Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | July 8, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, Board meetings are currently being held virtually and in compliance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

Times for agenda items are intended as guidance only.

The Board may choose to change the order of agenda items to meet the needs of the Board. Unless changed by the Board, items occur in the order listed.

Board Members
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Eric Grannon
Julie Hummer
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Dana Schallheim
Drake Smith

Upcoming Meetings
General Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Board Workshop:
Performance Audit
August 12, 2020
5:30 p.m.
Location: TBD

8:30 am 1. Motion to Enter Closed Session
1.01 Agenda

10:00 am 2. Opening/Recognition
2.01 Invocation
2.02 Pledge of Allegiance
2.03 Approval of the Minutes
2.04 Establish Agenda Order
2.05 Recognitions
2.06 SMOB Update

10:45 am 3. Presentations
3.01 Summer Recovery & Fall Reopening Update
3.02 In-School Student Access to Academic Enrichment and Extracurricular Clubs

4. Public Comment
During virtual meetings, the Board will accept written public comment prior to the meeting for those items that appear on the agenda as well as issues that do not appear on the agenda. The process for submitting such comments can be found at www.aacps.org/publictestimony.

11:15 am 5. Departmental Reports
5.01 Safety and Security Report
5.02 Bullying Prevention Report
5.03 Diversity and Inclusion Report
5.04 Transportation Report

12:15 pm 6. Action Items
6.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments
6.02 Personnel

Policy Revisions – Second Reading
6.03 Citizen Advisory Committee – Code KBA

Policy Revisions – First Reading
6.04 Wellness – Code AE
6.05 Physical Education – Code IFC

Other Action Items
6.06 Rippling Woods ES – Design Development
6.07 Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts – Third Party Project
6.08 Filling of Vacancies on Executive Committee of Countywide Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

3:15 pm 7. Consent Items – Award of Contracts
7.01 Architectural, Engineering, Design, and Construction Administration Services – Kindergarten Classroom Additions at Brock Bridge ES
7.02 Architectural, Engineering, Design, and Construction Administration Services – New West County ES
7.03 Architectural, Engineering, Design, and Construction Administration Services – Old Mill Middle School South Replacement
7.04 Architectural, Engineering, Design, and Construction Administration Services – Roof Replacement Solley ES
7.05 Classroom Addition – Arundel MS
7.06 Construction Management Services – New West County ES
7.07 Construction Management Services – Old Mill Middle School South Replacement
7.08 Defined Contribution Retirement Plan Provider

Key:  (I) Information  (A) Action  (R) Review

Information on agenda items can be obtained from the Board of Education Office (410-222-5311) or at www.aacps.org.
7.09 Employee Medical and Prescription Drugs
7.10 Kindergarten Addition – Van Bokkelen ES
7.11 Large Kitchen Equipment
7.12 Microsoft Support
7.13 Naviance Software
7.14 Relocatables – Electric and Fire Alarms
7.15 Temporary Personnel Services
7.16 Therapeutic Intervention and Supports

3:45 pm 8. Review Items
8.01 Supplemental Funding
8.02 Award of Contracts
8.03 Construction Status Report

9. Enter Closed Session (if needed)
The following testimony was submitted for the July 8, 2020, meeting of the Board of Education. The “…” designation indicates the cutoff of testimony due to it exceeding the word limit. The full version of such testimony has been provided to the Board.

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 3.01, SUMMER RECOVERY AND FALL REOPENING UPDATE

1. Good morning members of the committee, and representatives of Anne Arundel County Schools, Based on the current status of our country and data a concern for those who are asymptomatic and contagious are a risk to students of general health yet alone those who are high risk as well as a parent, caregiver or sibling at home or attending another school. The resource to spending to social distance, managed care, timelines in contributing to the discipline of enforcement will affect the in person learning environment. Having 2 students in AACPS 1 in middle one in elementary school, 1 can contract and bring it home to the parent who is Immunodeficiency and also high risk for complications. For those students in this position should have CHOICE if school resumes in person.

