

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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Board of Education

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Mrs. Tammy Fraley, VP
Mr. Nicholas Hadley
Mrs. Laurie Marchini
Mr. Wayne Foote
Dr. David Cox, Superintendent
Ms. Eesha Bokil, SMOB

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Opening of School

Dr. Cox updated the school board on the opening of school for the 2018-2019 school year. Last year, nearly 495,000 breakfasts were served, which equates to nearly 3,000 a day. Just over 835,000 lunches were served last year, or more than 4,600 per day.

Allegany County has an area of 430 sq. miles, and ACPS transports 77% of students enrolled. There are 90 contractor buses running 331 routes, traveling nearly 7,000 miles per day and over 1.2 million miles per year. The school board's fleet includes 32 buses running 36 routes and traveling nearly 2,000 miles per day and over 345,000 miles per year. Special needs presently transports 251 students to schools in the county, requiring a majority of the buses to transport to four or more schools per day due to geographical area and the accommodations at the schools for these students.

The ACPS Information Technology department has received 387 safety-related requests for badges, phones, security cameras, and door entry since August. 68 security cameras were installed at Allegany; 99 phones were installed at Allegany; 93 phones were configured at Mountain Ridge; 43 phones were configured at John Humbird. IT staff also migrated phone lines at Mountain Ridge, Allegany, and John Humbird for a savings of \$1,200 per month. Five replacement security cameras were also installed by the ACPS maintenance department.

More than 5,000 ACPS owned devices, in two days during the first week of September, had unique access accounts on the network and only just over 3,200 bring your own devices. This indicates that the ACPS devices are in high demand and actively being used in classrooms. ACPS

has a total available bandwidth of 1G, and only utilizes 200M.

August enrollment closed with 8,525 students, down from 88 at this time last year. This number is still subject to change. Transfers out of the school system were the majority of the withdrawals or losses attributing to students going to another school system in or out of the state as well as being home-schooled. Transfers into the school system are mostly from a public, non-public school in and out of the state, very closely resembling the enrollment numbers at the end of last school year. 2,207 students were pre-approved to receive free meals.

Introduction of New Staff

Dr. Cox introduced the following new staff members for the 2018-2019 school year:

- Ethan DeVore, Coordinator of Alternative Programs
- Tracey Leonard, Interim Assistant Supervisor of Health, PE, Athletics, and Mental Health
- Matt Marlowe, Interim Coordinator of Student Support Services
- Gene Pustolski, Interim Lead Pupil Personnel Worker

Instructional Updates

Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, ACPS Chief Academic Officer, gave the school board instructional updates. The Superintendent's Advance was held in August and focused on the Gradual Release of Responsibility and the Universal Design for Learning, growth mindset, and equity. The Advance was funded through Professional Development Title 2A funds. Overall, 99.8% of those in attendance said that the first day of the Advance was extremely positive, and 100% felt that way about day two.

Results of a survey about Supervisor's Staff Development earlier this year indicated that 92.66% agreed that it was relevant to teaching; 97.66% agreed that presenters were well-prepared; and 91.9% agreed that participation was encouraged.

A Master Plan meeting for supervisors for a first submission will be held on October 15th. Training for administrators and SIT chairs focused on data analysis, root cause analysis, and goal planning process to increase student achievement. Participant feedback indicated that it was very organized, helpful, and streamlined the process.

ACPS has sent the 2018-2019 College and Career Readiness MOU to Allegany College of Maryland with a new addition. Now a 3.0 un-weighted GPA has been added as an indicator. A second cohort of PTECH was added, and the first cohort will begin college courses. New Active Learning Labs were added at Allegany, Flintstone, Northeast, Parkside, and South Penn. Work continues on alternative programs within ACPS including therapeutic services, risk protocols, and growth mindset learning opportunities. The 2018 Focus on the Future Showcase is scheduled for all 7th grade students on November 13 and 14, 2018, at the Allegany County Fairgrounds.

MSDE has approved new Teacher/Principal Evaluations with a 70-30 growth model for the 2018-2019 school year (70% professional practice, 30% student growth). A new block schedule pilot has been

UPDATES CONTINUED

implemented at Fort Hill this year.

Mr. Mike Calhoun, principal at Allegany High School, spoke to the school board about a new initiative, Power Hour, that has been implemented this year. This new schedule will allow for minimal disruptions to instructional time while increasing opportunities for collaboration among teachers and students.

At Allegany, the lunch shift is now divided into two sessions from 12-1 p.m. Juniors and remaining seniors are encouraged to eat lunch during the second half of the hour to reduce the lunch line at the beginning of the hour as well as recovery or bridge projects, club meetings, and class meetings. Teachers will have their contracted duty free lunch during half of this power hour. They will be able to offer tutoring, sponsor clubs, create learning opportunities, provide make-up sessions, or do anything else that would enhance a positive school climate.

