

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### **Maryland Center for School Safety FY2019 Safe Schools Fund Grants Program Update**

Mr. Matt Marlowe, ACPS Interim Coordinator of Student Support Services, updated the school board on the Safe Schools Fund grant. The state of Maryland was awarded \$10.6 million, of which Allegany County received \$256,000. These grant funds are designed to enhance school safety and do not include the addition of personnel. ACPS plans to use this grant money for a number of projects including the continuation of law enforcement school safety patrols, the expansion of closed circuit tv, upgrades to several school PA systems, the addition of a school visitor management system that will utilize driver license scanners to check against sex offender and custody databases, and school threat assessment training. Additionally, ACPS was given up to \$110,000 for construction projects from the IAC School Safety grant program. Staff is currently receiving estimates for school security vestibules.

### **Legislative Priorities**

Dr. Cox updated the school board on legislative priorities. Each year, ACPS and Garrett County Public Schools co-host a pre-legislative breakfast to discuss common priorities based on both information from MABE and PSSAM. This year's breakfast is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Career Center. Among the many things the two boards will be discussing with the Western Maryland Delegation are the Kirwan Commission, equity in funding, funding for pre-k, continued support for school security resources, and discussion on Fix the Fund legislation.

### **Present Proclamation Recognizing American Education Week and Education Support Professionals Day**

The school board presented a proclamation to Kim Sloane, President of ACEA, recognizing American Education Week and Education Support Professionals Day. Public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's values of freedom, civility, and equality. By equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future.

Education employees, whether they are custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians, work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism. Schools are the linchpin, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise.

### **Leadership Allegany! Rising Update**

Dr. George Brown, ACPS Coordinator of Professional Learning and also the co-chair of Leadership Allegany Rising!, updated the school board on the program now in its second year. The program, modeled after the successful Leadership *Allegany!* program, is dedicated to providing positive change by creating a network of future leaders committed to impacting their community.

In a forum of open discussion and interaction, class members will gain the knowledge and motivation to effect positive change within the region. Educational Topic Days designed for class participation and dialogue will cover topics including the following:

- Healthcare chaired by Jeff O'Neal (WMHS) and Stephanie Blank (DSS)
- Government chaired by Brandon Butler (county government) and

## 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

1. Approve the minutes for school board meetings on October 9, 2018, and October 22, 2018.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of October 1-31, 2018.
3. Receive School Construction/Maintenance Report for the period of October 1-31, 2018.
4. Receive Information Technology Report for the period of October 1-31, 2018.
5. Receive Monthly Financial Report for October 2018.
6. Approve award of contract for emergency repairs to gymnasium floor at Braddock Middle School.
7. Maryland Center for School Safety FY2019 Safe Schools Fund Grants Program Round 1 NOFA

Robby May (ACPS)

- Economic Development/ Business/ Career chaired by Liz Stallman (City of Frostburg) and Al Deliah (FSU)
- Higher Education chaired by Dr. Bill Rocks (ACM) and Dr. Elizabeth Thrope (FSU)

All program activities will occur within the scheduled school day. This seven-month program begins with an orientation in September and concludes with graduation ceremonies in March. Last year's class had 23 graduates, and this year's class has 24 members from ACPS as well as Bishop Walsh and Calvary Christian Academy. The program is of no cost to students or ACPS to participate, but rather is funded by sponsors. This year's sponsors include the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, Bella LLC, and Mr. Jim "Snake" Robertson.

## INSTRUCTIONAL & DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

### ***Outdoor School Update***

Mr. Mike McGowan, ACPS Supervisor of Elementary Education, updated the school board on fifth grade outdoor school, which just completed its tenth year in operation. Over that ten-year period, more than 6,000 fifth grade students have had the opportunity to participate in this week-long residential program held at the 4-H Center in Garrett County. Two elementary schools attend the camp in sessions beginning in the fall.

This year, a total of 656 students attended, and 133 parents volunteered their time to make outdoor school a success. Students learn a total of fourteen lessons that integrate all content areas; participate in three hikes (bog, nature, beaver); participate in a variety of afternoon activities including canoeing, fishing, team sports, and fine arts; and participate in a variety of evening activities including a visit from the Tri-State Zoo, campfires and songs, outdoor movies, the bat and bear program, skits, and the story of the mystery of Mr. Cunningham.

### ***Assessment Update***

Mrs. Trina Simpson, ACPS Assistant Supervisor of Accountability and Assessment, provided an overview of the MSDE school student and educator survey, the Maryland Report Card, testing updates, and school improvement plans.

