

Citizen Advisory Committee for Anne Arundel County Public Schools Board of Education
November 12, 2019

Meeting opened at 7:08pm

Secretary's Report (Holly Slack)

Motion to accept October's minutes made by Bill Atkinson and seconded by Julia Howes. Motion adopted.

Chair's Report (Brandon Gulley)

- CAC informs and does not advocate.
- Email accounts should be online now.
- Looking for feedback on the Fast Start Doc to help pass the torch.
- Facebook page has 716 people following. Like and share with friends.
- Looking to begin a Mentorship program.

Vice-chair/Policy Report (Tanisha Howard)

Policy for walkers has not changed since 1972. There is stiff competition for bus drivers because people can make more money in other professions. If drop down a quarter of mile to more eligible bus riders, than it would increase to 68 trips. There are times of the year where might a bus might not be full because of extracurriculars.

Board of Education Update by Colin Reinhart

- There will be 5 new members on the Board as of Dec 1. Districts 1, 4, 5, 7 will serve a 6 year term.
- Districts 2,3, and 6 will be elected into a 2 year term. The Bill that passed has the entire board elected every 4 years in presidential elections. There are no term limits.
- The state updated language on what constitutes gang activity and criminal aspects of what must be involved. The policy committee will review this.
- Exploring more about expulsion policy in pre-k through second grade.
- Crofton redistricting: Apologize for form letters, but trying to explain process. Promises made by real estate agents, developers, neighbors, etc. are not always accurate.
- Approved a calendar that will not get approved at MSDE.

Old Business

Review of committee report topics

- 1) Social emotional
- 2) Communications
- 3) College and career readiness
- 4) Equity
- 5) Transportation

New Business

- Hacking incident at public libraries created challenges for students completing assignments and free and reduced meals applications.
- Children having to share chromebooks to prepare for PARCC do not have adequate time to prepare. Technology must be compatible and cleared with security staff. Cannot donate items, just money to buy items. Has to go through AACPS to buy.

- Road safety concerns—kids walking on Forest Drive. Walk to Annapolis middle: team is working with Mayor Buckley to create sidewalks that would go toward different entrance. Dr. Arlotto took the walk and decided there was no way kids could walk it.
- Buses late drop off/pickup. Who to contact? Make sure talking to principal and classroom teacher. Route and schedule changes are published and put on transportation website. App was mentioned in public comment. Contractor bus would have to pay to have installed, then would have to reinstall in other bus. Cost prohibitive part was fees from app that would run into millions.
- Concern about getting a minimum of 20 minute uninterrupted free play recess. Guidelines are not policy. Suggested not to use as disciplinary tool and not used as work time to catch up at elementary principals meeting. Also concerned with lack of down time at middle school.
- Crofton redistricting: Worry about the bottleneck for the middle school. New school in west county for elementary. New Crofton High School is 400 seats smaller than would have liked. Will hopefully be another high school in future. Projections say it will be at capacity at opening. Crofton HS already not going to be big enough and elementary schools already too big.
- Lack of mental health resources in southern county. Referrals to Annapolis and further north which is additional strain. Part-time resources are maxed out. Trying to get guidance counselor ratios down to lower number. Right now ratio is 700 to 1.
- Health dept notification to parents: Last year had more than 50% of students were absent on multiple days due to norovirus and brought in teams to clean. How to improve notification systems for things like lice.

Announcements

None.

Future Speaker requests:

Matt Stanski, Director of Financial Operations

Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer

Adjourned at 9:02pm.

Next Meetings

January 14, 2019, 7pm in the Board of Education Room

February 11, 2019, 7pm in the Board of Education Room