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BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

March 12, 2024

The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year – David Buskirk

Superintendent’s Report

Recognition of Athletics – Indoor State Track and Field Championships

- Maeleigh Plummer – high jump
 - Her winning jump was the fourth highest in the state of Maryland in indoor for the season and a PR
 - This is her first state title
 - Plaque presented by Mrs. Lori Lepley

“The elation that she showed after she cleared the 5’4” was awesome. It’s really cool to see that kind of emotion and she was so excited.”

- Chris Morgan, *Head Coach*



Pictured left to right: Chris Morgan, Head Coach, Maeleigh Plummer, and Brian Plummer, Assistant Coach

- Carter Hess – Shot Put
 - His throw was the ninth furthest in the state of Maryland in indoor for the season
 - Third track state championship, sixth overall
 - Plaque presented by Mrs. Lori Lepley

“I don’t think anyone’s had more of a successful winter season than Carter. Every meet this year, he increased his distance. He doesn’t get nervous, just goes out, gets the job done. Doesn’t matter what it is.”

- Chris Morgan, *Head Coach*



Pictured left to right: Sarah Bennett, Assistant Coach, Carter Hess, and Chris Morgan, Head Coach

“Not only are Maeleigh and Carter phenomenal athletes, they’re just phenomenal character kids. They’re great kids to have on your team.”

- Chris Morgan, *Head Coach*

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

Recognition of Athletics – Wrestling Championships

- Carter Hess
 - 2A / 1A State Wrestling Championship
 - 33 wins
 - Plaque presented by Mrs. Lori Lepley

“In wrestling you have to use just as much your mind as your body and Carter exemplifies that every day in practice and every day when we go out there. We've seen kids get exuberant and over the top after a win and he does a phenomenal job of maintaining his character, even when he's having a tough time. That's what made him successful this year. He is a generational athlete. He's a winner on the mat, off the mat, and on the playing field, and off the playing field.”

- Bernie Nichols, *Head Coach*



Pictured left to right: Bernie Nichols, Head Coach, Carter Hess, and John Wertz, Assistant Coach

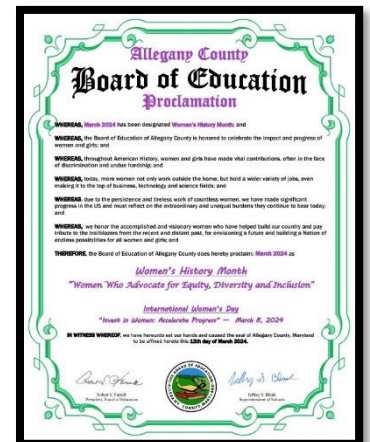
Present Proclamation Recognizing March as Women's History Month

- Presented by Mrs. Tammy Fraley to Dr. Sarah Welsh

“I appreciate your recognition of women's History Month. In gratitude, I'll share with you President Jimmy Carter's message from the time when he designated national women's history week all the way back in 1980. 'From the first settlers who came to our Shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed, but the achievements leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.' Thank you all so much for this recognition of the great achievements and contributions of women to our great society.”

- Dr. Sarah Welsh,

Assistant Supervisor of Student Services & Equity Coordinator



Superintendent's Report (cont.)

Present Proclamation Recognizing March as Youth Art Month

- Presented by Mrs. Crystal Bender to Mr. Jeff Avey

“Thank you very much. Don't miss the student art show on April 15th. It's been relocated to City Place in Frostburg because there's a lot more space for a lot more quality artwork. We're doing something brand new this year, we're going to have a junior, senior art show at the Hazen Gallery at Allegany College. We've never put together a special show to showcase our older teenage artists and we're doing all of that for the first time this year. It's going to be a good spring.”

- Mr. Jeff Avey
Assistant Supervisor of Fine Arts



Present Proclamation Recognizing March as Music in Our School's Month

- Presented by Dr. David Bohn to Mr. Jeff Avey

“Our arts program feel a warmth of support from the Board of Education, from the central office and from so many parents. Our schools might be a little smaller right now, but our students are second to none. They're no less capable and they're no less deserving of a robust Arts education. It's such a pleasure to go to other counties and see how they're behaving as a system with music programs and art programs and know that we are actually on track to try to duplicate their efforts. So thank you for your support.”

