

# Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | February 21, 2024

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

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Board Meetings are held in the Board Room of the Carol Sheffey Parham Building at 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Robert Silkworth  
*President*

Corine Frank  
*Vice President*

Gloria D. Dent  
Melissa Ellis

Dana Schallheim  
Joanna Tobin

Michelle L. Corkadel  
Eric Lin

## Upcoming Meetings

**General Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024  
12:00 pm  
Board Room

**Policy Committee**  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
3:00 pm  
Virtual

**Budget Committee**  
Monday, April 15, 2024  
12:00 pm  
Virtual

**Equity Committee**  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
12:00 pm  
Virtual

**Board Workshop**  
Monday, March 18, 2024  
6:00 pm  
Board Room

### 4:30 pm 1. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session

### 6:30 pm 2. Opening/Recognition

2.01 Invocation

2.02 Pledge of Allegiance

2.03 Approval of the Minutes (A)

2.04 Establish Agenda Order (A)

2.05 Student Equity in Action Spotlight

### 6:45 pm 3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

The Board will hear in-person and virtual public comment on agenda items from up to a total of ten speakers per agenda item of each meeting, prior to Board discussion of those items. The process of signing up to speak and for delivering written comments can be found at [www.aacps.org/boardcomment](http://www.aacps.org/boardcomment). All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes.

### 7:00 pm 4. Reports

4.01 CRASC Report

4.02 PTA Report

4.03 CAC Report

4.04 Budget Committee Report

4.05 SMOB Report

4.06 President's Report

4.07 Superintendent's Report

### 7:30 pm 5. Consent Items – Award of Contracts (A)

5.01 Furniture

5.02 Grass Mowing

5.03 Seating and Bleachers

5.04 Security Vestibule – Oakwood ES

5.05 Vehicles

### 7:40 pm 6. Action Items (A)

6.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

**Policy Revisions – Third Reading**

6.02 Educational Equity – Code AF

**Policy Revisions – Second Reading**

6.03 School Calendar – Code IB

6.04 Community Use of Facilities – Code KC

**Other Action Items**

6.05 Items of Legislation

6.06 Superintendent's Recommended Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget and Six Year Plan\*

6.07 Superintendent's Recommended Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget\*

### 9:00 pm 7. Review Items (R)

7.01 Monthly Financial Status Report

### 8. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

The Board will hear in-person and virtual public comment on non-agenda items from up to a total of ten speakers at each meeting. The process of signing up to speak can be found at [www.aacps.org/boardcomment](http://www.aacps.org/boardcomment). All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes.

\*Note: Since the Board has conducted two public hearings on the Superintendent's recommended FY2025 operating and capital budgets, it will not take public comments on budget-related items on February 21. Public comments may be

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submitted on the posted budget amendments only. Should the Board not be able to complete its work on the budget on February 21, it will hold a special meeting on February 22, to complete the budget request.

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**9. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session (as needed)**

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The following testimony was submitted for the February 21, 2024, meeting of the Board of Education. The “...” designation indicates the cutoff of testimony due to it exceeding the word the limit. The full version of such testimony has been provided to the Board

**ITEM 6.07 Superintendent’s Recommended Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget**

1. I am writing to request full funding for our school system's budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Our schools are the cornerstone of this community, providing not only education but also a safe and nurturing environment for our children to grow and thrive. The proposed budget has been carefully crafted to address critical needs and opportunities within our system, ensuring that every student has access to high-quality education and resources.

Investing fully in our schools means supporting a well-rounded curriculum, advanced technology, and infrastructure improvements, all of which are essential for preparing our students for the challenges of the future. It also means providing adequate compensation and professional development for teachers, who are the heart of our educational system. Their dedication and skill are crucial in inspiring and educating the next generation.

Moreover, the budget includes vital programs that support students beyond academics, including mental health services, extracurricular activities, and support for special education. These services are essential for creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students, regardless of their background or needs.

Full funding of our school system's budget is an investment in the future of our community. It signals a commitment to providing every child with the opportunity to succeed and to building a stronger, more educated society. We trust in your understanding of the importance of education and in your support for our request.

