

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### ***Recognition of All-State Chorus Students and All-Eastern Chorus Student***

The school board recognized the following students, who were introduced by ACPS Fine Arts Coordinator, Mr. Jeff Avey, for their participation in All-State and All-Eastern Chorus:

- Guy Witt, Mountain Ridge, All-State Chorus
- Eliza Griffith, Allegany, All-State Treble Chorus
- Laurel Plitnik, Mountain Ridge, All-State Treble Chorus and All-Eastern Treble Chorus

### ***SkillsUSA and FBLA 2019 Maryland State Leadership Conference and Competition***

The school board recognized the following students for their performance at both the Skills USA Competition and FBLA Maryland State Leadership Conference:

- FBLA State Individual Results (Career Center)
  - Matthew Carder, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Computer Problem Solving
  - Zachary Miller, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Cyber Security
- FBLA State Individual Results (Allegany)
  - Jacob Litman, 6<sup>th</sup> place, Intro to Financial Math, and 7<sup>th</sup> place, Maryland Rising Leaders
  - Erica Metheny, 6<sup>th</sup> place, Publication Design, and 8<sup>th</sup> place, Maryland Rising Leaders
  - Brianna Palasik, 9<sup>th</sup> place, Maryland Rising Leaders
  - Gabrielle Salas, 10<sup>th</sup> place, Maryland Rising Leaders
- SkillsUSA Individual State Results (Career Center)
  - Devin Bean, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Industrial Motor Control
  - Kenneth Lawrence, 1<sup>st</sup> place, Sheet Metal
  - Aaron Monnett, 1<sup>st</sup> place, Welding Sculpture
  - Zach Pheasant, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Auto Technology
  - Domini Sanchez, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Industrial Motor Control
  - Jaime Sellers, 1<sup>st</sup> place, Dye Sublimation
  - Phoebe Shuttleworth, 1<sup>st</sup> place, Screen Printing
- SkillsUSA Team State Results (Career Center)
  - Jasmin Fazzalore and Madeline Lafferty, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Digital Cinema

Mrs. Candy Canan, Principal at the Career Center; Mrs. Tamara Edwards, Allegany FBLA Advisor; Mr. Mike Dignan, Career Center FBLA Advisor; and Mr. Tom Krukowsky, Career Center SkillsUSA Advisor, made introductions.

### ***Present Proclamation Recognizing May 6-10, 2019, as School Nutrition Employee Week***

The school board presented a proclamation to Mr. Todd Lutton, ACPS Assistant Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services, recognizing May 6-10, 2019, as School Nutrition Employee Week. Nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the school day, and the staff of the Food and Nutrition Services Department in Allegany County Public Schools is committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to students. These men and women who prepare and serve school meals help nurture children through their

## Board of Education

Mr. Robert Farrell, President  
Dr. David Bohn, Vice President  
Mrs. Tammy Fraley  
Mr. Wayne Foote  
Mrs. Debra Frank  
Dr. David Cox, Superintendent  
Ms. Eesha Bokil, SMOB

## CONSENT AGENDA

The school board voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda:

1. Approval of minutes for Open Session and Public Meeting on April 9, 2019, and Open Session and Public Meeting on April 23, 2019.
2. Receive routine personnel actions for period of April 1-30, 2019.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for period of April 1-30, 2019.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of April 1-30, 2019.
5. Receive monthly financial report.

daily interaction and support.

### ***Present Proclamation Recognizing May 6-10, 2019, as Teacher Appreciation Week***

The school board presented a proclamation to Mrs. Kim Sloan, President of ACEA, recognizing May 6-10, 2019, as Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers make public schools great and they open children's minds to the magic of ideas, knowledge, and dreams. Teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship. They fill many roles as listeners, explorers,

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONT.

role models, motivators, and mentors, and they continue to influence people long after their school days are only memories.

### FINANCIAL UPDATES

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

Mr. Larry McKenzie, ACPS Chief Finance Officer, updated the school board on the following regarding the FY2018 Financial Audit as well as monthly financial information for April 2019:

- ACPS staff is working diligently with Huber Michaels to complete the FY2018 Financial Audit. Auditors are finishing their on-site fieldwork and will hopefully be finished soon.
- Legal fees are about even compared to this time last year.
- The cost of substitutes is down approximately \$33,000 compared to last year.
- The cost of equipment is down approximately \$95,000 compared to last year, but is slightly above budget.
- The tuition for non-public placements continues to have a positive variance.
- Transportation costs are up approximately \$30,000, likely as the result of rising fuel costs.
- Utilities continue to trend well and are approximately \$92,000 ahead of schedule this year.
- The cost of retirements are trending well compared to the budget, but are up from this time last year.
- Healthcare costs are up approximately \$750,000 compared to last year and continue to be monitored closely.

#### ***Budget Update Fiscal Year 2020***

Mr. McKenzie also updated the school board on the FY2020 budget. The County Government continues to work on the budget, and Mr. McKenzie had the opportunity recently to meet with his counterparts from across the state in Annapolis. The main topic of discussion was the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, better known as Kirwin Funding. There are still many unanswered questions regarding what fund will come with stipulations and what the reporting requirements will be. Allegany County could state to gain approximately \$3.3 million in funding next year if the legislation passes. Governor Hogan will ultimately have to activate those funds for use.