- Mr. Jeff Avey
Assistant Supervisor of Fine Arts



Blueprint Update

- Goals
 - To transform Maryland's early childhood, primary, and secondary education system to the levels of high performing systems around the world
 - Establish a career ladder system for educators composed of levels through which teachers may progress and gain certain authority, status, and compensation as they gain certain expertise
- Overall ACPS Blueprint Vision:
 - “ACPS will provide a world-class education to all students that prepares them to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to graduate, ready for postsecondary learning, prepared for a successful career, global competitiveness, and meaningful participation in society and life.”

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

Blueprint Update

- Brief timeline:
 - Blueprint began in 2021
 - First Blueprint Plan submitted March 15, 2023
 - From March 15, 2023 until now, have had teams engaging in technical and instructional sessions to prepare for the next plan
 - In October 2023, began working with a Strategic Facilitator
 - Submission of Phase 2 Part 1 Blueprint Implementation will be submitted March 15, 2024
 - Submission of Phase 2 Part 2 Blueprint Implementation will need submitted by May 1, 2024
 - The new plan will be due in 2027

Instructional

Academic Calendar and Virtual Plan Update

- Requesting approval for the 2024-2025 Academic School calendar and inclement weather virtual plan
 - Provides 180 days of instruction for students and 190 days for teachers, as well as built-in days
 - Draft was created with collaboration from the instructional supervisors, shared with principals, staff, and ACEA
 - Calendar being proposed at this time:
 - Start date of Wednesday, August 14th - The start date is optimally designed to ensure the teachers have plenty of time to cover the content and standards for ELA, math, science, and social studies before the spring MCAP assessments, which take place in early March through May
 - The academic calendar is very similar to this year's calendar with a similar break for Thanksgiving and Christmas and a short break for Easter
 - There are some necessary days for teacher and parent conferences as well as teacher work time and professional learning
 - The proposed calendar has the opening of schools for students on Wednesday, August the 21st
 - One major change is due to the requirement of Senate Bill 610, requiring the local school board to provide virtual education days for severe weather events and the school system incorporate built-in days within the calendar for school closures. ACPS has built in three days at the end of the school year for inclement weather closures. If additional inclement weather days beyond those three built-in days, then ACPS may use virtual education. A virtual education day must consist of four hours of synchronous instruction with additional asynchronous instruction

Instructional (cont.)

Academic Calendar and Virtual Plan Update

- Vote to amend the calendar
 - Change the start date for teachers from August 14th to August 19th
 - Start date for students would go from August 21st to August 26th
 - Three days would then be tacked on to the end of the calendar making the last day for students June 5th and the last day for teachers June 6th without needing any makeup days. If the three built-in makeup days are needed the last day for students would be June 10th and June 11th for teachers
 - In addition, I would like the motion to include to adjust two of the scheduled three-hour delayed openings for students to full days. Those would include December 3rd, when we return from Thanksgiving break and April 22nd, when we return from Easter break

Unfinished Business

Consider Second Reading of Early Admission Policy

- Passed

New Business

Vote to meet in Executive Session April 2, 2024

- Approved

Reports of Special of Advisory Committees

Student Member of the Board

- Attended meeting with the curriculum department regarding ASL promotion
 - Strong possibility it could be offered in 2025-2026 school year
- Fine arts programs numbers of participants are depleting
 - Hoping to find a way to make scheduling better to increase interest
- Youth Summit held at ACM
- Student concerns for lack of feminine hygiene products in schools
- On Your Feet, Fort Hill's production will be on March 21 – 23rd at 7 p.m.

Board Member Updates

- Attended Open House for Manufacturing Engineering Technology Program at Western Maryland Works
- Visits to Mount Savage School
 - Creating an amazing environment for their students
 - Taking students to WVU for hands-on experience

Reports of Special of Advisory Committees (cont.)

Board Member Updates

- Allegany High School is doing a presentation of Bye-Bye Birdie March 25 – 27th at 7 p.m.
- Congratulations to the wrestling team
- Maryland Coordinated Community Supports Commission
 - RFP's were announced
 - Garrett County is heading up the Western Maryland grant, that includes Allegany and Garrett Counties
- On March 26th, FFA programs will be confirmed at Fort Hill at 8:30 a.m. and Mountain Ridge at 10 a.m.