

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Enrollment Update

Dr. Cox updated the school board on system enrollment based on the August 2018 report. The funding ACPS receives is based on September 30th enrollment; however, those numbers will not become official until mid November.

August numbers do not reflect all withdrawals and new registrations. Students are not dropped until after ten school days.

In ACPS as of August 2018, enrollment is 8,525, down 88 student from this time last year; however, that number also includes pre-k students. The Maryland State Department of Education does not pay for pre-k students, so they aren't included in the funding count. Total enrollment for K-12 only is 8,062, down 154 students from August 2017. The difference in pre-k enrollment is 66 students.

This information considers raw enrollment numbers and not Full Time Equivalency (FTE), which is a much more complicated calculation that considers many factors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to provide for safety of students, staff, and public and to prohibit spectators from bringing bags which may contain dangerous/illegal items into events.

The policy states, "Backpacks, large bags, coolers, and containers are prohibited at school activities open to the public such as athletic events, concerts, plays, assemblies, and graduations. Exceptions may be made for appropriate reasons including, but not limited to, medically necessary equipment or items needed for infant care. Further reasonable exceptions to this policy may be provided in regulations accompanying this policy. Any items for which exceptions are sought are subject to search."

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

The school board approved, in a 4 to 1 vote, the second reading of the above policy, 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 Second Reading of Sun Safety Policy (File: JLCEE)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to promote sun safety."

The policy states, "ACPS believes in

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. Eesha Bokil, SMOB

CONSENT AGENDA

The school board voted to approved the consent agenda below:

- Approve minutes for the school board meeting on August 14, 2018, and August 27, 2018.
- Approve routine personnel actions for the period of August 1-31, 2018.
- Receive School Construction/Maintenance Report for the period of August 1-31, 2018.
- Receive Information Technology Report for the period of August 1-31, 2018.
- Receive Monthly Financial Report for August 2018.
- Approve the nomination or reappointment of individuals to the Local Advisory Council for Career and Technology Education.
- Consider approval of the FY 2020 Capital Improvement Plan.

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.”

NEW BUSINESS

Consider First Reading of School-Sponsored Student Media Policy (File: JICE)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to provide guidelines related to school-sponsored student publications and productions.”

The policy states, “The Board of Education recognizes that providing opportunities for responsible student expression is an integral part of the ACPS program. Student journalists have the right to exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media, subject to certain specific restrictions. The board also recognizes its responsibility to the schools, students, and community to ensure that school-sponsored media which provide a vehicle for student expression are consistent with legal and regulatory requirements, school system policies and procedures, civil discourse, responsible journalism, and professional standards.”

Vote to Meet in Executive Session in October as Necessary

The school board agreed to meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The open meeting will begin at 3 p.m.

COMMENTS & REPORTS

Ms. Eesha Bokil, SMOB

- The ACASC Executive Board attended the Superintendent’s Student Advisory board meeting.
- There was a meeting to discuss the underage drinking campaign. All billboards are complete, and the group is currently working on a webpage and radio ads.
- The ACASC Executive Board hosted a picnic. Workshops included teamwork, public speaking, and informing students about various positions and organizations in student government.
- ACASC discussed the results of the student engagement survey with plans to continue these discussions at the next meeting.
- Several ACASC Executive Board members attended the Western Maryland Executive Board meeting with members from Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick Counties. ACASC plans to host a regional conference in the near future.

Dr. Cox

Dr. Cox had the opportunity to participate on Braddock Middle School’s team in the Dragons on the Lake event held at Rocky Gap to benefit the YMCA. Students from the Chinese Partial Immersion program performed during the event.

Dr. Sara-Beth Bittinger

Dr. Bittinger noted that the school board has sought an Ethics Panel advisory opinion regarding the potential conflicts of interest of school board candidates.

CONSTITUENTS’ COMMENTS

Mrs. Julia Williams

Mrs. Williams addressed the school board regarding the Board Member Handbook. She is in full support of this document and stated that “like any governing board, the Board of Education has legal responsibilities for the actions it takes and for the actions of individual members.” She indicated that she took the opportunity to read this handbook and did not find that it was too long nor was the wording cumbersome.

Mrs. Williams was concerned that school board member, Mr. Wayne Foote, voted not to retain this handbook. Mr. Foote noted at the last meeting that he felt that the handbook restricted a board member’s actions and that elected officials are to serve as the voice of the taxpayers.

Mrs. Williams concluded that the school board serves as the voice for ALL taxpayers in matters of public education, not just a segment of the county. She reiterated that she is pleased that the school board has voted to retain the Handbook.