Students are able to eat in the cafeteria, hallways, outside the school, on Main Street, and in classrooms with a teacher present. The media center, computer labs, and 1st and 3rd floors are off limits during the lunchtime power hour. Administrators and school counselors will eat prior to noon so that they are available to students during the power hour.

The implementation of the Power Hour will have positive results in academic achievement, student engagement, and school climate. Student course failures should drop, assessment schools are anticipated to increase, student participation in co-curricular activities will increase, and student discipline referrals will hopefully decrease as well. Trusting students to use their time wisely will empower them to be successful.

Mr. Joe Carter, principal at Fort Hill High School, spoke to the school board about a new initiative at his school this year called Pride Time. Pride Time will be held daily between the second and third block, and students will be grouped by grade. Teachers will be part of the team of professionals assigned to each student that promotes academic success by also proactively addressing attendance, behavioral, and academic concerns.

During Pride Time, which will last for 30 minutes, attendance will be taken and monitored, and the following will or may occur:

- Announcements made, forms distributed and collected
- Tutoring through NHS and inclusion teachers
- Remediation and bridge project completion
- MCIE growth mindset weekly lessons
- Use of the media center or computer labs to complete class assignments
- Guidance groups by counselors

- Class meetings, assemblies, or other activities
- All students will participate in at least 20 minutes of homework or silent sustained reading

During Pride Time a no cell phone policy will also be enforced. The weekly schedule of specific activities to be done during Pride Time is Monday, critical vocabulary; Tuesday, silent sustained reading; Wednesday, mindset activity; Thursday, schedule meetings; Friday, weekly reflection.

PARCC Update

Mrs. Trina McGregor-Simpson, ACPS Assistant Supervisor of Accountability and Assessment, updated the school board on assessment graduation requirements, the testing calendar, county data for PARCC English/Language Arts (ELA) and math, and school highlights.

Students must meet one of the following criteria for each of the four tested areas:

- ELA 10 must pass ELA 10 with a 725 or a combined ELA/ALG score of 1450; must complete Bridge and have two failed attempts at the test
- Algebra I must pass ALG1 with a 725 or a combined ALG/ELA score of 1450; must complete Bridge and have two failed attempts on the test; must have taken PARCC ALG1 for the first time in 2015 or 2016
- Government must pass HSA GOV with a 394 or a combined GOV/BIO score of 794; must complete one Bridge project for every 22 point deficit from passing and have two failed attempts on the test
- MISA must have taken the MISA exam or the HSA BIO

The 2018-2019 ACPS testing calendar is available on the school system's website.

MSDE recently released the results of the latest Maryland state assessments, which found improvements in both math and ELA scores combined across the elementary and middle school grade levels. In ACPS, the percentage of students scoring at a proficient level of 4 or 5 showed a rise for ELA in every grade 4-8 and also in every grade 4-8 in math. The Maryland assessments are scored on a 650 to 850 point scale, which has been translated and simplified into five performance levels, with level 1 set as not meeting expectations and level 5 set as exceeding expectations. Performance level of 4 or 5 is considered "proficient" on the assessment by the Maryland State Board of Education.

In ACPS, PARCC exams are given for English and math in grades 3-8, at the end of English 10, and upon completion of Algebra 1.

UPDATES CONTINUED

ACPS highlights at the elementary level are as follows:

- Grades 3-5 were all above the state average, with grade 5 exceeding the state by 11.6%
- Grades 4 and 5 made gains in ELA among students with special needs and students that are economically disadvantaged
- Eleven of the fourteen elementary schools had rising scores in grade 4 math, grade 5 math, and grade 5 ELA
- Grades 4 and 5 were above the state average in math with grade 4 exceeding the state by 10.3%
- Grades 4 and 5 made gains in math among students with special needs and students that are economically disadvantaged
- Grade 4 had a 19.9% increase in math among students with special needs

ACPS highlights at the secondary level are as follows:

- Gains were made in ELA for all students in grades 6-8
- Every middle school in ACPS increased their scores in grade 7 ELA
- All grade levels 6-8 made gains among students that are economically disadvantaged and students with special needs in ELA
- Grades 6 and 7 math and Algebra 1 are all above the state average, with grade 7 exceeding the state average by 13.2%
- Algebra 1 reduced the gap between students that are economically disadvantaged and all students from 11.9% to 7.2%
- Every middle school in ACPS increased the number of students scoring at the proficient level in grade 7 math

Additionally, double digit gains (10% or greater) have been made by the following schools, grades, and content areas for two consecutive years: Bel Air, grade 5 ELA; West Side, grade 5 math; John Humbird, grade 4 ELA. Special recognition should be given to Cresaptown Elementary School for being the only school in the county to show gains in every tested area at all grade levels of both ELA and math.

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Larry McKenzie, ACPS Chief Finance Officer, updated the school board on monthly financial information from August 2018. The school system has spent significantly less in legal fees compared to this time last year, likely as the result of mandatory insurances. Equipment expenditures, utilities, and healthcare costs are also less this year compared to this time last year.

