

BOARDROOM CHATTER

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Recognition of SkillsUSA Winners 2022

The school board recognized several ACPS students from the Career Center for their accomplishments in the 2022 SkillsUSA competition. The SkillsUSA Championships are career competition events showcasing the best career and technical education students in the nation. Contests begin locally and continue through the state and national levels. The philosophy of the Championships is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance and to keep training relevant to employers' needs.

The annual National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) was held in Georgia in June, and five recent graduates of the Career Center had the opportunity to compete against more than 6,500 other career and technical education students, all of whom were state contest winners. During the event, students competed in 108 different hands-on trades, technical, and leadership fields. They had to work against the clock and each other to demonstrate their expertise in occupations including electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts.

CCTE grad, David Elifritz, was successful in placing 15th nationally in the Motor Controls Electrical Maintenance competition, and the TeamWorks team consisting of CCTE graduates Chris Walters, Zander Loar, Teddy Rankin, and Charles Cunningham, placed 18th nationally in the Carpentry/Building Construction competition. Mr. Gary Taylor, CCTE carpentry instructor, and Mr. Michael Riggleman, CCTE electrical maintenance instructor, both attended the competition with the students.

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATES

Reopening Plan/Inclement Weather Plan

Mrs. Debbie Metheny, ACPS Director of Special Education and Student Services, provided an update on guidance to support safe, in-person operations for the 2022-2023 school year. ACPS will employ the following strategies for everyday operations:

- Vaccinations are now available for children ages 6 months and older.
- Staff and students who have symptoms of an infectious illness should not attend work or school.
- Staff and families should notify the school when a staff member or students have a positive COVID-19 test. ACPS will continue to report positive cases to MSDE.
- If a student becomes ill during the school day, they will report to the health room where they will wear a mask and separate from well persons. Parents will be asked to pick up ill students in a timely manner.
- It is recommended that persons with COVID-19 symptoms be tested. If the test is negative, they may return when symptoms are improved and they are fever-free for 24 hours.
- Air purifiers will continue to be used in classroom settings.
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be reinforced.
- High-touch surfaces will continue to be cleaned daily.

ACPS will employ the following COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2022-2023 school year:

- 1) Contact Tracing and Quarantine of Close Contacts
 - a) Universal contact tracing is no longer recommended in schools.
 - b) Staff and students who are known close contacts, regardless of their vaccination status, can continue to attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic.
 - i) Masks should be worn for ten days post-exposure to the positive person.
 - ii) It is recommended that individuals test 3-5 days after exposure.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes for meeting held on June 7, 2022.
2. Approve routine personnel actions for the period of June 1-31, 2022.
3. Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of June 1, 2022, - July 31, 2022
4. Receive monthly financial report.

Instructional Updates Cont.

The following procedures will be in place for persons who test positive for COVID-19:

- Stay home for at least five full days from the date of symptom onset if symptomatic or from the date of the positive test if asymptomatic.
- Day 0 is considered the day symptoms started in symptomatic persons or the day of the positive test (date of testing) if asymptomatic.
- After day five, if the person has no symptoms or if symptoms are improved and they have had no fever for 24 hours without medication, they may return to school if they wear a well-fitting mask for an additional five days (day 6-10).
- Masks do not need to be worn in schools while eating, drinking, or outside.

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE CONT.

- 1) Masking
 - a) Staff and students may choose to wear a mask based on their personal preference or informed by their personal level of risk to themselves or their household or social contacts. ACPS supports voluntary masking for any reason.
- 2) COVID-19 Testing
 - a) ACPS will provide take-home test kits to those students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. A negative home test will be accepted as proof of a negative test. Parents will need to write their child's name and date on the test and provide a picture to the school for the student to return. The student will still need to have improved symptoms.
 - b) Parents will be encouraged to report positive tests to the Maryland Department of Health through a link that will be provided.
- 3) School Outbreaks
 - a) The outbreak definition will remain the same as the end of the previous school year. Contact tracing will be performed for cases linked to an outbreak. This will focus on those who started having symptoms or testing positive in the last five days, and notification of close contacts will focus on those who were exposed in the last five days. Parents will be notified of all outbreaks in their child's school and cohort.
 - b) It is possible that during an outbreak additional control measures may be recommended, including:
 - i) Masking
 - ii) Recommendation of testing
 - iii) Increased hand washing
 - iv) Rescheduling of events

Inclement Weather Update

The Maryland State Department of Education will allow local school districts to utilize up to eight (8) days of virtual learning this school year. In Allegany County Public Schools, those allotted days will be used as inclement weather days.

