

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Introduction of School-Based and District-Level Leadership Positions

Mr. Jeff Blank, Interim Superintendent of Schools, introduced the following individuals who will assume leadership positions for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Mrs. Heidi Laupert, Principal, Allegany High School
- Mr. Richard King, Principal, Center for Career and Technical Education
- Mrs. Candy Canan, Principal, Fort Hill High School
- Dr. Lisa Stevenson, Principal, Cash Valley Elementary School
- Mrs. Tracey Leonard, Supervisor of Athletics, Health and PE, and Mental Health
- Mr. Matthew Marlowe, Coordinator of Student Support Services

2019-2020 School Year Overview

Mr. Blank announced the following important dates for the upcoming school year:

- The first day of school for teachers is Wednesday, August 21, 2019.
- The first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 28, 2019, with a three-hour early dismissal.
- Schools and offices will be CLOSED on Monday, September 2, 2019, for Labor Day.
- The first day of school for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students is Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

Board of Education

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of minutes for Open Sessions on July 2, 2019, July 8, 2019, and July 16, 2019, and Public Meetings on July 9, 2019, and July 16, 2019.
2. Receive routine personnel actions for period of July 1-31, 2019.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for period of July 1-31, 2019.
4. Receive information technology report for the period of July 1-31, 2019.
5. Receive monthly financial report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Second Reading of Board Committees Policy (File: BDE)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to describe the Board’s position on the use of the Policy Committee, other standing committees, and ad-hoc committees that include its members.”

Discussion of Teaching Controversial Issues Policy (File: IMB)

The school board had a discussion about the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish guidelines for the teaching of controversial issues in the classroom and/or during other educational activities that are under the supervision of a teacher during the course of a regular school day.” The intent of the proposed policy has always been to prepare students to be responsible and thinking citizens in a democratic society. In this effort, teachers need to have the academic freedom, while using good judgment, to model different perspectives and to facilitate discussions on controversial issues that are included in course curriculum without fear of retribution from members of the community, school-based or central office administrators, and/or the school board.

The school board voted to send this policy back to the policy committee for further discussion to include input from

representatives from ACEA.

Consider Second Reading of School Board Policy Process Policy (File: BG)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to identify the process for developing, adopting, revising, and reviewing policy.”

Consider Second Reading of Behavioral Threat Assessment Policy (File: JLDAC)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish procedures for the assessment and intervention with students, staff, and other non-affiliated individuals whose behaviors pose a threat to the safety of the school environment.”

Consider Second Reading of Threat Assessment Team Policy (File: JLDAD)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to establish and provide for the structure, function, and training of a Threat Assessment Team.”

NEW BUSINESS

Consider First Reading of Fundraising Policy (File: JJE)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is “to provide a framework for school-related fundraising activities, as well as the proper distribution of funds, goods, or services on behalf of ACPS that safeguards instructional time, maximizes the safety of students, supports a common school experience for all students, and includes appropriate accountability provisions.”

The policy states, “The BOE recognizes a desire and a need for fundraising to support district programs or student activities. Fundraising and solicitation shall be at the discretion and approval of the principal. Any funds, materials, equipment, or proceeds from such approved solicitations by ACPS staff become the property of the school and not of any individual staff member.”

Review of Federal Awards Policy Regulations (File: DDC)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose states, “The Super Circular has imposed a duty on a recipient of federal awards to establish written procedures to comply with federal requirements in order to receive federal awards. As to all federal awards, ACPS is required to establish written procedures for 1) administration of funds, 2) determining the allowability of costs, 3) regulating procurement, and 4) identifying and avoiding conflicts of interest.”

Consider Modifying April 23rd Vote to Transfer Old Allegany High School to County

At their April 23, 2019, open session, the school board voted to dispose of the surplus property at the former Allegany High School to the county government with the caveat to subdivide the property to retain ownership of the two athletic fields. This month, the school board amended that vote to dispose of the property along with the athletic fields. A future Memorandum of Understanding will be drafted to allow the school’s athletic teams to utilize the baseball field for the 2019-2020 school year.

Vote to Approve Interim Superintendent’s Recommendations for Administrative Staffing Positions

The school board voted to approve the Interim Superintendent’s recommendations for administrative staffing positions for the 2019-2020 school year. Those positions will be publicly announced in the near future.

