

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Crystal Bender, President  
Mr. Robert Farrell, Vice President  
Mrs. Debra Frank  
Mrs. Tammy Fraley  
Dr. David Bohn  
Mr. Jeff Blank, Superintendent  
Mr. Mitchell Septoff, SMOB

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### ***Present Proclamation Recognizing April as Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month***

The school board presented a proclamation recognizing April as Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month, which was designated as such by the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics, a collaborative effort of the American Mathematical Society, the American Statistical Association, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. Both math and statistics play a significant role in addressing many real-world problems such as Internet security, sustainability, disease, climate change, the data deluge, and much more. Research in math, statistics, and other areas is ongoing, revealing new results and applications every day in fields such as medicine, manufacturing, energy, biotechnology, and business, and they are important drivers of innovation in our technological world.

### ***Recognition of ACPS Accomplishments in Mathcounts***

The school board recognized two Braddock Middle School students, Benjamin Strozykowski and Emmanuel Kujenga, for being state competition qualifiers in the Mathcounts completion. The school board also recognized several students from the Mathcounts programs at Westmar and Mt. Savage Middle Schools for qualifying as national quarterfinalists and semifinalists in the MathCounts National Math Video Challenge. Westmar student, Toby Hogan, and Mt. Savage students, Connor Fenton, Ethan Kwok, and Dane VanSlyke, who form the AniMATHiacs interscholastic team, created their video, "Nuts About Profits", which was selected from over 2,000 videos to be included in the top 12 chosen as semifinalists. Toby Hogan, Lydia Friend (Mt. Savage), Ethan Kwok, and Dane VanSlyke made up the Mathemagicians and created a video entitled "Joey and the Preposterous Potion Proportions", which advanced to the quarterfinals. Both videos can be seen at the following links: [Joey](#) and [Nuts](#).

### ***Recognition of Carson Scholars***

The school board recognized the following ACPS students as this year's Carson Scholars: Genevieve Batman, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Allegany High School; Wil Turner, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Northeast Elementary School; Kristine Kucher, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Parkside Elementary School; and Abigail Malone, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Frost Elementary School.

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students in grades 4-11 who excels academically and is dedicated to serving their communities. Students must be nominated by an educator at his or her school to be eligible to compete for a Carson Scholarship. Carson Scholars must have a minimum GPA of 3.75 and display humanitarian qualities through community service.

### ***Recognition of Allegany County Teacher of the Year***

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for meetings held on March 9 and 23, 2021
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of March 1-31, 2021
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of March 1-31, 2021
4. Receive Information Technology monthly report for March 2021
5. Receive monthly financial report
6. Huber & Michaels audit/retain services
7. FY2021 budget amendment

The school board recognized the 2021-2022 Allegany County Teacher of the Year, Mr. Nicholas Amick of Allegany High School. At Allegany, Nick also serves as the advisor of the Student Government and as the JV Mock Trial coach. Additionally, he recently collaborated with county educators to create a new English Language Arts curriculum and served as a building technology leader, assisting with the transition to online learning. Nicholas will

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now join other local Teachers of the Year as a candidate for the Maryland Teacher of the Year. These individuals will be honored at a meeting of the State Board of Education, and seven state semifinalists will be invited to a reception in the fall for the announcement of the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

### ***Present Proclamation Recognizing April as Library Media Month***

The school board presented a proclamation recognizing April as Library Media Month. The library media program is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information, and library media specialists provide leadership and expertise necessary to ensure that these programs are integral parts of the instructional programs of the school. Library media specialists teach the skills of locating and using information through traditional resources and new technologies, provide literature appreciation activities, and guide and encourage content and recreational reading to every student in the library media program. The library media program contributes to the individual growth and development of all students, while fostering both excellence and equity in education.

### ***Update on Number of Students Returning for 4<sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks***

Mr. Blank updated the school board on the percentage of students who have returned for in-person learning for the 4<sup>th</sup> nine weeks of this school year. They are as follows:

- High school – 75%
- Middle school – 77%
- Elementary school – 88%
- Overall average – 81%

## NEW BUSINESS

### ***Vote to Meet in Executive Session May 11, 2021, As Necessary***

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on May 11, 2021, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The public may watch the livestream of the meeting at <http://bit.ly/ACPSMedia>. Community members may submit public comment via email to [comments@acpsmd.org](mailto:comments@acpsmd.org). Emails must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021. During the public comment portion of the meeting, emails will be read in the order in which they were received. Personal information will not be withheld and anonymous submissions will not be considered. The Board President or her designee will read the constituent's name in addition to the public comment. The meeting location will be TBD.

### SCHOOL BOARD & SMOB COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Comments made during the meeting by members of the Board of Education as well as by the Student Member of the Board can be viewed on the [recorded video](#). These remarks begin at the 43:47 minute mark.

### CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS

Mr. Evan West, UniServe Director; Mrs. Kim Sloane, ACEA President; Mrs. Dawn Shepetuk, teacher; and Mrs. Melissa Kealy, teacher, addressed the school board regarding the need for asynchronous virtual learning on Fridays. Remarks can be heard by watching the [recorded video](#). They begin at the 21:56 minute mark.