For the first three (3) inclement weather days, asynchronous learning will be utilized, allowing students to login to Schoology to complete assignments at any time on an inclement weather day. The developmental level of students will be taken into consideration when determining the number of assignments per content area that will be provided on asynchronous days.

If ACPS requires additional days for inclement weather beyond the first three, up to five (5) days will then be used. The format for those days will be a half-day of synchronous learning (real-time learning with a teacher) via the Schoology platform. Schedules for these inclement weather days will be available on the school system's website. As always, students without access to connectivity will be allotted up to two days following a closure to submit assignments to be counted present for a particular class.

Class of 2022 Report

Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, ACPS Chief Academic Officer, provided the school board with an update on the Class of 2022. Students in this graduating class were accepted to 37 different colleges, universities, and technical schools across the country. Of the 622 graduates, 228 of them chose to continue their studies locally at either Allegany College of Maryland or Frostburg State University. Additionally, 223 students were offered a total of \$6,240,281 in merit, athletic, and senatorial scholarships.

Dr. Kalbaugh also provide information on projected Advanced Placement and Dual enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year, which are as follows:

PROJECTED ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENROLLMENT

COURSE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
033	AP Computer Science Principles	96	74	74	60	84
133	AP English Language/Composition	117	105	67	47	69
145	AP English Literature/Composition	175	95	87	70	66
186	AP Spanish	13	17	18	15	13
205	AP Government & Politics	84	81	45	58	0*
213	AP Human Geography	74	46	54	26	39
220	AP World History	107	81	68	59	92
244	AP US History	162	67	41	70	61
254	AP Psychology	165	87	104	68	63
394	AP Calculus	75	52	33	19	41
396	AP Statistics	9	1	0	17	9
413	AP Environmental Science	115	131	94	91	95
455	AP Chemistry	18	17	0	12	13
465	AP Physics I	26	12	8	8	8
467	AP Physics II	11	2	4	1	1

PROJECTED DUAL ENROLLMENT

COURSE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
038	College Computer Literacy	27	71	24	28	25
039	College Computer Logic	14	37	10	23	23
134	College English	220	241	221	191	198
136	College Speech	147	142	103	87	117
255	College Psychology	84	110	94	96	92
395	College Algebra	98	149	151	128	144
397	College Probability & Statistics	108	178	181	111	108
431	College Biology I	54	89	80	68	60
439	College Biology II	43	47	43	16	25
913D	Criminal Law	4	2	0	0	5
913E	Criminal Evidence & Procedure	4	2	0	0	5

Summer School Update

Dr. Kalbaugh provided the school board with an update on summer school programs. A total of 679 students in grades pre-k through five attended the Elementary Summer Learning Program, which focused on building reading and math skills necessary for success in the next school year. Student also had the opportunity to participate in PE classes and robotics and STEM activities. The Judy Centers' incoming 3 and 4-year-olds maintained their summer camps at both South Penn and George's Creek, and South Penn also hosted services for students whose IEP plans indicated that Extended School Year services were necessary. Students in the Chinese Immersion Program had the opportunity to attend summer sessions to enhance their language skills.

A total of 50 middle school students attended middle school summer school districtwide. Each day consisted of math and ELA instruction as well as an enrichment activity. Math and ELA focused on thematic activities and was supplemented by the Moby Max individualized learning platform. The math activity was Geometrocity, an activity which builds and reinforces middle school geometry skills while showing students a direct connection between geometry and city structures. The ELA activity focused on the novel, Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings, which has connection to the Western Maryland region. Enrichment activities varied by school and included such things as bridge building, model rocketry, cooking, social/emotional lessons, and PE. In all, the average student growth in math was 1.5 months, and the average student growth in ELA was 3.1 months.

During the Summer Special Education Compensatory and Recovery Program, students participated in hands-on activities in thematic units that included sports, animals, water, agriculture, and space during the six-week program. Throughout the camp, an emphasis was placed on hands-on science and math curricular concepts, specifically identifying and solving fractions. Pre and post assessments focused on growth in math concepts, especially fractions and identified goal areas on student IEPs. Students also had the opportunity to participate in robotics and social emotional learning activities that aligned with each week's theme. School Therapy Services provided staff to support activities and to provide OT/PT in classrooms.

The ACPS Special Education Department, in collaboration with Allegany College of Maryland, sponsored a four-day camp for rising juniors and seniors with disabilities in July. Students participated in activities on ACM's campus, at the Western Maryland Maker's Space, and at the Gateway Center/Culinary Café. Tasks included exploratory activities in the areas of Automotive Technology, Multimedia Technology, Criminal Justice, Allied Health Technicians, Forestry, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management. Students spent one day of the camp at the Western Maryland Maker's Space exploring welding, automotive, carpentry, and multimedia. The Special Ed Department provided supervision along with staff from ACM's CTE Program, and ACM gifted each student a \$500 scholarship for their participation in the camp.