Karen A. Maupai

2. To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Adriana Espinoza, and i am a masters level licensed social worker in this great state of Maryland, working within the realm of foster care. In my professional experience working with families, schools, hospitals and communities, i express concern over future plans for our children’s education. I am aware of the statement by the pediatric association and concur with many of their concerns. However, speaking as someone who understands the challenges many community members face, fully returning to school also poses a grave hardship. I urge you to consider the challenges we incurred this past spring. Packets to be disbursed and returned/uploaded every week and a once every week on an A/B schedule for in school tutoring/specials and social interaction would assist in meeting health guidelines but not put a burden on single parents or dual working parents, which comprise the majority of our community. Those with 504 or IEPs need to be able to obtain in person services. We must be able to protect our kids education but also ensure the safety of children, staff and their families.

Adriana Espinoza, LMSW

3. Schools need to be open.

Danielle Kellermann

4. Hello. My name is Stacey Vance, and I am a mother of three here in Anne Arundel County. Two of my children have special needs, and the idea of them wearing masks in school and appropriately social distancing is just beyond my scope. It is for this reason, that I urge the school board to keep schooling virtual at least through the fall, to allow healthcare and government to move closer to a vaccine and to get the district time to implement, study, and instruct staff, teachers, and then students on protocol. I feel that returning this fall is just too soon. Thank you.

Thank you.

5. I think it is very important for the schools to reopen. Especially special needs schools. The kids are regressing by not being in school. Special needs kids are not learning anything by being at home and seeing their teachers for 15 minutes a few times a week. They aren’t learning like they would if they were in school. They are missing their friends as well. Kids going to special needs schools in other counties NEED transportation! If kids are home schooled in the fall, some parents like myself will not be able to work because we have to be home with the kids. So only one parent can go to work. We DO NOT have family that can watch our kids while we work. We do not have friends that would take on 2 more kids either. Our kids are too old for day care, but yet can not stay home alone because one is non verbal etc.
So please take these concerns into consideration when making your decisions because special needs kids need to be in school and they need a way to and from school. Remember not everyone has family or friends they can count on to watch their kids so both parents can work. This was not an option in the survey that was emailed. Thank you so much!

Kendra Liverman

6. Hello,

I am a single working mom and have two children entering second grade this fall, one with an IEP. While I believe it is crucial that CDC guidelines are strictly followed, my children need a regular in-school schedule. Half days sessions would be fine as long as they are consistent.

Thank you for your time and support of all students.

Kim Gonzalez

7. Keep schools open! Just make sure there is more of a lax sick day policy for teachers and Students!

Sincerely
Carrie Hilliard

8. AACPS Board,

I am writing to you to ensure that you have serious discussions associated with the reopening of schools in the fall and the significant social limitations that would occur without having full time school. My son has CP and his maturity level is being completely stunted because of the lack of ability to him see and interact with his peers. I believe this is a similar concern for many students but it is critically important for my special needs child who significantly benefits from the lack of social interactions with the other children in the classroom, at lunch or gym time which helps him see what is age appropriate behavior. Since the transition of on line learning, I have noticed an increased reduction in his social development and I believe this needs to be a heavily weighted issue that was not well captured during the survey. I did complete the survey, but I felt it important enough to provide additional commentary to ensure you have this during the board’s deliberations.

Very Respectfully,
CDR Michael Keane

9. With the rush of some to get back to normal, the facts and figures are being ignored. We’re only 4 months into a raging pandemic that we’re constantly finding new and/or conflicting information about, that has no real treatment, no clear or consistent rules from a global, national, federal, state or county level. And the only thing people can think about is getting back to normal...which seems to mean opening stores, resuming sports and sending children back to school? In the past the administration and school staff couldn’t even enforce stopping the use of cellphones, profanity and bullying, and now we’re to believe they’ll be able to do and enforce all the things required to mitigate a highly contagious deadly virus that rampaging our communities by killing or immobilizing some of us for extended periods, when our governments can’t even agree that this is a pandemic?

We’re not interested in letting the schools play Russian roulette with our lives, just to have the messaging of “back to normal”. We won’t be sending my children back to school until there are real solutions and mitigations across the board and the cases are consistently trending down (not just the ICU beds).

