

# Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | December 2, 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

Michelle L. Corkadel

*President*

Melissa Ellis

*Vice President*

Candace C.W. Antwine

Terry R. Gilleland, Jr.

Eric Grannon

Julie Hummer

Robert C. Leib

Dana Schallheim

Drake Smith

## Upcoming Meetings

### General Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2020  
at 6:00 pm

### Policy Committee

Wednesday, December 16,  
2020, 2:30 pm  
*TBD*

### Budget Committee

Wednesday, December 16,  
2020, 4:45 pm  
*TBD*

## 1. Motion to Enter Closed Session

- 1.01 The Board will meet virtually to enter into Executive Closed Session on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 5:00 pm, see separate agenda for details.

## 6:00 pm 2. Opening/Recognition

- 2.01 Invocation
- 2.02 Pledge of Allegiance
- 2.03 Approval of the Minutes
- 2.04 Establish Agenda Order
- 2.05 Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

## 7:15 pm 3. Public Comment

The Board will hear public comment on agenda items from up to 10 speakers per agenda item during this section of the meeting. Those wishing to provide live testimony may register, space permitting, at [www.aacps.org/boardtestimony](http://www.aacps.org/boardtestimony). All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes. Written comments on agenda items can be submitted to [boardoffice@aacps.org](mailto:boardoffice@aacps.org). The process for submitting such comments and comments on non-agenda items, which are only accepted in writing, can be found at [www.aacps.org/boardtestimony](http://www.aacps.org/boardtestimony)

## 8:20 pm 4. Departmental Reports

- 4.01 Safety and Security Report
- 4.02 Bullying Prevention Report
- 4.03 Diversity and Inclusion Report
- 4.04 Transportation Report

## 8:45 pm 5. Consent Items – Award of Contracts

- 5.01 Fire Alarm System Replacement at Magothy River MS and Severn River MS
- 5.02 Lighting Upgrades
- 5.03 Paper Products and Trash Can Liners

## 9:00 pm 6. Review Items

- 6.01 Award of Contracts
- 6.02 2020 – 2021 Reopening Plan Update
- 6.03 Mo Gaba Day Resolution (I)

## 9:30 pm 7. Action Items

- 7.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments
- 7.02 Personnel
- 7.03 Sunset ES – Stormwater Management Agreement
- 7.04 Old Mill MS South – Schematic Design
- 7.05 Family Survey on 2021-22 School Year Start Date

## 10:30 pm 8. Motion to Enter Closed Session (if needed)

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](http://www.aacps.org)

The following testimony was submitted for the December 2, 2020, 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.

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 4.04 – Transportation Report**

1. Dear Board of Education,

Almost twelve months ago, Dr. Arlotto released his FY2020 budget proposal which included positions for transportation. What is the status of those hires?

Eleven months ago, Prismatic Service’s transportation report was released.

What is the status of the 27 recommendations?

How many recommendations are complete?

How many recommendations are in-progress and what is their timeline for completion?

How many recommendations have not been addressed and what is their timeline for completion?

What resources are needed to address any outstanding recommendations?

Will those resources be requested in the FY 2021 budget?

Sincerely,

Lisa VanBuskirk, P.E.

Start School Later

Maryland & Anne Arundel County Chapter Leader

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### **TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 6.02 – 2020-2021 Reopening Plan Update**

1. I cannot state firmly enough how much AACPS needs to conduct in-person teaching. Now.

"Follow the science" and schools are not the leading cause of COVID-19 spread in our community. Indeed, private schools within Anne Arundel County, within Maryland, across the country & around the world have successfully returned to the classroom. Spend more time studying how they were successful instead of perpetuating old data to keep our students isolated.

However, "follow the science" and find that suicide is the second leading cause of death for teenagers. While there are many paths to taking one's life, for teens, take a look at isolation, anxiety, depression, fear... Add to that "asynchronous learning" (which is basically "watch this video & teach yourself") and you have overtaxed, overstressed students that do not have the academic support, much less the emotional or social support, at this critical time in their young lives. AACPS students must return to the classroom with in-person instruction.

Don't get me started on the opportunity gap. Without students in school receiving instruction from a live person, no Committee Report will adequately address the opportunity lost since March 2020.

I request that the Board post to its website links to five respected national or international sources, published in the last month, that "show the science" that supports the continued shut down of our public schools, that do not also jeopardize the mental health of our students.

AACPS's motto is "ELEVATING ALL STUDENTS...ELIMINATING ALL GAPS". How exactly are you doing that?

Shannon Ballard

Davidsonville

2. Hello AACPS Board of Ed,

As we near Thanksgiving and then the Christmas holiday comes quickly afterward, I implore the AACPS BOE to keep their eye on the road ahead with the goal of opening the schools this school year/soon after the start of second semester.

Please work to enlist teacher union support, trust the students to follow pandemic rules and empower your principals to manage reopening their school.

See the two Washington Post articles below on the need for schools to be open and the evidence that schools opening does not contribute to spreading the virus substantially as many individuals and leaders think.

Thank you,

Deirdre Ralph

Parent and AACPS teacher

West Annapolis

3. After listening to the re-opening report from last month's board meeting, I am extremely disappointed that the major focus was on the six students who have not logged in at any point. I am glad you all are concerned with these six students, now you all need to turn your attention to the other 85,000 students in this county and get the schools open. A re-opening report should include updates as to how you will re-open so parents are not surprised as we were with a rushed hybrid opening plan that seemed to serve nobody. A concrete commitment to re-open needs to be in place so kids can be in their classrooms on the first day of the second semester. Send out student commitment forms now. Get the numbers then allow for full time in-person learning as the numbers dictate. Our kids have missed out on too much already. Enough with the nonsense and get these kids back to school. Thousands of other districts across this country have remained open throughout the pandemic even during the most recent surge. The metrics given by the AA county health officer need to be re-examined because report after report has shown that school spread is not happening and especially amongst elementary school students. Even in New York City, this country's largest public school district with many older buildings which opened only to close quickly recently decided that elementary schools would in fact re-open because the benefits far outweighed the risks. There just is no data to support keeping schools, especially elementary schools, closed....

-Cheryl Wolf (mother of 3 elementary students at Folger)