

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

Recognition of 2021 Maryland National History Day Competition Winners

The school board recognized the following local winners of the 2021 Maryland History Day competition:

- Maria Eckhard, Fort Hill, 1st place Exhibit
- Sadie Bennett, Mountain Ridge, 1st place Paper
- Macie McKinley and Tanner Wertz, Fort Hill, 2nd place Exhibit
- Xavier Ashley, Fort Hill, 2nd place Paper
- Carly Bennett, Fort Hill, 3rd place Exhibit

Additionally, Maria Eckhard was recognized for earning a special honor at the state level entitled The George Washington Leadership Prize sponsored by George Washington's Mount Vernon. ACPS had a total of 87 project submissions from all three comprehensive high schools.

Recognition of 2021 Maryland State FBLA Competition Winners

The Maryland FBLA State Leadership Conference was held virtually this year on April 10th and 17th. Jacob Litman of Allegany High School finished 2nd in the state in his competitive business event, Business Law. He has now earned the opportunity to compete nationally at the FBLA National Leadership Conference that will be held online this year. Mr. Joseph Brewer is the Supervisor or CTE. Ms. Jennifer Tasker is the new FBLA Advisor at Allegany High School, and Mr. Mike Dignan is the FBLA Advisor at the Career Center.

Allegany High School FBLA registered fourteen members to attend the virtual state leadership conference. Of those fourteen members, eleven scored well enough in the regional competition to advance to the state level. Those students are as follows:

- Eli Litman, 10th place, Introduction to Financial Math
- Madison Ruhl and Alyssa Yost, 6th place, Broadcast Journalism
- Audrey Litman, Peyton McDonald, Erica Metheny, 6th place, E-Business
- Abigail Grove, 5th place, Business Communication

Additionally, Jalen Hite of the Career Center placed 3rd at the state level in the Help Desk category. There were more than 20 students who competed at the Career Center.

Recognition of 2021 SkillsUSA Winners

The school board recognized the following students as regional winners in the SkillsUSA competition:

- Matthew Spielman, 1st place, Electrical Construction Wiring

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for meetings held on May 11, 2021
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of May 1-31, 2021
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of May 1-31, 2021
4. Receive monthly IT report
5. Receive monthly financial report
6. Consider approval of 2021 Master Plan for School Facilities

- Dominic Likens, 3rd place, Electrical Construction Wiring

State winners were as follows:

- Jayden Miller, 1st place, Industrial Motor Control
- Atalie Dozart and Samuel Frankenberry, 2nd place, Audio Production
- Matthew Spielman, 2nd place, Electrical Construction Wiring

Recognition of ACPS Retirees

The school board recognized the following retirees for their dedication and service to the Allegany County Public School

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONT.

System:

- Barbara Amtower, 30 years
- Eric Baker, 25 years
- Mark Beal, 12 years, 8 months
- Cathy Beeseck, 31 years
- Debra Berg, 30 years, 4 months
- Mary Blank, 27 years, 3 months
- Karen Brelsford, 26 years
- Linda Brown, 30 years
- George Brown, 25 years
- Debra Buskirk, 27 years
- Donna Carder, 12 years, 6 months
- Deborah Clayton, 27 years, 6 months
- Jemma Crowe, 26 years
- Martin Crump, 39 years
- Tamarra Edwards, 32 years, 4 months
- Peggy Elder, 43 years, 6 months
- Alexa Fazenbaker, 33 years
- James Fazzalore, 33 years
- Tammy Fochtman, 31 years
- Lisa Harris, 30 years
- Bonnie Holshey, 29 years, 8 months
- Alice Hovatter, 30 years
- Charles Hutzell, 34 years, 9 months
- Kimberly Jackson, 25 years, 4 months
- Teresa Judd, 25 years, 11 months
- Nancy Lambert, 20 years
- Katherine Llewellyn, 16 years
- Brenda Luger, 37 years
- Susie Martin, 17 years, 5 months
- Maureen Mathews, 13 years
- Debra McElvie, 30 years, 6 months
- Sharon Morgan, 27 years
- Debra Morgan, 27 years
- Charles Park, 12 years, 6 months
- Gregory Poland, 27 years
- Lorri Rumburg, 17 years, 8 months
- Ellen Sause, 47 years
- Susan Schupfer, 20 years, 6 months
- Linda Shields, 18 years, 10 months
- Ronald Shook, 21 years
- Donna Shook, 21 years
- Scottie Showalter, 14 years
- Teresa Simpson-Offutt, 27 years
- Lorna Skidmore, 15 years
- Jerald Slider, 18 years
- Darlene Smith, 22 years
- Kim Smith, 36 years
- Donna Stafford, 19 years
- Robert Stevenson, 30 years
- Elizabeth Strietbeck, 30 years
- Karrie Strutz, 30 years
- Molly Sulek, 14 years
- Charlotte Sullivan, 17 years, 6 months
- Kenneth Thompson, 20 years, 6 months
- Lydiann Wagus, 41 years
- Lisa Watson, 35 years
- Kimberly Windemuth, 15 years