Rethink and have fresh approaches, not just slapping lipstick on a pig and calling it normal. Find providers,
curriculums, strategies and staff that fosters and have a track record of effect elearning, it’s out there, has been happening for years. Or give options for parents and family to do eLearning mainly.

Beenie Therene

10. Hi, I am writing this as a parent of 4 children in the Severna Park feeder system. I have 1 child in HS, 2 in Middle School and 1 in Elementary School. I am in full support of the children from K to 12th grade in going back INTO school in the fall. We should make the return as normal as we possibly can while still saying safe. I feel we can accomplish this with face masks and sanitation of classrooms and buses, etc. Our children have already been affected mentally, physically, emotionally and academically by the pandemic and the loss of most of the Spring 2020 school year. If we don't return, in some capacity, I believe this will only get worse and the repercussion will far outlast Covid-19. I also want to cite the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance for School Re-entry. They state, in bold "The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school." I hope the AACo Board of Ed uses the recommendation of the AAP when making the decision for the fall. PLEASE LET OUR KIDS GO BACK TO SCHOOL.

Thank you
Nicole Jeffers

11. As a parent of 4 children that endured a full semester of at home, virtual learning I am beyond convinced that a return to school is the correct path forward.
The AAP clearly articulates the benefit of children being physically present at school outweighs the risk as currently calculated.
With an understanding and implantation of proper precautions, the need for interaction with both peers and educators alike is paramount.
I believe that the strain of daily virtual learning coupled with the inefficiencies around the same will inevitably be the cause for critical educational building blocks to be missed. We are 100% in favor of returning to school.

Jeff Jeffers

12. To Whom it May Concern:

We are parents of a school aged child in Anne Arundel County and we feel very strongly that all children should return to in person school this fall. These are surely challenging times and everyone has had to make sacrifices. However, the sacrifices that the children have had to make and will continue to make should learning be virtual are far too great. After four months of data on COVID-19, it is irrefutable that it does not pose a great risk to young people. However, the damage done to children by not allowing the normal social, emotional, intellectual and cognitive development which occurs only in the classroom with their peers is incalculable.

In every other pandemic in history, the sick are quarantined, not the healthy. In the case of children, they are at nearly 0% risk of infection or dying from this virus. There is also no studies that have shown that they have infected older persons. The majority of teachers are in the low risk age category. Please send our children back to in person school. Too many children are suffering silently in abusive or neglectful situations. Their voices are not heard and they are not getting the help that they need through other adults who would report such abuse. Many children suffer from anxiety and depression, particularly in middle school and high school. Our neighborhood just lost a young high school boy to suicide and the isolation due to COVID played a major role in his decline. The cost is just too great to all of our beautiful children. They deserve better.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Your Name
13. I believe that schools should re-open, but there must be a solid plan with the Health Department to take action when there is exposure to COVID19. Exposures are certain to occur, so we need to be ready with a playbook in hand so parents know what to expect. At the elementary level, it should be possible to quarantine only children who are directly exposed to the threat, and leave the rest of the school open. It does not seem reasonable to close the whole school if the threat is contained to one area of the school.

I live in Pendennis Mount, and work at a Maryland Non Public school. We have children on campus now, and have found that the biggest challenge to having students face to face in our classrooms is managing possible exposures to COVID19. After speaking to several Maryland child care directors, we have found that if, for example, a child who has an infected relative, who does not live in the home, may be required to quarantine for 14 days AND the school may not reopen until the child has a negative test. At other times with the same scenario, there may be no requirement for the school to close, and sometimes even the child is not required to miss school.

Sometimes a negative test from the child is required. That negative test is sometimes a 30-minute rapid test, allowing school to reopen the following day OR it might be required to be a culture or PCR test, which can take as much as 5-6 days for a result, which would entail the loss of a week or school or more...

Elizabeth Whitaker

14. Schools for elementary and middle school age children should open up full time in the Fall.

There is overwhelming evidence worldwide to support the fact that this can be done in a safe manner. Specifically in the US, YMCAs and other day care centers that stayed open during the past few months to support front line workers and first responders have not shown any increased risks to children, teachers or their families. Adhering to the CDC guidance on social distancing in schools, hand washing and screening protocols have allowed schools in other countries and daycare centers in the US to provide a safe and productive environment during this pandemic.

