

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 Mr. Robert Farrell, President  
 Mrs. Crystal Bender, Vice President  
 Ms. Lori Lepley  
 Mrs. Tammy Fraley  
 Dr. David Bohn  
 Mr. Jeffrey Blank, Superintendent  
 Ms. Alexandra Robertson, SMOB

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

April 2, 2024

The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

## Superintendent's Report

### Present Proclamation Recognizing April as Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month

- Presented by Dr. David Bohn to Dr. Stephen Thompson



### Recognition of ACPS Accomplishments in Mathcounts

- Presented by Dr. David Bohn to Dr. Stephen Thompson
  - Braddock Middle School named the 2024 Mathcounts Chapter Team Champions & State Qualifiers
    - 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year they have come in first place
    - 34<sup>th</sup> time in 41 years they have come in first in the Chapter Competition
  - Individuals qualified for the state competition
    - Washington Middle – coached by Stephan Weisenmiller and Joshua Wilson
      - Jayce McLaughlin
      - Maxwell Shelton
    - Mt. Savage Middle – coached by Teresa Norris
      - Joshua Georgeson
      - William Keiling
      - Connor Kennedy



Pictured left to right Zachary Llewellyn, Nolan Pillai, Coach Kara Breedlove, and Kristina Kucher

“It does my heart good to see that we have students doing academic competitions and winning.”

- Dr. Bohn

“It’s not just knowing the information, but being able to do it on the spot. It’s amazing watching our kids show off.”

- Jeffrey Blank

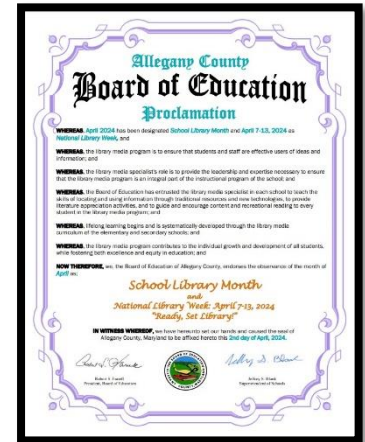
# Superintendent's Report (cont.)

## Present Proclamation Recognizing April as Library Media Month

- Presented by Mrs. Tammy Fraley to Mr. Jeff Avey

“I greatly appreciate the proclamation. The library media teachers react to different kids and different teachers every single day and their challenges are unique. Day to day, week to week, it’s a mixed bag and yet their task of ensuring that children read of all ages, and that children are exposed to safe and responsible use of different technologies. They matter. They bring our programs together and it’s been inspiring to see them in action this year.”

- Jeff Avey, Assistant Supervisor of  
Fine Arts and Library Media



## Recognition of the Allegany County Teacher of the Year

- Presented by Mr. Robert Farrell to Mr. David Buskirk
  - TOY nomination process begins in December
  - Each county finalist participates in an interview with judges, being judged on their poise, communication skills, presentation and delivery, and knowledge of the teaching profession

“I’m really honored to receive this recognition. I’ve been a teacher for about 15 years in Allegany County. I’ve taught at West Side, South Penn, Cash Valley, and now Beall Elementary. And that’s actually where I went as a kid, so it’s kind of neat to come full circle. In my teacher of the year platform, I wrote about how important it is for literacy for all for students. I have a belief that all children have the ability and the right to learn, and especially with literacy. I want to thank the Board for investing in programs like inclusion, in our school system, and also reading initiatives, like “The Science of Reading” and investing in that for teachers to utilize. And also utilizing the Maryland Blueprint for early childhood programs and initiatives for teachers to become more highly qualified. Thank you for your support and for your funding for all those programs and I’m truly honored to receive this recognition.”

- Mr. David Buskirk

2024-2025 ACPS Teacher of the Year



## Superintendent's Report (cont.)

### Alexis Heavner – “The 24: Maryland’s Emerging Scholars” Award

- Recognizes one student from each county for their exceptional work in the community and at school
- Criteria was based on student academic achievement, dedication to community involvement, compassionate leaders in their school, and extra points awarded for participation in Maryland Business Roundtable Program and career interest in STEM.

“In Allegany County, we are represented by Miss Alexis Heavner. She’s a great person. She’s been very helpful to the program and she exemplifies what the 24 Award should be and is going to be a great future leader for the state of Maryland.”

