

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Mrs. Tammy Fraley
Dr. David Bohn
Mr. Jeff Blank, Superintendent
Ms. Brooklyne Noel, SMOB

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Recognition of Brooklyne Noel, Student Member of the Board 2021-2022

School board members recognized Brooklyne Noel, outgoing Student Member of the Board, for her service during the past school year and her dedication to the students of Allegany County Public Schools. Brooklyne will attend Duke University in the fall to major in biology.

Recognition of Alternate Student Page

The school board recognized Mountain Ridge High School student, Grace O'Baker, as the 2022 Alternate Student Page. Aurora Mahoney, from Bishop Walsh School, served as the 2022 Student Page for Allegany County. Three students submitted application and were evaluated on their knowledge of local politics and issues. Their peers, from the public and non-public high schools, served as judges. A Student Page serves two one-week sessions. During these sessions, they assist legislators at the State House, learn how state government works, and helps serve constituents.

Present Proclamation Recognizing May 2-6, 2022, as National Teacher Appreciation Week

The school board presented a proclamation to Mrs. Kim Sloane, ACEA President, recognizing May 2-6, 2022, as National Teacher Appreciation Week sponsored by the National PTA. Teachers mold future citizens through guidance and education and encounter students of widely differing backgrounds. Our country's future depends upon quality education to all students. Teachers spend countless hours preparing lessons, evaluating progress, counseling, and coaching students and performing community service, and the local community recognizes in educating the children of this community.

Present Proclamation Recognizing May 6, 2022, as School Lunch Hero Day

The school board presented a proclamation to Mr. Todd Lutton, ACPS Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services, recognizing May 6, 2022, as School Lunch Hero Day as designated by Maryland Governor, Larry Hogan. Nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the school day and promote growth and development of children. ACPS's food service department is committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to students, and the men and women who prepare and serve school meals help nurture children through their daily interactions and support. The school board appreciates these valuable employees and commends their good work on behalf of ACPS students.

Recognize ACPS Food and Nutrition Staff

No Kid Hungry Maryland recognized the work of ACPS's Food and Nutrition staff. Throughout the pandemic, they rose to the challenging task of ensuring meals got to students despite supply chain issues, staffing shortages, and last-minute school closures. They go above and beyond as the switch operations and menus overnight, cover for colleagues, and work extra hours. The flexibility, creativity, and persistence they show demonstrates their dedication to the students of ACPS.

When many communities shut down, and when many school system staff members worked from home, the ACPS Food and Nutrition staff continued going to work, serving as first responders in the community. Without their efforts, many children and families would have had a hard time accessing the food they needed. Since schools first closed in March 2020 to September 2021, the ACPS Food and Nutrition Services Department served 1,078,232 meals through the Summer Food Service Program, which operated during the school year as well as the summer months.

Mr. Lutton accepted this recognition on behalf of the entire ACPS food and nutrition services department. He noted that ACPS will serve meals during summer programs this year; however, COVID waivers expire on June 30th, so ACPS will begin charging for school meals beginning next school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for meeting held on April 12, 2022.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of April 1-30, 2022.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of April 1-30, 2022.
4. Receive monthly financial report

Present Proclamation Recognizing May 9-13, 2022, as Pupil Personnel Worker Week

The school board presented a proclamation to Mr. Gene Pustolski, ACPS Lead PPW, recognizing May 9-13, 2022, as Pupil Personnel Workers Week. PPWs serve all children, promoting the opportunities for every child to experience a safe and healthy environment. PPWs are specialists trained to consider and assess the needs of the total child and serve as the school's liaison with the family, community organizations, and social agencies to foster the child's physical, psychological, social, and intellectual growth.

PPWs work collaboratively with the resources of the home, school, community essential to the good mental, emotional, and physical health of each child necessary to advance effective teaching, learning, and achievement in schools. It is important that the people of Maryland honor the unique and essential role that the PPWs play in the personal and academic development of Maryland's children. These dedicated professionals do an outstanding job nurturing the growth, maturity, and responsibility that adulthood and good citizenship require.