The most significant recommendation for opening schools full time was presented by the American Academy of Pediatrics a few weeks ago. "The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020," the group representing 67,000 pediatricians wrote. "Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation."

"This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity and, in some cases, mortality," the guidance continued. "Beyond the educational impact and social impact of school closures, there has been substantial impact on food security and physical activity for children and families."...

Henry D Sandel IV

15. Skipping the 100% live vs virtual argument, my comments are regarding the ‘hybrid’ compromise that school districts in our area are announcing. Fairfax & Loudon County in VA have announced the options to choose either 100% online or 2 days live. Most important, is the consideration needed for simple and reliable A/B scheduling, as well as a FAMILY approach needed if working parents are ever able to... work... again. School doesn’t equal daycare, but I do expect school to equal consistent and reliable scheduling, 9 months a year, as it has done every year since the beginning of the Education System inception.

The Frederick Co (MD) proposal is the best A/B schedule template. Mon/Tues = A cohort; Wed = 100% virtual and schools cleaned; Thurs/Fri = B cohort. Allowing 2 consecutive days provides continuity and doesn’t mix cohorts within 36 hours of each other.

Loudon Co (VA) is granting family requests with multiple students to be assigned the same A/B cohort. They can’t guarantee middle school/high school electives the student wants will be offered on the respective day the family needs. Fine.
‘Hybrid’ option is a scheduling nightmare to all working/single parent families. It doesn’t allow the workforce to work, including your AACPS employees and staff. There are not enough childcare spots to provide families with the option on ‘off’ days, and it is expensive compared to the normal Mon-Fri FREE public education infrastructure paid by taxes. Consider ALL your stakeholders. Keep it simple. Be reliable. AACPS students/families need, expect and deserve it.

Joellen Shallcross

16. I am writing in support of full-time school re-opening for the fall 2020-21 school year. School is not eLearning with a bunch of videos found online regarding a specific subject it is and always has been TEACHERS. All children need the interaction and instruction from teachers to be successful in their schooling. The AACPS school system is failing with eLearning.

I worry about the social and mental impact this will have on my children (one entering 9th and one entering 1st) without any interaction with friends and peers. Children need social engagement to grow and thrive! They need to be children and should be able play and interact with other children without fear of what is going on in our world every day!

Families are finding themselves attempting to balance work, home, family and struggling to help children with eLearning. My husband and I work outside of the home and should be spending our evenings/weekends doing normal family activities, including helping with homework, but now we are spending hours every night and on weekends teaching full school subjects.

I strongly disagree with the “hybrid” type school year. This will be more disruptive than eLearning has been on my family. I will need to find daycare for my youngest child on a weird schedule. The lack of structure and chaos will be overwhelming to all involved. Not to mention the extra cost of daycare that will be put on my family (and other families).

Beth Martin

17. Good Morning,

I am writing to you as the founder of Return2Learn Maryland Schools, a community-based, nonpartisan group focused on practical, evidence-based, student-friendly policies for school reopening. As elected officials entrusted with the responsibility of educating our children, I would like to invite and encourage you to attend our family friendly event on Saturday, July 11th in support of returning our Maryland students to the classroom full-time in the fall. We have a variety of scheduled speakers which include; County Board of Education Members, Public Health Policy Experts, Special Education Experts, School Guidance Counselors, School Principals, Students, and Parents.

The voices of politicians and educators have been given a large platform in the discussion and decisions being made that will directly impact our Maryland students and families. However, aside from a few poorly written surveys and alleged panels, little has been done to include parents and students in this critical decision making process. As elected officials, it is your responsibility to hear first hand the impact your decisions had and will have on our parents and students. Accountability for your decisions is important and requires you look at those whom your decisions will impact directly in the eyes and understand their struggles. It is imperative that you attend this event and show Maryland families that you are listening!