- Mr. Leonard Webb

*Next Generation Scholar Specialist for ACPS & MBRT*



“I, along with 24 other students in Maryland were recognized for being an Emerging Scholar, but there are more than just that who are striving for greatness in our county, as well as in our state. Many student ambassadors in Maryland go to meetings and different workshops where we learn how to better our future and what we can do to evolve in the community.”

- Alexis Heavner

### Recognition of State Championship Mock Trial Team from Allegany

- Presented by Mrs. Crystal Bender to Mr. Brian White
  - This is AHS’s 3<sup>rd</sup> State Championship
  - There are no school-size classifications or distinctions between public and private schools

“It is indeed humbling to do this three times as a coach. To win state champions at the level Mrs. Laupert said, with the fact of playing both public and private high schools. No class designation. I’d like to thank Mr. Blank and Mr. McKenzie for their support. We just turned around over the weekend in making a decision that we are going to go to Nationals.”

- Mr. Brian White, *Coach*



“I’d like to take a few moments to make you aware of the enormity of what Mr. White and his accomplishments and the students have done this year. Brian has been the mock trial coach for 30 years at Allegany. His legacy at the old school and at the new school will carry on.”

- Heidi Laupert, *Principal AHS*

Pictured left to right Brian White, Chris Logsdon, Bryce Bridges, Finn Gallagher, Colin Sheehe, Maya Hare, Emmanuel Kujenga, Carli Atkinson, Daniel Ly, Nick Wilt, Maddie Baker, and Josef Sneathen

# Finance

## Superintendent's Operating Budget

- Board Budget Priorities
  - Maintain and enhance resources and programs for early childhood development utilizing various funding streams and / or re-allocation of facilities where possible
  - Maintain and enhance student safety and mental health by providing appropriate work support and specialized programming based upon demonstrated student need and increasing Maryland Center for School Safety Policies and Regulations
  - Make every effort to provide employees with cost effective negotiated benefits, including salary and health insurance, that incorporate changes established by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and provides pay increases where possible
  - Provide summer educational support programs across all grade levels in addition to credit recovery
- Considerations
  - Superintendent's Role
  - Local Board's Role
  - Maryland School Systems do not have the authority to bond debt, levy taxes, or raise revenues on their own
  - The state provides revenues to the district based upon the district's enrollment demographics and the districts relative wealth
  - Local government is obligated to fund their local district annually
  - The school system must prepare and present a balanced budget to local government
- Personnel Assumptions
  - Meets the original contractual obligations set for with all four bargaining units
  - No reductions in force related to CARES funding expiring in September. 36 positions previously paid with CARES funds have been absorbed within the budget
  - Provides additional teachers for Blueprint pilot programs
  - Funds an additional teacher to assist with agriculture and science programs
  - Provides for the opportunity to hire / retain a full staff of security officers
- Non-Personnel Assumptions
  - Slight increase in transportation costs
  - Increase cost for PowerSchool
  - Increase in non-public placements within special education
  - Provide additional funding for increasing utility costs
  - Provides support for increasing healthcare claims and other fixed charges
  - Capital outlay projects prioritized
  - Provide tutoring program, previously funded by federal CARES funds
  - Provide summer school program, previously funded by federal CARES funds
  - Provides increase in athletic transportation allocations
  - Funding for staff development opportunities
  - Prepare a budget within the parameters and priorities outlined by the Board



# Hearing of Constituents

## Public Comment

- Savage Mountain Punk Arts
  - Presentation of donation to pay off student lunch debt
  - Presented by Gerry LaFemina, President SMPA
- Kim Sloane, President ACEA
- Megan McElfish
- Chelsea Boor
- Acknowledgement from Mrs. Tammy Fraley, Ms. Lori Lepley, Mrs. Crystal Bender and Mr. Robert Farrell

## New Business

### Vote to approve Superintendent's Operating Budget

- Approved

### Vote to approve 3 hour early dismissal on Monday, April 8, 2024 for safety concerns with solar eclipse

- Approved

### Vote to meet in Executive Session May 7, 2024

- Approved

## Reports of Special of Advisory Committees

### Student Member of the Board

- ASL Google Form has been created
  - Expecting a lot of interest
- FFA assembly held for Fort Hill and Mountain Ridge
- Mountain City Center for the Arts hosting a fundraiser for student's family after mother's passing
- Once Upon A Mattress will be rescheduled

### Board Member Updates

- Attended FFA Ceremonies
- Bye-Bye Birdie to be put on at the end of April