Summer School and Virtual Schooling Updates

Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, ACPS Chief Academic Officer, updated the school board on summer school and virtual schooling. ACPS will offer different summer programs for elementary and middle school students. Information about these programs can be found on the school system's website under the Parents and Students tab. Parents will receive information on how to register their children for these summer camps later this month. The camps will be held during June and July. A meal will be provided for students participating in the programs, and they are free to attend. Transportation is provided if parents register their students by the registration deadline. The goals of ACPS's summer programs are to provide remediation in the areas of reading and math in order to eliminate or reduce any learning loss that has occurred.

There will be a high school original credit and high school credit recovery program this summer as well. Interested parents or students should contact the school counselor. While the recovery credit program is free to attend, there are costs for the original credit courses. Currently, PE, health, art, and financial literacy will be offered as original credit courses. A bagged lunch will be provided, and transportation will also be available as long as registrations are received by the deadline.

ACPS will not offer a Grades K-6 virtual school program during the 2022-2023 school year. ACPS will monitor COVID-19 metrics and work alongside the local and state health departments to evaluate concerns and make real-time decisions during the school year. Additionally, the 2022-2023 academic school calendar utilizes three regular school closures if inclement weather determines the need to close schools. ACPS plans to utilize online synchronous learning through the Schoology platform to the highest degree possible in the event that school closures exceed three. All of this information will be communicated to parents and students through ACPS communication platforms.

Budget Amendment

ACPS had a number of positive variances compared to budget this fiscal year as there were programs such as Outdoor School and much of the typical professional development programs that did not occur. At the same time, the district also had other areas where additional funding has been required to be spent, such as Food Services. Therefore, the district is requesting a budget transfer of \$100,000 to cover the anticipated shortfall within food services this year. While students have been eating for free, ACPS has staffed food services throughout the various stages of the pandemic to provide children with daily breakfast and lunch without the benefit of typical additional revenue resources that come when students are paying for lunches and purchasing additional items a la carte.

The district is also requesting \$205,000 in additional funds to finish purchasing the remaining 67 radios for the transportation department. This will make the district's fleet 100% compliant with the Maryland First 911 statewide 700 MHZ radio system used by first responders and public safety officials. These radios also eliminate connectivity issues that could occur given our regionally varied terrain.

The district is requesting \$175,000 for Operations to purchase additional equipment to use within the buildings to more efficiently and effectively clean and maintain buildings. The purchase of ride-on floor scrubbers and high-speed buffers will help the district more efficiently maintain the buildings throughout the year. For the next several years, summer work will be abbreviated as a result of the increase in the number of students and schools participating in summer school. These purchases will help streamline the preparation of the buildings for each new school year.

The district is also requesting \$250,000 for projects and infrastructure needs within the Maintenance Department. This will include \$100,000 for carpeting/flooring projects. The remainder will be spent on paving projects that are needed and can be completed prior to June 20, 2022.

The district is also requesting a \$500,000 budget transfer to the Retiree Insurance Fund. This transfer will further allow the district to increase the balance of the fund without taking funds from the trust in the near term.

There are no budgetary implementations relative to this amendment as there is a net difference of zero from a budget standpoint. The funds to appropriate for these transactions would come from positive budget variances. The amounts from each category are Fixed Charges \$500,000; Special Education \$100,000; Instructional Salaries \$220,000; and Instructional Supplies \$210,000; and Instructional Other Charges \$200,000. This transfer amendment will allow the district to move forward with projects this fiscal year as well as provide increased infrastructure stability into the future. The school board approved this budget amendment, and now the Board of County Commissioners will need to do the same.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Second Reading of Energy Conservation Policy (File: ECF)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to establish guidelines and goals for the purchase, conservation, and efficiency of energy for the school district and the monitoring and reporting of the use of electricity."

Consider Second Reading of Resignation of Classified Employees (File: GDPB)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, which states "Any employee wishing to resign from employment from the Board must notify his/her immediate supervisor and the Human Resources Department at least two weeks prior to the effective date of their resignation. The notice should provide the effective date of the resignation and the reason for leaving."

NEW BUSINESS

Renewal of Legal Services

The school board voted to renew the legal services of Mr. Llewellyn's firm, Geppert, McMullen, Paye and Getty.