In a very short time, Return2Learn has 1.2K members between our public and group pages and is working in partnership with the group Reopen Maryland Schools which has another 2.8K members. The Return2Learn membership is growing daily and we are engaging in several upcoming media events. The voices of our families will be heard!

Sincerely,

Christina Olson
18. To whom it May Concern:

I was just looking at the "Reopen Md Schools" site. These people have only one concern. Put there kids back into the classroom. There is a blatant disregard for the health of other children, teachers, counselors, custodians, and administrators. Some make reference that teachers are "expendable", especially the older ones. I am a teacher in the county. I don't know one teacher that is happy about remote learning. It is not ideal. However, I do not want to risk my health or the health of my elderly mom who is living with me. It will be IMPOSSIBLE to social distance properly. If one child is positive, the whole class and the teacher will need to quarantine. Can you imagine the number of sick days that can occur? If the child is a high schooler, then every class he/she went to that day would need to quarantine.

Moreover, I feel the anxiety in the children will be at an all time high. Imagine kids that have multiple family members in the household. Kids will feel anxious and overwhelmed. I cannot see much learning occurring when children are not in the right frame of mind.

Please be mindful when making this decision. A panel of experts should be available. Everyone, children and adults, need to feel comfortable and safe. No learning will happen if you are scared, overwhelmed, and nervous. We are seeing now what happens when we open up too early. I would suggest a SOLID frame for online learning. Regulations and attendance practices must be reviewed.

Diane Riley

19. Dear Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for all the structure that was put in place for NG recovery as well as the PD sessions that are offered to us. My name is Emmanuelle Carr, I teach French at Glen Burnie High School, and I would like to speak as an individual concerning Fall reopening.

As a teacher, I feel very concerned about fall reopening. As you can see throughout the country, the pandemic is soaring because the country, as a whole, did not do what was necessary from the beginning. Even though Maryland is doing better, having people travel during the summer will most likely increase the number of cases, and we may be at a higher risk when back to school comes. As you may know from my previous testimonies, I am from France and I used to teach there. I still have many ties with former co-workers who did return to work between May and July. All, and in this case, I mean “All”, the testimonies that were shared with me were not positive. They had the same kind of structures that you are thinking about for us, such as sending students back to school at different stages, having no more than 15 students per class staying 6 feet apart, having a synchronous or asynchronous system with students in class and students at home, having class only in the morning to avoid sending students to the cafeteria and many more other initiatives. It turns out that every single teacher shared that it was not effective, and they wished it had either been more thought through or delayed.....

Sincerely,

Ms. Emmanuelle Carr

20. I am a parent in the Northeast Cluster. One child goes to George Fox; another child goes to High Point. Mental health is something that should be a top priority regarding our children. They need to be in a classroom with their peers. I think school needs to return to normal and not hybrid because our children need consistency. Not only that, but what about the working parents? And the school staff that will need to find child care for their own kids if they’re not in school full time. But the most important reason is that our children have suffered enough. Their worlds have been rocked, they’ve been isolated. Their mental health and academics has declined. We need to figure out a way to bring these kids back to some sort of normalcy.

Erin Bellere

21. I am strongly in support of normal reopening, as children are at low risk from the virus and the risks of not being in school greatly outweigh those of being in school. If AACPS does not open normally, I will remove one and
possibly both of my AACPS students for fall. Once we make the decision to leave, it is unlikely we will return. Thanks for your time and consideration of this important issue. Best,

Patricia Doran

22. It is imperative that you send our children back to school. Then need the five day per week, in-person education they were receiving prior to the virus. There is currently no data that our children are in any danger as only one person in our state under the age of twenty has passed away due to the virus.

M. Douglas Siekman

23. Dear Superintendent Arlotto and Board of Education,

Thank you for working towards equitable solutions to meet the needs of our Anne Arundel County Public Schools students and families during this unprecedented time. As representatives of those students and families, we are reaching out, as we have on four other occasions, to elevate the concerns brought to us during the closure of school facilities and in anticipation of a safe reopening for the 2020/2021 school year. We are requesting greater insight into the school system’s plan to address the remaining challenges and obstacles and hope these questions will help inform your decisions moving forward. We respectfully ask for your attention to the questions, concerns, and potential solutions raised concerning the following:

1. What are the lessons learned from 3rd quarter and 4th quarter distance learning? If changes are to come as a result of lessons learned, what is your holistic communication strategy to update families on these changes?