The Maryland School Survey should be administered to students in grades 5-11 and teachers in every school. There will be two administrations of the survey this year. The fall administration, which ran from October 8-November 2, is considered an important field test and will help drive decisions for the accountability system. The operational survey for accountability will take place in late winter/early spring. The environmental domain of the survey asks students if they are learning things that are important to them and are held to high expectations for learning. This domain also asks if school rules are clear and fair and if good behavior is supported and rewarded. Two topics make up this domain – instructional environment and fairness. The engagement domain asks students if they are tested equally and if they have the opportunity to participate in all school activities, including those that occur outside of the regular school day. Two topics make up this domain – cultural and linguistic diversity and participation. The relationship domain asks students about the nature of teacher-student and student-student relationships and if their school has a culture of caring and respect. Two topics make up this domain – student-student relationships and student-staff relationships. Finally, the safety domain asks students if they feel safe from violence, bullying, and controlled substance abuse. Four topics make up this domain – physical safety, emotional safety, bullying, and substance abuse.

The Maryland School Report Card will be released in December and is based on a 5-star rating. The high school breakdown is as follows:

- Academic Achievement 30%
- Graduation Rate 15%
- Progress in Achieving EL Proficiency 10%
- Readiness for Postsecondary 10%
- School Quality and Student Success 35%

The elementary and middle breakdown is as follows:

- Academic Achievement 20%
- Academic Progress 35%

## INSTRUCTIONAL & DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES CONT.

- Progress in Achieving EL Proficiency 10%
- School Quality and Student Success 35%

The PSAT was given on October 10<sup>th</sup> to all juniors and to approximately 154 sophomores. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment concluded on October 10<sup>th</sup>. This assesses the readiness in language and literature, math, social foundations, and physical development. In December, Algebra I and ELA 10 will be administered to students that have completed the course but did not pass the assessment on their first try or did not make an attempt. The Accuplacer will be the assessment of choice for ACPS seniors. In January, the government assessment will be administered to students that have completed the course but did not pass the assessment on their first try or did not make an attempt. MISA will be administered to any senior who has not met their science assessment requirement. MISA 2018 grades five and eight results were released on November 7<sup>th</sup>. ACPS grade five MISA exceeded the state passing rate by 5% (MD passing rate = 32.1%; ACPS passing rate = 37.1%). The state passing rate for grade eight was 38%, and was 31.3% for ACPS.

All schools are using and analyzing data to complete their School Improvement Plans. ACPS is in its second year of using the Data Management Retrieval System to dig deep into specific areas of achievement to increase proficiency and close gaps of subgroups.

### ***Maintenance and Construction Updates***

Mr. Vince Montana, ACPS Director of Facilities, updated the school board on the following maintenance and construction projects:

- Allegany High School: Many of the sub-contractors worked at the school on Election Day. The electrical contractor replaced eight light fixtures in the gym. Ductwork and piping was labeled throughout the school. The masonry contractor removed brick from the exterior wall above the main street corridor. Once the brick was removed, it was discovered that the flashing and counter flashing was installed improperly. This condition allowed water to weep behind the brick and leak into the building. Some of the sub-contractors, including the masonry contractor, will be working at the school on November 10<sup>th</sup> to complete some of the outstanding issues.
- Frost Roof Replacement: Bids were received for the roof replacement on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The project has been submitted to the IAC for approval.
- Mt. Savage Roof Replacement: Bids were received for the roof replacement on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The project has been submitted to the IAC for approval.
- FY2020 CIP: The FY 2020 Capital Improvements Plan has been submitted to the PSCP.
- FY2019 School Safety Grant Program: On August 30<sup>th</sup>, the IAC approve the allocation of \$10 million of the \$20 million available for the program. The IAC also approved the application, administrative procedures, and funding allocations based upon a combination of enrollment and total square footage. The funds allocated to Allegany County total \$110,000. Staff has met to discuss the eligible projects and will submit the request to the IAC for approval.
- Braddock: Staff has received two estimates to repair the gym floor at Braddock. Staff has assumed that the floor was damaged due to the high humidity this fall; however, it was discovered that a water line that was unknown was leaking outside of the gym. Maintenance crews have excavated the line and are working to make repairs.
- Bel Air: A meeting with State Highway Administration staff is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> at the school to review plans for the replacement of the pedestrian bridge.
- Old Allegany High School: Maintenance crews are draining the water and heating systems to minimize damage as the building will not be heated this winter. Crews from the maintenance and operations departments continue to remove the furniture and materials from the building. A large number of the unwanted books from the library were donated to the South Cumberland Library. The remaining books that were not wanted or needed in ACPS have been recycled. The auditorium stage curtains have been removed and will be installed on the stage at Washington Middle School.

### ***Monthly Financial Report***

Mr. Larry McKenzie, ACPS Chief Finance Officer, updated the school board on monthly financial information for October 2018. Legal fees are down compared to last year; substitute teachers are up about 4% from last year but still well within the budget; non-public placement tuition is down as ACPS has fewer students requiring these services; transportation is up about 3.5% from last year likely as the result of increased gas prices; utilities are up slightly from last year likely as the result of the new Allegany building; retirement costs continue to trend well; and healthcare costs are up about 1.6% from last year but still well within the budget. Total spending YTD from this year and last differ by only about \$5,000 meaning ACPS is very consistent in spending.