Mr. Blank also specifically recognized and thanked three administrators he's had the pleasure of working closely with for several years, Dr. George Brown, Mrs. Kim Smith, and Mr. Martin Crump.

Summer School Update

Mr. Blank provided the school board with an update on summer school participation. ACPS will offer three sessions of elementary summer learning camps, and to date, there are 769 students registered for Session 1; 760 students registered for Session II; and 693 students registered for Session III. At the middle school level, 179 students are registered to participate in the compensatory program at Braddock Middle School. Other sessions of middle school programs include 97 students registered for Session I and 70 students registered for Session II. Additionally, 195 students will participate in Credit Recovery Summer School at Allegany High School.

Consider Approval of FY 2022 Operating Budget

Mr. Larry McKenzie, ACPS Chief Finance Officer, updated the school board on the FY 2022 Operating Budget. He noted that there has been one major change, from a budgetary standpoint, from what was previously submitted to the county compared to date. In the interim, MSDE's calculation for maintenance of effort changed dramatically. Now, it does not take into account the September 30, 2020, enrollment count, which was artificially deflated as a result of COVID. Instead, the calculation is now based upon the average of the three most recent years, excluding 2020. As a result, the county's maintenance of effort obligation was increased to \$31,854,912, which is an increase of \$716,242 from the original budget request.

As Mr. McKenzie previously shared, budgeted revenues and expenses for the district must match, so in order to balance the budget with the additional revenue, he recommended the following changes:

- Reduce to \$0 the \$400,000 that was to come from fund balance to balance the original budget request, which would leave \$316,242 in additional revenues.
- Use the additional revenues with Capital Outlays for Capital projects within the district.

The school board voted 3-2 to approve the FY 2022 Operating Budget.

Consider Approval of Special Education Staffing Plan FY 2022

Mrs. Debbie Metheny, ACPS Supervisor of Special Education, updated the school board on the FY 2022 Special Education Staffing Plan. The plan was developed with the goals and objectives of the Allegany County Master Plan in mind, and the components have been publicly discussed as part of the budgetary process. Allegany County's local application for federal funds in the amount of \$2,502,008 was funded by MSDE for FY 2021. Infant and Toddler funds in the amount of \$224,939 was also funded in FY 2021.

Staffing decisions for the 2021-2022 school year were made through a series of meetings during which special education administrators, facilitators, and staff looked at student data and identified IEP needs. Assignment of staff

was based on student needs. The Special Education Department will employ, using local and restricted funding, the following providers at the beginning of the school year:

- 87.4 teaching positions
- 92 full-time instructional assistants
- 30 part-time instructional assistants
- 27.4 professional positions (audiology, speech and assistant, vision, interpreter, hearing, mental health coordinator, school psychologists)
- 24.2 professional positions (infant and toddlers coordinator, facilitators, behavior specialists, non-public, assistive technology/data management, instructional specialists, itinerant autism specialist)

Changes affecting caseload and staffing throughout the school year requires flexibility in regards to staffing. These changes are necessary to implement the IEPs of students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment to provide a free and appropriate public education. The staffing plan will be reviewed at monthly staffing meetings and quarterly Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee Meetings.

The school board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2022 Special Education Staffing Plan.

Consider Approval of Bid for OT/PT Services Contract for School Year 2021-2022

Allegany County provides occupational therapy and physical therapy to students in accordance with IDEA, COMAR, and the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504. Occupational therapy and physical therapy are provided in accordance with a student's IEP, IFSP, or 504 plan. The winning FY 2021 OT/PT bid would be subject to renewal at ACPS discretion for one academic year. The school board, at the recommendation of Mrs. Debbie Metheny, approved the FY 2021 winning bid from School Therapy Services and voted to renew this bid for the FY 2022 year.