Finally, ACPS held Original Credit and Credit Recovery summer school for high school students. A total of 217 credits were obtained, which includes 51 original credits in PE, health, and art, and 166 credits recovered from failed courses.

Many of the units covered during the 2022 summer school highlighted partnerships with various community organizations, including but not limited to, the following: Allegany County Food Pantry, Crossland Dairy, Wheelhouse Academy, NASM personal trainer, WCBC Sports, PKR Athletics, Riverside YMCA, Allegany High School's volleyball and basketball coach, Kick Masters Karate, 4-H Cumberland, University of Maryland Extension Office, Joint Training Facility, DNR, and Walnut Ridge Farms. Additionally, the Allegany County Sheriff's Department provided law enforcement presence; the ACPS transportation department, food service department, and maintenance department helped meet the needs of summer school attendees, and administrators, supervisors, and teachers worked for many months to coordinate the programs that were provided.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Second Reading of Non-Instructional Support Services (File: EA)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to establish that non-instructional support services are essential to a successful school system." The policy states, "The BOE recognizes that non-instructional support services are essential to the educational foundation of the school system. The BOE expect non-instructional support services to maintain high standards of safety, to promote the health of pupils and staff, to reflect the aspirations of the community, and to support environmentally the efforts of the staff to provide good instruction."

Consider Second Reading of Audits (File: DIE)

The school board approved the second reading of the above policy, whose purpose is "to identify audits required by law and by the Board." The policy states, "The Board shall provide for one annual audit of its financial transactions and accounts. Specific mandated audits from other government agencies will be conducted as required."

Vote to Meet in Executive Session September 13, 2022, as Necessary

The school board voted to meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, pending any appeals or unfinished business. The time and location of the meeting is TBD.

NEW BUSINESS

CEP Update

Mr. Todd Lutton, ACPS Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services, addressed the school board with a recommendation for the renewal of the Community Eligibility Provision. Currently, ACPS has four schools (George's Creek, South Penn, Westernport, and John Humbird) eligible for the program, which allows all students to receive free breakfast and lunch. Eligibility is based on free and reduced meals. If at least 40% of students are eligible for FARMs, then that school qualifies under the CEP. Upon reviewing figures for this year's renewal of the four-year program, Mr. Lutton found that Cash Valley is now eligible for the CEP and asked the board for approval. The school board voted to include Cash Valley in the CEP for the next four years.

Vote on Reopening Plan

The school board voted to approve the 2022-2023 Reopening Plan as presented by Dr. Kalbaugh and Mrs. Metheny in the instructional update.

CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS

Ms. Chelsea Boor

Ms. Boor is currently a teacher in ACPS; however, she spoke to the school board as a parent and 2010 graduate of Fort Hill High School and the FFA program. She noted that the experience and career readiness that she gained from being a part of FFA is unmatched, and she hopes that the school board will work to make it available in all schools.

Mr. Dana Tinnen

Mr. Tinnen addressed the school board regarding ACPS policies on masking after a staff member or student has COVID. He feels that it may be a violation of HIPAA to require masking for five days after a positive test and would like to see the school board protected from potential complaints or lawsuits. Additionally, Mr. Tinnen feels that there are not enough opportunities, activities, and programs for area youth and would like to see the school board research ways to engage young people more.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Mrs. Deb Frank

Mrs. Frank had the opportunity to attend the New Teacher Orientation, and this year there were 67 new teachers in attendance. She noted that teaching is a calling and that she appreciates those who answer that call. Lately she has been unhappy with the amount of negativity on social media directed at teachers and asked that both new and veteran teachers ignore the noise and not to let others steal their voice or confidence. Mrs. Frank is proud of ACPS and noted that the quality of education provided is second to none.

Mrs. Tammy Fraley

Mrs. Fraley was recently appointed by the Governor to a consortium for coordinated community supports where she will represent MABE as well as Western Maryland. Additionally, the annual MABE conference will be held in Ocean City where the focus will be on both the Blueprint for Maryland's Future as well as school safety. A highlight of this year's event is a Student Member of the Board panel, and ACPS's new SMOB, Carley Clise, will be in attendance to represent Allegany County.

Mr. Bob Farrell

Mr. Farrell thanked the teacher who spoke as a constituent about the benefits and advantages of the FFA program and very much appreciated her comments.