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BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

November 14, 2023

The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

Superintendent's Report

Recognition of Allegany High School Band

- The Allegany High School Marching Band has set a Maryland record, becoming the first three-time consecutive Atlantic Coast Champions.
 - The band competed against nine other qualifying Group 1-Open high school bands from across multiple states and ended up having a first place record tie with New Jersey school, Raritan High School.
 - The band's 2023 show "Up to the Skies," not only won first place, but also Best Music.

"The enthusiasm and excitement that came through when they initially won was pretty moving because this was their third year in a row winning this same coveted award. Going into the competition, they were actually an underdog and they put on their best performance of their season, at the exact moment they needed to and congratulations to them."

– Mr. Jeff Avey, Supervisor of Fine Arts

"We can't be more proud of the kids. Every single day, they come in with such an amazing attitude and positivity. They changed my life and I'm beyond grateful and blessed to be working with such amazing students every single day."

- Mr. Kenneth Pfromm, Band Director



Pictured left to right: Colin Sheehe, Avery Taylor, Jason Loveria, Kenneth Pfromm, Charles Moran, and Amy Llewellyn

Superintendent's Report

Present a proclamation recognizing October 16-20 as School Bus Safety Week

- Presented on behalf of the Board by Mrs. Crystal Bender to Homer "HB" Martz, Supervisor of Transportation

"We have an amazing group of people who are truly dedicated and conduct this mission and make it look so easy every day and it's not. It's a tough job and they do it well. Thank you very much for the recognition."

– Mr. Homer "HB" Martz



Transportation – Inclement Weather Procedures

- When bad weather is predicted, transportation staff are out at 3:00 and 3:30am monitoring air temperatures, currents, and surface conditions at the road level.
 - A decision will be made by 5:00am for a two or three hour delay, or if school will be cancelled completely.
 - Information will go out to the public between 5:30 and 6:00am
 - If a two hour delay is called, road conditions will be reevaluated by 7:00am for complete closings.
 - If a three hour delay is called, road conditions will be reevaluated by 8:00am for complete closings.
 - Early dismissal decisions will be made between 10:00 and 11:00am.
 - Decisions to close the night before will be made no later than 7:30pm.

Present Proclamation for Recognition of American Education Week: November 13-17, 2023 and November 15, 2023 as Educational Support Professionals Day

- Presented on behalf of the Board by Mrs. Lori Lepley to Stewart Monroe, Jr., Non-Certified Vice President of ACEA

"We appreciate the recognition for all educators and the impact they make here in our community and across the nation. They're employed in a variety of different positions in the school system and have such an important role to the success of our students every day."

– Mrs. Kimberly Sloane, President of ACEA



Superintendent's Report

Present Proclamation for Recognition of American Education Week: November 13-17, 2023 and November 15, 2023 as Educational Support Professionals Day

- ACCEA Educational Support Professional of the Year – Peggy Bass
 - An Instructional Assistant at Mount Savage Elementary, her nomination states: “Peggy is a wealth of knowledge and an asset to any classroom. She provides deep insight into a variety of topics during class discussions and is eager to assist with small groups of students, which go above and beyond her professional responsibilities. Peggy is the perfect example of a lifelong learner and models the importance of education for students daily. She captures everything an educator should be. Her kind, caring attitude, love of all students, determination, and grit make her a step above the rest.”

“On behalf of all educational support professionals for Allegany County Public Schools, thank you so very much. I am so very honored to be the Educational Support Professional of the year. Each and every day, educational support professionals work tirelessly in our schools across the county to help support our students. ACPS is so fortunate to have over 200 Educational Support Professionals who are dedicated to their schools, their colleagues, students, and school communities in which they labor. My father told me when I entered the world of work to like what you do as it is half your life. I look forward every day to working at Mount Savage School alongside an outstanding administration, faculty and staff, and an incredible group of students and their supportive parents. I am so proud of and I love being an Educational Support Professional for Allegany County Public Schools.”

– Peggy Bass



- Susan Sommers, Education Support Professional
 - Has volunteered with K9 Companions for 20 years
 - Services dogs are raised on a volunteer basis and then placed with people who have disabilities at no cost
 - Has raised 19 dogs in the school system

Instructional Report

Elementary Outdoor School Update

- Fifth grade residential outdoor school program
 - This year's outdoor school had over 500 students participating and 134 parent volunteers
 - 12 different lessons to choose from, all aligned with environmental literacy standards for elementary schools
 - Four educational hikes
 - Daytime activities such as canoeing, fishing, crafts, athletic competitions, and games
 - Evening activities such as Monday night movies to Thursday night skit nights
 - Ability to teach lessons and activities that can't afford to do in each school because of room and materials
 - Addition of a side by side was great for this year – helping with students with physical limitations, so they could participate in activities

Hearing of Constituents

Public Comment

- Stewart Monroe Jr. – ACEA Vice President
- Cresta Kowalski - ACEA

Unfinished Business

Consider Second Reading of Evaluation of Students Policy (Grading Policy)

- Approved

New Business

Consider Regulation Review of Energy Conservation

- Send back to Policy Committee

Vote to meet in Executive Session December 12, 2023

- Approved

Reports of Special or Advisory Committees

Student Member of the Board

- Spoke with graduating students from John Humbird DARE Program
- Been in communication with State SMOB regarding American Sign Language program and Fine Arts Completer program
- Allegany Association of Student Councils General Assembly
 - Led a public speaking workshop
 - Attendance is growing – about 125 students

Board Member Updates

- Mrs. Fraley is serving on the MABE Board
 - Serving on committees – one including the Legislative Committee
 - The MABE website contains helpful information, including a calendar
 - Involves having the students and the school involved in the school security
- Dr. Bohn suggested an update to the pictures displayed in the Washington Board Room