Consider First Reading of School Board Administration (File: CF)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to identify how the principal exercises his or her authority in administrative matters related to school personnel and program management." The policy states "The school principal shall serve as the chief administrative officer of respective buildings and grounds for the administration of various programs and services within the broad scope of adopted Board policies and stat law. The principal shall be responsible for and shall have authority over the actions of students, professional and support staff members, visitors, and persons hired to perform special tasks. All school personnel will work under the direction of the principal in the performance of his or her duties with final approval of the Superintendent of Schools."

Consider First Reading of School Climate (File: CFE)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to reaffirm the Board's position regarding the importance of establishing a school environment conducive to learning." The policy states "The Board desires to provide safe, orderly, and caring learning environments in which all students feel comfortable, share the responsibility for maintaining a positive school climate, and take pride in their school and their achievements. The district shall encourage attitudes and behaviors that promote mutual respect, responsibility, and harmonious relations. The schools shall promote nonviolent conflict resolution techniques and provide students opportunities to voice their concerns about Board policies, school rules, and practices. The superintendent or designee may initiate student courts, campus beautification projects, vandalism prevention campaigns, and other programs in which students may identify and solve problems that affect their school. The schools shall not tolerate any comments or gestures which are vulgar or obscene or which denigrate others. Students shall be subject to disciplinary procedures for bullying other students or for using insults, slurs, or fighting words that may disrupt school activities. The curriculum and counseling programs shall foster positive racial and ethnic identity, help students understand diverse cultures, teach them to think critically about racial bias and show them how to deal with discriminatory behavior in appropriate ways. The Board encourages the use of cooperative learning strategies in the classroom in order to foster positive social interactions among students. School staff shall encourage and reward success and achievement, participation in community projects and positive student conduct."

Consider First Reading of Student Registered Sex Offenders – Entry on School Property (File: JKCA)

The school board approved the first reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to provide for the education of students who are registered sex offenders in accordance with requirements defined by Maryland Annotated Code §11-722. The policy states "A student registered as a sex offender is prohibited from entering onto school property or attending Maryland public schools. ACPS is responsible for providing an education in accordance with state law for students who are registered sex offenders through other methods in a location other than public school property."

Consider Regulation Review of School Safety and Security (File: ECAE)

The school board reviewed the regulations for the above policy, whose purpose is "to provide safe, orderly, and caring learning environments in which all students feel comfortable in adherence to the Maryland Safe to Learn Act 2018."

Consider Regulation Review of Energy Conservation (File: ECF)

The school board reviewed the regulations for the above policy, which was approved on second reading during Unfinished Business.

Consider Repealing Administrative Intern Program Policy (File: CJ)

The school board voted to repeal the above policy, which was last revised in 2005.

Consider Repealing Administrative Consultants Policy (File: CK)

The school board voted to repeal the above policy, which was last revised in 2005.

Vote to Meet in Executive Session June 7, 2022, as Necessary

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on June 7, 2022, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The time and location of the meeting is TBD.

CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS

Ms. Autumn Miller, Parent

Ms. Miller's comments to the school board can be heard in their entirety on the [recorded video](#) beginning at the 30:46-minute mark.

Ms. Brooklyne Noel, SMOB

Ms. Noel provided the school board with the following updates:

- ACPS students participated Allegany College of Maryland's first "Make a Difference Youth Summit". The event, associated with the Maryland Civic Education Coalition, included nearly 40 students to display their service-learning engagement in the community. The event was designed to highlight service-learning and civic engagement and to share with students different ways to make a positive impact in the community. ACPS students also had an opportunity to tour ACM and learn more about courses and programs offered there.
- The Allegany County Association of Student Councils will be holding their elections for next year's Executive Board, which will include the next Student Member of the Board.

Mrs. Tammy Fraley

Mrs. Fraley reminded the public that the last day of school for students this year is Tuesday, June 7, 2022, and it will be a three-hour early dismissal. She noted that she was recently part of a leadership series hosted by Frostburg State University that focused on community involvement. Additionally, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) is in need of support for their annual conference, which takes place in October each year.