorizes the use of electronic signatures in electronic communications in accordance with ACPS regulations.”

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Accepting Bids for Buses

Each year, the school system solicits bids for school buses that the school system will buy after July 1st and will place in service for the school year beginning in August. Approval of these bids will set the FY19 bus purchase account.

The school board accepted bids submitted by K. Neal International for a 66-passenger bus and American Bus for a 54-passenger bus with a lift gate. Mr. Larry Humbertson, ACPS Supervisor of Transportation, reviewed bid specifications for these two buses and recommended the acceptance of the low bids in the amount of \$87,324 (K. Neal International) and \$94,943 (American Bus) for a total purchase amount of \$277,210.

Consider First Reading of Policy for Electronic Signature (File: EHBA)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to allow the use of electronic signatures by ACPS personnel and to comply with relevant law.”

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

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish a policy regarding administration of Naloxone in ACPS.” The policy states, “The BOE recognizes the importance of having school nurses in the ACPS who are capable of treating opioid overdoses by administering Naloxone. The school nurse or other authorized personnel may administer Naloxone to a person who may be perceived to be experiencing an opioid overdose.”

Consider Changing February Meeting Date

Due to several conflicts with school board member schedules, they agreed to change the date of February’s school board meeting from Tuesday, February 6, 2018 (original date) to Thursday, February 1, 2018 (new date).

Vote to Meet in Executive Session in February

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Thursday, February 1 2018, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The work session will begin at 5:00 p.m., and the business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Second Reading of Policy for Staff Complaints (File: GBN)

The school board accepted the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish a procedure to resolve staff complaints.”

The policy states, “The BOE places trust in its employees. In the performance of their duties, employees should be protected from unnecessarily spiteful, unfair, or negative allegations. Complaints which cannot be resolved informally will be considered only if made and presented in writing to the complainant’s immediate supervisors. When a complainant’s concern pertains to his or her immediate supervisor, the complaint shall be submitted in writing to Human Resources. If the immediate supervisor is Chief Administrative Officer, the complaint shall be submitted to the Superintendent.”

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Alexis Lashbaugh, SMOB

Alexis updated the school board on several important upcoming dates:

- ACASC General Assembly Meeting – January 31st
- Several ACASC Executive Board members will attend the NASC Lead Conference in Arlington, VA – January 26-28
- December Student Advisory Board Meeting rescheduled for January 25th

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS

Mr. John Reuschlein, President ACEA

Mr. Reuschlein addressed the school board regarding the recent Staff Engagement Survey, in which results indicated several “actionable goals.” He was specifically interested in learning which areas the school board plans to take action on first and how will they address those areas. Dr. Bittinger, school board president, informed Mr. Reuschlein that the school board plans to report back in a public Work Session their plans to address actionable goals.

Mr. Evan West, UniServe Director ACEA

Mr. West addressed the school board to applaud them on their consistent and thoughtful budget goal priorities, specifically those related to class size, employee compensation, and programmatic cuts. According to initial results from a bargaining unit survey, members also felt that these were important topics for the school board to focus on. Mr. West also cautioned the school board to pay close attention to preliminary reports from the Kirwin Commission as it relates to a recent legislative proposal from the Governor entitled the Protect Our Students Act, which would overturn the work that was done on last year’s Protect Our Schools Act.

Mrs. Mary Lantz

Mrs. Lantz is the owner of a daycare facility in LaVale located in between Cash Valley and Parkside Elementary Schools. She addressed the school board to request that they consider adding a bus stop for Bus #77, which passes by her facility, so that parents of Cash Valley students in need of before and after school could utilize her daycare. She is located in the Parkside district.

Mr. Wesley Mason

Mr. Mason addressed the school board regarding comments from Allegany County Commissioner, Bill Valentine, in which he expressed disappointment in the school board for not engaging with constituents during public meetings. Mr. Mason doesn’t agree with Mr. Valentine’s statements and wanted to the school board to know that he doesn’t think his comments were appropriate considering they don’t concern him or county government.