2. How will AACPS work to engage those most critically impacted by distance learning and the digital divide? Specifically, English language learners, students with special needs, students without access to reliable internet, and students from high needs populations.

3. How does AACPS plan to address food access and food insecurity in student meal distribution, student meal reallocation, and food waste elimination?

4. What supports are in place currently and planned for the future to address student and staff mental wellness, particularly, in dealing with the after effects of COVID-19? What role do school counselors have?...

Senator Sarah Elfreth, Delegate Shaneka Henson, Delegate Dana Jones

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 4.01, PUBLIC COMMENT

1. We are curious if you’ve considered the potential danger of the upcoming senior portraits. According to the mailer we just received for our rising Senior at South River High, Prestige Portraits will be conducting senior portraits on or around July 14th in the cafeteria at the high school. Students are expected to use, and reuse, the tuxedos and drapes provided by the photographer.

Having spent the last four months trying to stay 6 feet away from others, this photography session will put potentially infected cloth less than 6 inches away from our son’s face. Not a good idea, in our opinion.

We called Prestige Portraits and asked them how they are going to guarantee our son’s safety. They responded that this is akin to going to a clothing store and trying on clothes in the fitting rooms. They will be using a steamer in between each use to clean the tux and drape. They indicated this met CDC guidelines.

First off, whenever we go to Kohl’s and try on a pair of pants or a jacket, it is highly doubtful, statistically speaking, that that item was just worn by another customer that day, much less that hour or minute. The seniors are all of
similar sizes and will be reusing tuxes and drapes within mere minutes or hours of each other. Second, I’ve looked throughout the entire CDC website and have found no guidance on this specific topic.

We are concerned that adequate precautions are not being taken to guarantee the safety of seniors taking portraits for the yearbook...

Steve and Diane Holcomb

2. Hello,

My name is Shanekia Golding-Morgan, parent of a child at Seven Oaks Elementary School.

My question to the board is why isn’t team sports a part of the educational system?

I strongly believe that some of the funding and effort that goes into the anti-bullying campaign can be quelled by having our children engage in sportsmanship and team-building.

Thank you in advance for hearing my inquiry.

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 5.03, Diversity and Inclusion Report

1. Hello, I would like a copy of the "Diversity and Inclusion Report"
This seems to be a waste of time and money. Also, I do not like any effort to close the opportunity gap. This is discriminatory and possibly illegal.
Please open the schools as we did every year, the only difference that may be useful is to require masks.

James Schneider

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 5.04, Transportation Report

1. Dear Board of Education,
Please extend my welcome to Mr. Smith.
In a discussion just as long and as late as yours June 17th, the County Council on Monday in Resolution #28-20 rejected your budget amendment to move transportation positions to mental health staff. Even though Resolution #27-20 urging you to prioritize both more mental health and transportation did not pass, I believe the County Council would welcome subsequent requests to fund mental health positions from other parts of your $1.3 billion budget.
Now that the County Council has reaffirmed its interest in improving AACPS transportation, let’s keep the transportation positions where they belonged all along, in transportation.
The public and County Council expects AACPS to hire competent personnel to complete Prismatic’s recommendations #2 through #27 and the Office of Legislative Affairs Audit recommendations, to improve communication flow between transportation staff, bus contractors, schools, parents/guardians, and students, to actually utilize the routing software, to hold contractors accountable, to allocate buses based on ridership demands, to address overcrowded buses, to address underutilized buses, to not have buses arrive 30-45 minutes before class, to not have buses arrive (per their schedule) habitually late, to develop scenarios for safe, healthy, and age-appropriate school hours, and more.
COVID-19 is changing all of education’s status quos. Even though the new transportation personnel may not be able to help with September 2020’s routes, AACPS’s transportation response to COVID will continue to evolve and the additional personnel will help with that continuous transportation evolution.