Vote to Meet in Executive Session September 10, 2019, as Necessary

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The Open Public Session, which follows the Executive Session, will begin at 6 p.m. at the Central Office on Washington Street.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS

Mrs. Kim Sloane, President ACEA

Mrs. Sloane congratulated Mr. Jeff Blank on his interim appointment as Superintendent of Schools and noted that she was looking forward to working with ACEA members and the school board on the new collaborative model of education. She also thanked the school board for their support and subsequent action to procure available State funding for educators' salaries.

Mrs. Kari Hendershot, Parkside Parent

Mrs. Hendershot addressed the school board as a founding member of the community group, Parkside Pride. This group had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Cox in the spring regarding the future of Parkside Elementary School. At that time, Dr. Cox recommended that Parkside offer a daycare – both before and after school as well as a multi-age class during the school day. Ultimately, Stepping Stones daycare agreed to relocate to Parkside and will offer daycare services beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. Currently, Stepping Stones enrollment is at capacity with a waiting list, which speaks to the need in this community for daycare for working families. However, Parkside will only offer one kindergarten class this year with a total of 32 students. This leads to the school being unable to accept any additional out of district requests for the purpose of utilizing the school's daycare. Mrs. Hendershot requested that the school board reconsider the staffing concern at Parkside.

Mr. Bernard Miltenberger, Constituent

Mr. Miltenberger addressed the school board to discuss the correlation between good nutrition and student behavior. Several years ago, he presented the school board with several nutritional options that could help improved student behavior and potentially assist with mental health issues. Mr. Miltenberger gave the school board a DVD from 2004, "The Impact of Fresh, Healthy Foods on Learning and Behavior", which is a model he suggests ACPS follow from the Appleton, WI, school district. He says that science indicates that in order for students to be healthy, they need to reduce their sugar intake and increase their intake of good fats, and he hopes that the school board will research options to keep students healthy and safe.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Omaer Naeem, SMOB

Mr. Naeem, a senior at Allegany High School, introduced himself as the 2019-2020 Student Member of the School Board and noted that he is looking forward to representing the students of ACPS on the Board of Education.

Mrs. Deb Frank

Mrs. Frank wished everyone well for a successful upcoming school year and noted how thankful she is for the staff, parents, and community in ACPS. Mrs. Frank also thank Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, ACPS Chief Academic Officer, for her collaboration with the Western Maryland Food Bank to offer the Backpack Program at four new schools this year. Not counting these new schools, nearly 400 backpacks of food go home with students in need every Friday. This is further proof of the need for food and good nutrition in this community. Mrs. Frank also thanked the high schools for offering food pantries for those in need and noted that those pantries are always appreciative

of donations.

Mrs. Tammy Fraley

Mrs. Fraley continued with positive news in the way of nutrition noting that Braddock Middle School will now be offering Breakfast in the Classrooms for all students this school year. Mrs. Fraley is also currently serving as the Treasurer of MABE until October, at which time new officers will be elected at the organization's annual conference. She encouraged all school board members to attend this conference, as it is a great opportunity to network with other school systems in Maryland to learn about best practices. Finally, Mrs. Fraley noted that she has heard from several constituents regarding concerns they have about transportation, and she plans to bring those concerns to the attention of the Interim Superintendent and the Transportation Department. She also noted that anyone with a concern should not hesitate to reach out to the school board.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS CONT.

Dr. David Bohn

Dr. Bohn took the opportunity to congratulate the new SMOB, Omaer Naeem, as well as the new interim superintendent, Mr. Jeff Blank. He was able to attend the Superintendent's Advance earlier this month and was encouraged by the positive atmosphere he noticed among administrators, principals, assistant principals, and supervisors during this annual event. Dr. Bohn also noted that the new turf at Greenway Avenue Stadium looks fantastic, and he is looking forward to the next phases of the project that will address the track and visitor side bleachers. Finally, as part of the roof replacement project at Mt. Savage School, the iconic school lettering was removed and will be replaced with new, backlit lettering on the wall of the building. Several community members were disappointed to see the old lettering go, so staff plans to sandblast and mount the old, historic letters on a concrete wall at the school to preserve this piece of school history.

Mr. Wayne Foote

Mr. Foote wished everyone luck for a successful school year and noted that he sees positive changes coming with a change in the leadership of the school system and looks forward to working as a team to provide the best possible education for ACPS students. He also had the opportunity to attend the new teacher orientation; of which there are eighteen, and wished them luck in their new roles in ACPS. Finally, Mr. Foote also highlighted the new turf at Greenway Avenues Stadium and thanked the community group, Greenway Avenue Stadium Capital Improvement Fund, Inc., for raising funds for capital improvements at the stadium.