Consider First Reading of Attendance Policy (File: JED)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to define the school system student attendance policy." The policy states, "Regular

NEW BUSINESS CONT.

school attendance is expected of all students in ACPS. School attendance is directly related to school achievement. In order to maximize academic achievement, there must be a unified effort by all school staff, parents, students, and the community to improve overall school attendance. School administrators, teachers, and support staff are expected to make all reasonable attempts to assist students and parents in addressing those factors which cause students to be absent from school.”

Regulations and Exhibit Review for Attendance Policy (File: JED-R, JED-E1)

The school board reviewed the above regulations and exhibit for the Attendance Policy. There was one notable change that was made to be in compliance with the Maryland Students Records System Manual.

Regulations and Exhibit Review for School Attendance Areas Policy (File: JC-R, JC-E1)

The school board reviewed the above regulations and exhibit for the Attendance Areas Policy. There was one notable change that was made in order to eliminate an ambiguity in the process for the renewal of out of district permits.

Exhibit Review for Student Data Privacy Policy (File: JRA-E2)

The school board reviewed the above exhibit for the Student Data Privacy Policy. ACPS provides students with access to online educational services for use according to the requirements for participation in an ACPS instructional program and may be provided with equipment from ACPS. Each year, the online educational services agreement must be signed by the student and parent/guardian and then returned to the teacher before access to the online educational services is permitted or the equipment/online educational services can be issued. Approved online services are listed on the ACPS website.

Approval of the Superintendent’s Contract

The school board voted unanimously to approve a four-year contract for Mr. Jeff Blank as the Superintendent of Schools.

Vote to Meet in Executive Session August 3, 2021

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on August 3, 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. Emails must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, August 2, 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 time and location will be TBD.

CONSTITUENTS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Evan West, Parent/Member of WMD United

Mr. West’s comments can be heard on the [recorded video](#) of the Open Session beginning at the 20:30 minute mark.

Ms. Jacqueline McKenzie, Organizer of Cumberland Pride/Co-Organizer of WMD United

Ms. McKenzie’s comments can be heard on the [recorded video](#) of the Open Session beginning at the 25:05 minute mark.

Mrs. Kim Sloane, President ACEA

Mrs. Kim Sloane’s comments can be heard on the [recorded video](#) of the Open Session beginning at the 29:45 minute mark.

Board member responses to constituent comments begin at the 32:00 minute mark of the [recorded video](#) of the Open Session.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES & SMOB COMMENTS

Mr. Mitchell Septoff, Outgoing SMOB

Mitchell is a member of the graduating Class of 2021, and this was his last meeting as the Student Member of the Board. In his final remarks, he apologized to students for not being able to deliver on his goal of expanded student rights that he had been advocating for last school year. Mitchell also took an opportunity to introduce his successor, Ms. Brooklyne Noel of Fort Hill High School, who will serve as SMOB for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Septoff also spoke directly to school board members, and those remarks can be heard on the [recorded video](#) of the Open Session beginning at the 1:03:45 minute mark.

Mrs. Deb Frank

Mrs. Frank noted that the majority of the school board attended a workshop last month conducted by a long-time education law specialist. The topic of this workshop was the role of the superintendent vs. the role of board members. She also noted that most of the school board members had the opportunity to attend one or more graduation ceremonies in May, and that she felt it was very powerful to once again be in the stadiums with families and graduates, a much different perspective than last year. Finally, Mrs. Frank announced that there would be a Mind Body skills one-credit college course offered at Allegany College of Maryland June 18-19, 2021, for any student age 15 and up. The class normally costs \$220, but thanks to a grant is being offered to students for only \$20.

Dr. David Bohn

Dr. Bohn took the opportunity to thank ACPS staff for their hard work getting through a very difficult school year and congratulated the Class of 2021 for their accomplishments along with their parents for their patience, effort, and understanding. He wished everyone a happy and safe summer.

Mrs. Tammy Fraley

Mrs. Fraley informed the school board that MABE would once again have their annual conference in October. She feels that this is a very worthwhile event for board members as it is a great opportunity to share ideas and information with their colleagues across the state. Mrs. Fraley also thanked Allegany Media and Commercial Video for the wonderful job that they did live streaming this year's graduation ceremonies. She concluded her remarks by thanking everyone, staff, students, parents, and the community, for coming together to make the best of a very difficult school year.