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BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

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The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

Superintendent's Report

Present a proclamation recognizing October 21-25, 2024 as School Bus Safety Week

"I want to thank the board for this recognition and I accept it on behalf of everyone in our transportation department. The safe transportation of our students requires many different people. Sometimes I like to think of it as many players on a team, with many different roles and responsibilities. They include drivers, bus aides, contractors, mechanics, school administrators, students, parents of students, and board members. When you have buses on the road from Luke to Little Orleans and Frostburg to almost the Paw Paw bridge, we're faced with a lot of different challenges on a daily basis, which we try to meet as best we can with our goal always being, to be better the next day."

- Mike Mathews, *Supervisor of Transportation*



Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Update

- Shining Star awards for the 2023-2024 school year
 - 64 nominations for administrators, teachers, service providers and support staff
 - There was praise for staff amongst all schools
 - 6 winners chosen
 - 2 from elementary school
 - 2 from middle school
 - 2 from high school

"As always, I'm never surprised. We have outstanding employees. Our students are very fortunate to have the employees we have here. All of you go above and beyond. So, just personally, I want to say thank you."

- Jeffrey S. Blank, *Superintendent of Schools*

Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Update (cont.)

- Elementary School

Debra Frankenberry - West Side Elementary

"Ms. Frankenberry has worked for decades in special education within Allegany County. She goes above and beyond while trying to service students with IEPs, including hosting small groups during her own lunch break or meeting with students before school. She is always careful to explain all parts of the IEP to parents and teachers. She goes above and beyond in creating activities and supports for students. She is always trying to increase her knowledge in the area of Special Education as well as being willing to implement new strategies to help students."

"I am nominating Debbie Frankenberry for the Shining Star Award because she is an extremely hardworking and dedicated member of the Special Education Staff. I've known Debbie for many years, working with her at West Side. However, until just a few years ago when I had the opportunity to work with her directly, I didn't realize the degree of her intelligence and dedication. Debbie came into my classroom and worked with a few of my students. She was always very patient and kind with the children. Further, she would share ideas and suggestions as to how their needs could be met and recommended strategies to me, as well as to the students, to help them achieve! I feel sure other classroom teachers that have worked with Debbie would agree with my account!



Debbie is retiring at the end of the school year. Presenting the Shining Star Award to Debra Frankenberry would be a great way to recognize her years of dedication to the children of Allegany County Public Schools!"

"She is a strong advocate for students with IEPs. She supports teachers in the classroom to make decisions about accommodations for students. She uses manipulatives with the students that make learning more impactful."

"Debbie is an amazing educator who, quite simply, gets results. She is flexible in her instruction allowing her to reach students of all backgrounds and needs. She is data driven so that her methods are truly impactful. She is passionate about her students' needs and they consistently show marked growth after working with her. Debbie has long been an unrecognized gem here at West Side and, particularly as she is retiring this year, this is the perfect opportunity to recognize all she has done for our students."

Jessica Aydelotte - Cresaptown Elementary

"She is a wonderful at her job and goes above and beyond when it comes to meeting the needs of her speech students. I can not say enough good things about her. My daughter had her in PreK 3 at Cash and we were over the moon to see her come to Cresaptown. She makes IEP meetings more comfortable and brings them to a level of understanding so I am not so overwhelmed by the information being given to me."



"She has really helped our daughter with speech therapy."

"Jessica is a breath of fresh air in IEP meetings. She focuses on the positives and explains everything clearly. She takes time to provide additional exercises to be completed at home to help parents continue the therapy in the evenings. It is clear she is passionate about her job and helping her students succeed. She is an outstanding speech therapist and always a friendly face in IEP meetings."

- Middle School

Michael Oyer - Mt. Savage School

"Mr. Oyer is an exceptional special educator who genuinely cares about the well-being and success of each of his students. He fosters an environment of trust and mutual respect in the classroom, and demonstrates patience and understanding when working with students who struggle academically and behaviorally. He goes above and beyond to provide tailored approaches to help students succeed. He considers the needs of each individual student and is always looking for new and innovative ways to challenge his students. Mr. Oyer's dedication to his students goes far beyond what he is expected to do for his students. Mr. Oyer makes sure that his students have what they need on a daily basis and always carries extra supplies like pencils, notebooks, pens, etc. for his students.



Mr. Oyer is meticulous with his paperwork, and makes every effort to share updates about students and their needs with the teaching team. Mr. Oyer hand delivers forms and permission slips as well as important letters that need to go home to parents/guardians during his students' last period of the day so that they go directly into the students' backpacks.

He has created a Schoology group for teachers to share student specific information and data on each student with an IEP. He has developed seating charts for each classroom that act as a quick reference for teachers, including a brief snapshot of student needs and goals complete with each students' picture. On asynchronous and virtual school days, Mr. Oyer checks in on every student individually to make sure that they understand and complete their assignments.

The extra effort and complete dedication to his students make Mr. Oyer a great candidate for the 2024 SECAC Shining Star Award."

Justin Jones - Washington Middle School

"Justin Jones works hard every day to ensure that every student within the Special Education Department is given the proper attention required of their IEP/504 plans. He works tirelessly to ensure that every student's voice is heard and their needs are met, especially during weekly PST and during each student's individual meeting. He assures that every student is getting the help they require to the best of his and the school's ability. He is constantly being passionate about ensuring a student's needs are met in the future, and he works to ensure a plan is in place. He communicates with teachers on a daily basis and administrative staff to ensure everything is going smoothly. He works efficiently with all members of the school, including the PST team, the behavior specialist, and PPW to ensure that every step is taken to not only retain students and keep them in school, but to address behaviors that are seen in the classroom. His efforts help students within his program receive an education that would otherwise be difficult to receive. His supports allow students to come to school, be successful, and return home with knowing they are supported in school not only academically, but for their well-being as well."