## INSTRUCTIONAL & DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES CONT.

### **Monthly IT Highlights**

Mrs. Nil Grove, ACPS Chief IT Officer, updated the school board on the following highlights from October:

- Email and phone scams are relentless, and vigilance on the part of staff and the public is required to not be scammed.
- September 30<sup>th</sup> enrollment closed with 8,539 students overall – 469 pre-k and 8,070 k-12. With part-time exclusions, ACPS totals 8,024.25 paid students.
- Food service numbers closed well. Four CEP schools total 1,419 students receiving free breakfast and lunch. 2,464 students pre-certified for free meals. 1,112 students receiving free or reduced meals based on applications. 4,995 students receiving meals out of 8,539 students, or 58%.
- Math videos for elementary and secondary are being recorded in short segments to assist families with providing at-home assistance with new math concepts.
- KRA window closed, data cleanup is complete, and awaiting results from the State.
- Active Learning Labs are being set up for Allegany science classes, Flintstone, South Penn, Northeast, and Parkside.
- Started the work to set up and convert the legacy data system to Tyler Munis for HR/payroll.
- Issues with security cameras at high schools because a number of them aren't being adequately supported on school servers. A replacement server request was submitted on the recent Safety grant.
- Staff met with EMS to determine the number of and cost for replacements to the 700 Mhz radios to match those used by public safety.
- Based on the projected increase in technology costs due to the tariffs on Chinese goods, staff is planning to make a few advanced technology purchases for replacements to student and teacher computers.

### **2018 Enrollment Report**

Mrs. Grove also provided the school board with an enrollment comparison from 2018 to 2019 based on September 30<sup>th</sup> enrollment numbers. The comparison is as follows:

- Overall Students (including Pre-K): 8,629 (2018) and 8,539 (2019)
- Pre-K Students: 438 (2018) and 469 (2019)
- Total K-12 Enrollment: 8,191 (2018) and 8,070 (2019)
- Paid FTE (minus part-time and out of county): 8,166.25 (2018) and 8,048.25 (2019)
- Part-Time: 21.75 (2018) and 18.75 (2019)
- Out of County: 3 (2018) and 3 (2019)

MSDE does not pay for pre-k students. Part-time students

count for 1 FTE if they are taking four or more classes; .25 FTE if they are taking one class; .5 FTE if they are taking two classes; and .75 FTE if they are taking three classes. Out of county or state students pay tuition and are not paid for by state funding.

## NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### ***Consider Second Reading of Backpacks, Bags, and Items 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 the public by prohibiting and restricting the ability of person attending school events from bringing dangerous, illegal, or prohibited items to school events.”

### ***Vote to Meet in Executive Session on December 11, 2018, as Necessary***

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, pending any appeals or unfinished business. Please note, as a result of the holiday season, there will only be one meeting in December. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m.

## REPORTS & BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

### ***Ms. Eesha Bokil, SMOB***

Eesha updated the school board on the following:

- All middle and high schools are currently collecting donations for the Allegany County Animal Shelter.
- ACASC recently completed its second round of the underage drinking campaign to coincide with Allegany and Fort Hill's homecoming.
- ACASC members are in conversation with counselors and principals to determine the best way to conduct a student survey about the underage drinking campaign.
- ACASC held a General Assembly where small groups discussed topics on bullying, school safety, and high school schedule changes. The students also made holiday cards for nursing home residents, veterans, and the Union Rescue Mission, and heard from guest speaker, Matt Marlowe, on school security and bullying.

### ***Mr. Wayne Foote***

Mr. Foote took the opportunity to thank the voters for electing him to his second term on the school board, where his focus will again be the teachers of Allegany County. He also thanked the media for always attending school board meetings. Mr. Foote will help serve Thanksgiving lunch at Allegany High School.

### ***Mr. Nicholas Hadley***

Mr. Hadley took the opportunity to congratulate the newly elected school board members and wished them luck during their terms in office.

### ***Mrs. Tammy Fraley***

Mrs. Fraley recently attended the MABE officer board retreat in Annapolis. She reminded board members, especially those new to office, that MABE is an invaluable resource for school boards in Maryland and that they are designed to provide school systems with professional development advocacy and member services from outside sources. She noted that she also had the opportunity to attend a kick-off event for the second cohort of students in the P-TECH program as well as several DARE celebrations.

### ***Mrs. Laurie Marchini***

Mrs. Marchini echoed Mrs. Fraley's sentiments about MABE noting that they offer wonderful workshops and give board members the opportunity to develop relationships across the state. She also congratulated the newly elected board members and wished them luck during their terms.