## NEW BUSINESS

#### ***Vote to Meet in Executive Session on June 11, 2019, as Necessary***

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, June 11 2019, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The meeting will be held at Mt. Savage School at 6 p.m. Please note the date change.

## CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS

#### ***Mr. Evan West, UniServe Director ACEA***

Mr. West addressed the school board to provide updates on what ACEA is calling the Do Your Part Initiative, which essentially asks the school board to do what they can, and have said they want to do, to meet the requirements of the Salary Enhancement Grant portion of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. ACEA has circulated a petition in support of this effort that now has nearly 500 signatures. There have been two Red for Ed Days in which hundreds of educators participated, and there have been a large number of interactions on social media posts, all which have been supportive and encouraging. Mr. West concluded by asking the school board to be willing to adjust as bargaining unit conversations continue.

#### ***Mrs. Kim Sloane, President ACEA***

Mrs. Sloane addressed the school board to thank them for recognizing student accomplishments at public meetings and thanked them for recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week. She also thanked parents for their support and contributions to classrooms. Mrs. Sloane noted that the work of teachers is so valuable that it is hard to put a price on all that they do, but asked the school board to show their support by following the guidelines for teacher compensation outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. She ended her presentation by stating that actions speak louder than words.

***Ms. Marie Weddle, Constituent***

Ms. Weddle addressed the school board as a concerned parent of two children in the Chinese Immersion Program, one at West Side Elementary and one at Braddock Middle. After reviewing several of her children's amazing accomplishments within ACPS, Ms. Weddle specifically addressed school board members, Mr. Wayne Foote, Dr. David Bohn, and Mr. Robert Farrell to ask them to please "grow up" and to stop "behaving like an authoritarian regime." She feels that some of their actions since taking office in January have harmed the culture of growth and support her and her family have come to love and appreciate in the public school system. Ms. Weddle does not want ACPS to conform to a standard of mediocrity and bickering, and she needs the school board to set an example to provide a standard of excellence. She wants to see them continue to support Dr. Cox because under his leadership ACPS has been able to provide wonderful opportunities for students. Ms. Weddle also asked the school board not to eliminate the Chinese Immersion Program, but rather to make it a priority to educate the public on how the program works, reiterating that it does not remove regular budget dollars from other students and is, in fact, available to any incoming kindergarten student in ACPS. She concluded her presentation by encouraging the school board to look for ways to provide more opportunities for students in ACPS, not less, because that would be a disservice to the students and the community.

## BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

***Mrs. Deb Frank***

Mrs. Frank thanked the constituents who took their time to speak at the meeting. She also noted that she isn't originally from Allegany County, but rather grew up in a metropolitan area, and they don't have anywhere close to the opportunities for students that are available in ACPS. Until you look in from the outside, you don't really appreciate what ACPS has to offer. Mrs. Frank also had the opportunity to see Allegany's production of Hairspray, which she thought was phenomenal. She recently met with Dr. Cox, Mr. Jeff Blank, ACPS Chief Administrative Officer; and Mr. Todd Lutton, ACPS Asst. Supervisor of Food and Nutrition, to discuss the idea of taking leftover cafeteria food and transforming them into TV dinners for students in need. Mrs. Frank learned that ACPS has very little leftover, so now she is in conversations about ways to enhance the backpack programs in schools and ways to expand food pantries beyond the high schools. Finally, Mrs. Frank had the opportunity to present a proclamation to Fort Hill alumnus and NFL draft pick, Ty Johnson, and she was extremely impressed with his humility, his relationship with his mother, and his dedication and commitment to education.

***Mrs. Tammy Fraley***

Mrs. Fraley thanked Ms. Weddle for taking the time to address the school board with her opinions, as she knows that's a hard thing to do. She also thanked teachers for their continued participation in Red for Ed days and assured them that as a board they would continue their discussions relating to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Mrs. Fraley had the opportunity to attend the Chinese Language Bridge competition at the University of Maryland where once again teams from West Side Elementary School placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Braddock Middle School placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at their first performance at the middle school level. Allegany County is making a big difference at that annual competition, and the school board needs to work on ways to expand this opportunity for students. Finally, Mrs. Fraley also helped present the proclamation to Ty Johnson and was extremely impressed with his humility as well.

***Mr. Wayne Foote***

Mr. Foote has had the pleasure of getting to know Ty Johnson over the years, and was very impressed that he finished his degree in three and a half years. He is a role model for children, and much of that is thanks to his years as part of the Fort Hill football program. Mr. Foote also noted that there is much to be proud of in Allegany County, which is home to great teachers and administrators. He is also pleased that school board meetings are being held in schools.

***Dr. David Bohn***

Dr. Bohn had the opportunity to attend the annual Achievement Awards Banquet and noted that he was very impressed with these students, who are in the top 10% of their classes, not only for their past accomplishments but also for their future plans.

***Mr. Robert Farrell***

Mr. Farrell reiterated Dr. Bohn's sentiments about the banquet, which he enjoyed attending. The students honored that evening will be attending a myriad of impressive colleges and universities, and that is a tribute to the teachers, administrators, and ACPS as a whole for preparing them for their futures.