"Justin is our SEF at Washington and goes above and beyond his duties as a SEF. Besides doing his job of running all the IEP meetings for our Special Education students, doing the academic testing, and completing all the paperwork involved in those duties, Justin does much more. He has several students he checks in with each morning and checks out with every afternoon. Justin is in contact with several families on a daily basis. He gives many of our students a safe place to take a break or an ear just to listen. Justin helps two 8th grade boys who use wheelchairs for mobility use the bathroom two times everyday. Justin is a calm presence and a sensible problem-solver during stressful situations of all kinds."

- High School

John McKenney - Center for Career & Technical Education

"He goes above and beyond for his students! His patience and Dedication has changed the lives many!"



"Outstanding Teacher. Goes above and beyond for the students."

"Outstanding teacher, dedicated to the special needs children. Goes above and beyond."

"He is a amazing man who has worked miracles in his students lives. He always goes beyond to make sure each one feels special and important. I wish all students could have a teacher like Mr. McKenney! He has brought my son so far. I am forever grateful for him."

Abby Radar - CTE/Cresaptown Elementary

"Abby has gone above and beyond to make sure my son has been successful in his regular ed and trade classes this year. She reached out beyond the school to the electricians union to find out answers about my son having accommodations on the union test."



"Abby is a wonderful SEF who truly has the child's best interest at heart. She is informative, organized, and professional while being kind hearted. Her IEP meetings are flawlessly executed and timely while giving the parent the support they need. She answers all questions without even being asked because she is that good at delivering the best outcomes and goals for the students while utilizing her team to their full potential. I am thoroughly impressed by Abby and have learned so much just by being in her presence. My son and I were extremely lucky to have her as his SEF at such an early stage of the IEP process."

"Abby takes a true interest in her students, those from current case loads and previous. She goes out of her way to interact with the students not only in the classroom, but when she sees them out in public as well. Often she attends events on her personal time just to show her support. She genuinely cares about the Special Education students in this community!"



Instructional Update

Elementary & Middle Outdoor School Update

- Elementary Outdoor School
 - Serviced 605 5th grade students
 - Residential program
 - 129 volunteers
 - Instruction covers every environmental literacy standard from grades K-5

“I just want to say it was incredible. You guys do an amazing job. I missed it when I was in elementary school, because the program wasn’t in place. I got to spend the week there with my son. All the kids had a great time.”

- Lori Lepley, *Board Member*

- 6th grade Outdoor School
 - Serviced 575 students
 - One day program
 - Held at the Evergreen Heritage Center
 - Study water states, followed by a STEM lesson creating a boat powered by a balloon
- 7th grade Outdoor School
 - Serviced 615 students
 - Two day commuter program
 - Held at Rocky Gap
 - Participated in 4 different activities
- 8th grade Outdoor School
 - Serviced 589 students
 - Held at the Evergreen Heritage Center
 - Learned about uses of energy and where it comes from

2024 Class Report / Blueprint Post CCR Pathways

- Graduates from Class of 2023-2024
 - Moved on to 44 different colleges, universities, and technical schools across the country
 - Of 577 graduates, 228 elected to continue their studies locally, at either Allegany College of Maryland or Frostburg State University
 - Dollar amount of scholarships totaled nearly \$1.6 million

Instructional Update cont.

- Blueprint Post CCR Pathways
 - Advanced Placement
 - Numbers are as strong as last year in most of the areas offered
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Still strong numbers, particularly in College English, College Speech, College Algebra, and College Probability and Stats
 - Numbers are continuing to increase
 - Post CCR Pathways
 - Outlines different pathways that students can use to become College and Career ready
 - We offer 3 different post CCR Pathways
 - Advanced Placement
 - Early College and Dual Enrollment Programs
 - Career and Technical Education Programs
 - Will be moving forward with the Maryland AP Option
 - An improved pathway with an advanced placement for post CCR students, setting a high standard for students to achieve
 - Student must take a minimum of five AP courses, with two AP courses in the same content area and two content areas must be included in that pathway
 - Students must earn a “C” or higher in all courses and a three or above on the exams
 - Students can earn the AP scholar designation through the College Board if they meet those parameters
 - ACPS has designated 5 potential pathways
 - General AP Pathway
 - Humanities AP Pathway
 - STEM Pathway
 - STEAM Pathway
 - Career and Technical Pathway

Unfinished Business

Consider Second Reading of Homeless Children and Youth Policy

- Approved

Consider Second Reading of Student Registered Sex Offenders – Entry on School Property Policy

- Approved

Reports of Special or Advisory Committees

Student Member of the Board

- 5 workshops centered around service, communication, and teamwork are scheduled this week for Mountain Ridge.
- Some students wondering if there could be more lockdown drills

Board Member Updates

- Attended MABE Conference, will be bringing some ideas back to the board to discuss
- Allegany County held their first lacrosse tournament hosted by the Greater Garrett County Youth Lacrosse League at Greenway Stadium
- 35 students from Allegany High School took a field trip to TR Robinette's farm where they gave shots, took fecal samples, and changed ear tags
- Visited Mount Savage School
- At the Allegany County Fair this year, it was nice to see so many FFA jackets