Clayton Lively  
Baltimore

2. My family lives paycheck to paycheck in this sad economic time.

Mark Luers  
Baltimore

3. My name is Mrs. Sue Young and I serve Belvedere Elementary in Anne Arundel County as their School Counselor. Elementary School Counselors serve students for 50% of their entire public school career. I currently hold 3 national certifications to support both the preventative/teaching side of my role (NBCT) and the responsive counseling side of my

role (NBCC and NCSC). Each of these certifications requires that I renew every 5 years to maintain additional education and learn updated information to maintain the highest level of school counseling services for my students. I regularly attend MSCA (state) and ASCA (national) training to maintain a high level of skill as I serve my students.

NBCT school counselors have undergone the same rigorous process as NBCT classroom teachers to attain this highly challenging level of recognition in their field. To attain this, we must be able to recognize student needs, develop specific interventions to address those needs and demonstrate data driven evidence of the direct impact to students based on those interventions.

In addition, I continue to do my part to support and address the challenges facing recruitment and retention of high quality school counselors in AACPS. I mentor new counselors for their first 3 years, and currently have an intern from Loyola who is completing her masters in school counseling and aspires to secure a job as a school counselor in AACPS this spring. School counselors are crucial to support overall student success.

We do not have enough counselors to address caseloads that exceed ASCA's (American School Counselor Association) best practices of 250 students: 1 School Counselor....

Mrs. Sue Young, M.Ed, NBCT, NCSC, NBCC  
Belvedere Elem School Counselor  
Severna Park

4. As an educator who has taught in this county for 22 years, I'm writing in support of a couple of the proposed budget amendments. First, I urge the school board to pass amendment 4 which will add an additional 2% COLA to Dr. Bedell's proposed budget, bringing the full COLA for all employees to 5% which helps keep educator salaries ahead of inflation. I'd like to see this 2% increase be effective at the start of the fiscal year rather than on January 1, 2025 though. This is especially important for those at the top salary step—year 25 for unit 1—since they no longer qualify for salary steps for each additional year that they work. These COLAs are the only way that they see their salaries increase each year.

I also urge the board to pass amendment 5 which ensures that every educator who has earned their National Board certification gets a \$10,000 salary increase. All educators who choose to do the work to earn the NBCT should be recognized with the same salary increase. By passing this amendment, you'll address an issue with the Blueprint which more narrowly defined who qualifies for this salary increase, creating inequities and divisions within unit 1.

Third, I also support amendments 6, 7, & 8 which increases staffing for school counselors, social workers, and speech language pathologists. Pass these amendments to address rising caseloads so that educator workloads are reduced, allowing them to better meet the needs of the students they serve.

Kristina Korona  
Baltimore

5. Good evening, President Silkworth and Board members,

I'm asking that you vote to approve Dr. Bedell's budget amendment 5 to finally provide school counselors who achieve National Board certification the same salary enhancement as our colleagues.

Four counties in Maryland currently provide the salary enhancement to school counselors who achieve National Board Certification. Two counties said they would provide the salary increase but they currently have no school counselor NBCTs. Anne Arundel County has a lot of school counseling positions to fill, and refusing to include us as eligible employees has served to disincentivize people from choosing this career. It also means that no school counselors have applied to become candidates, meaning they are missing out on the most rigorous professional development available for the only mental health providers eligible to become NBCTs.

Last year I received verbal commitments from County Executive Pittman and multiple County Councilmembers to support an amendment to include school counselors as eligible employees but one was not proposed by either our Superintendent or any Board member. Now that it has been proposed, it is up to you to demonstrate that you value the contribution of school counselors to students' educational experience.

The Maryland School Counselor Association has been working hard the past two years to rectify the situation at the state level. We have provided testimony before the House of Delegates on HB 789 and will provide additional testimony in front of the Maryland Senate for the crossfile bill (SB 545).

Holly J. Kleiderlein, NBCT  
Odenton