Monthly IT Highlights

Mrs. Nil Grove, ACPS Chief IT Officer, updated the school board on monthly highlights from her department for August 2018. The highlights were as follows:

- Rolled all students and schedules into the 2018-2019 school year. Initial enrollment is 8,535; however, that will change daily with new and updated enrollments. While rolling from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019, there were 6,481 students staying at the same school; 1,416 students changing schools; and 338 students (pre-k and kindergarten) activated that were pre-registered.
- Aspen site visits from students equaled 18,367 from July 29th at midnight through August 1st at 4 a.m. High school schedules were made available on August 8th and there were over 30,000 site visits on that day alone. The majority were students.
- IT staff met with Gaggle, the company that provides monitoring of student Google accounts. Since the first of the year, Gaggle touts saving over 500 lives nationwide based on their monitoring tools.
- Uploaded staff accounts into Safe Schools and created a program to send Safe Schools email for HR. All staff received an invitation to take reporting video training.
- The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment data uploads for this process began and staff is loading daily student changes for the assessment.
- UPS units were upgraded at many schools to include a recording device that will provide ambient temperature readings in those school's main distribution closets.
- Convocation was live streamed from the new Allegany High School, Beall, and Fort Hill to all 22 buildings. All schools were able to watch the live stream as well as the You Raise Me Up awards at Beall and Fort Hill. Greg Honeycutt's expertise helped to make this a success.
- All of the network equipment was moved from the old Allegany to the new school and fired up. It is fully operational on the network there. Staff returned to the old school and put the cameras back on the network (as an extension from the Central Office) so that only those would still be operational.
- Technicians have been working frantically as the classroom and lab computers were delivered to the new school to get those all

in place. Camera views for all of the new Allegany cameras were set up with the contractor and provided to the school staff.

- Office of Legislative Auditor IT and Networking questions continue.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider First Reading of Backpack and Bag at School Events Policy (File: ECAC)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to provide for safety of students, staff, and the public and to prohibit spectators from bringing bags which may contain dangerous/illegal items into events.” The policy states, “Backpacks and other large bags are prohibited at school activities open to the public such as athletic events, concerts, and assemblies. Exceptions may be made for medically necessary equipment or items needed for infant care.”

Consider First Reading of Board Handbook Policy (File: BIA)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy in a 4-1 vote, whose purpose is “to orient Board members to the practices of the Board.” The policy states, “The Board shall maintain a Board Handbook to assist and guide Board members in the performance of their duties.”

Consider First Reading of Sun Safety Policy (File: JLCEE)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to promote sun safety.” The policy states, “ACPS believes in promoting sun safety to ensure students and staff are protected from damage caused by harmful ultra-violet rays. Students shall be permitted to possess and apply sunscreen in accordance with Section 7-441 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.”

Vote to Meet in Executive Session in September

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Monday, September 24, 2018, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The open meeting begins at 6 p.m.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS

Dr. Terry Kasecamp

Dr. Kasecamp first thanked the school board for the recognition they gave to her brother, Dr. Ben Brauer, upon his move to Frostburg State University. She also thanked the school board for their work in producing the Board Handbook as she found it extremely helpful. Dr. Kasecamp did question school board member, Wayne Foote’s, opposition to the document. Finally, Dr. Kasecamp explained that she found the ACPS website very transparent and informative with a wealth of great information and engaging videos. She does feel that the amount of information can be overwhelming and would like to see the website get a facelift to be more user-friendly and interactive.

COMMENTS & REPORTS

Dr. Sara-Beth Bittinger

Dr. Bittinger indicated that MABE utilizes the ACPS Board Handbook as a best practice to share across the state.

Mrs. Tammy Fraley

Mrs. Fraley agreed that the ACPS website can be overwhelming, especially to a parent, and would also like to see it be updated to be more user-friendly. She also suggested that schools utilize Facebook as a way to share more school-specific information. Mrs. Fraley also noted that the Chinese Partial Immersion program and Active Learning Labs will be featured at the MABE conference this year and will utilize videos that were locally produced as part of the presentation. Finally, she noted that the Board Handbook clearly states that it is not intended to confer any rights upon board members which do not exist under relevant law or board policies, nor does it deprive board members of any rights or responsibilities conferred upon them by relevant law or board policies.

Mr. Wayne Foote

Mr. Foote noted that his opposition to the Board Handbook comes from the fact that he thinks it needs to be condensed and less restrictive of what board members can do.

Mrs. Laurie Marchini and Mr. Nick Hadley

Mrs. Marchini and Mr. Hadley both agreed that the Board Handbook is a very useful tool in providing board members with guidance on their roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Eesha Bokil

Eesha informed the school board that the Allegany County Association of Student Councils (ACASC) Executive Board has been meeting regularly with Chris Delaney of the Health Department to discuss aspects of the group’s upcoming campaign. ACASC is also continuing to plan its first event.