

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | January 6, 2021

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

Melissa Ellis
President

Dana Schallheim
Vice President

Candace C.W. Antwine

Robert Silkworth

Corine Frank

Joanna Tobin

Michelle L. Corkadel

Drake Smith

Upcoming Meetings

Budget Workshop

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
6:00 pm

The Public is welcome to listen, but no public comment will be taken.

General Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2021
TBD
Virtual

Policy Committee

Wednesday, January 20, 2021,
2:30 pm
Virtual

Budget Committee

Wednesday, January 20, 2021,
4:45 pm
Virtual

4:00 pm 1. Motion to Enter Closed Session

The Board will meet virtually to enter into Executive Closed Session.

6:00 pm 2. Opening/Recognition

2.01 Invocation

2.05 Recognitions

2.02 Pledge of Allegiance

2.06 Educator of the Month

2.03 Approval of the Minutes

2.07 Employee of the Month

2.04 Establish Agenda Order

2.08 Volunteer of the Month

6:30 pm 3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

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. All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes. Written comments on agenda items can be submitted to 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.

7:30 pm 4. Presentations

4.01 Anne Arundel County Fiscal Year 2022 Revenue Outlook

4.02 2020-2021 School Reopening and Health Data Update

4.03 CAC Presents – School Reopening SWOT Analysis Update

8:30 pm 5. Departmental Report

5.01 Security Report

5.02 Bullying Prevention Report

5.03 Diversity and Inclusion Report

5.04 Transportation Report

9:00 pm 6. Review Items

6.01 Award of Contracts

9:30 pm 7. Action Items

7.01 Mo Gaba Day Proclamation

7.02 Administrative Personnel Appointments

7.03 Personnel

7.04 Sabbaticals

Policy Revisions – Third Reading

7.05 Access to Student Information - Military Recruiters, State or Federal Agencies or Institutions of Higher Education – Code JCM

Other Action Items

7.06 Quarterfield Elementary School – Stormwater Management Inspection and Maintenance Agreement

7.07 Brock Bridge Elementary School – Stormwater Management Inspection and Maintenance Agreement

7.08 Rippling Woods Elementary School – Stormwater Management Inspection and Maintenance Agreement

7.09 Adoption of the 2021 – 2022 School Year Calendar

11:00 pm 8. Consent Items – Award of Contracts

8.01 Custodial Supplies

8.02 Furniture – Haworth

8.03 Furniture – HON

8.04 Furniture – Jasper

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

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | January 6, 2021

8.05 Furniture – Krueger International
8.06 Generator Replacement – Broadneck HS
8.07 Generator Replacement – Meade MS
8.08 Security Cameras and Equipment
8.09 Student Transportation

9. Motion to Enter Closed Session (if needed).

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

The following testimony was submitted for the January 6, 2021, 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 4.02 – 2020-2021 School Reopening and Health Data Update

1. I am very frustrated that, in the middle of the worst part of the pandemic, there is a requirement to choose whether I want to send my daughter back in the school building. The plan that currently exists for the elementary schoolers still has this gap in the middle of the day with no school work and no teacher supervision. That right there is a deal breaker for me. Now I understand the BOE is planning to try to change the Health Officers guidelines on how many cases per 100,000 is an acceptable number in order to send the kids back into the building. Given the current plan, the fact that nothing has been done to survey air flow in the buildings, the many unknowns (including that the board may change the metrics acceptable to start hybrid and the parents have no control over this), why are you requiring parents to make a decision on whether they will send their kids back in the buildings now?

If the BOE decided to create a plan and processes designed to create the highest level possible of anxiety possible in parents and teachers, they could not have done much better than what you are doing now. I am an unhappy parent who wants her daughter to go back to school safely. I am very disappointed in AACPS BOE.

Regards,

Bronwyn Emmet

Edgewater

2. Since data is showing that in-person instruction is safely operating across the country (including public schools), it is time for AACPS students to have the same opportunity. In addition, it would be ignorant of our high school students' approaching responsibilities if they have to wait while AACPS uses precious time to transition primary first. Logistics, such as staffing, distancing, and transportation, should have been resolved over the past six months. Every AACPS student that selects in-person deserves the opportunity to return for the last semester. Please conduct less surveys and spend what valuable time is left opening all of the classroom doors.

Lindsey Dryer, Severna Park

3. I am writing to plead with the Board to ensure that schools open as currently scheduled on February 2. Please give parents a choice to send our kids back to in person learning. As I said at your last board meeting, the metrics that you have chosen to follow, the ones established by Dr K are completely arbitrary and senseless. He was in court just last week trying to defend his rationale for closing restaurants, however the judge in that case repeatedly pointed out that the data that Dr K is using is “completely flawed” and that Dr K’s “projections are wildly inaccurate”. Why then is this Board continuing to follow his recommendations? He has been wrong every step of the way. Even many of you have admitted that schools should have opened on time in the fall. I urge you to ask Dr K why he continues to hold our public schools hostage and why he is making our kids pay the penalty? Our kids

need to be in school! Parents should be the ones making the determination of what is best for their students. We can't do that if you continue to keep schools closed. The hybrid plan doesn't go far enough especially since the kids have already missed half the school year, but even as disappointing as it is at least it gets the kids back a few days. How is it that the hybrid plans are unchanged from what was unveiled this fall? Our kids deserve more....

Cheryl Wolf (mother of 3 Folger students)

4. I am writing to you as a parent of three children in the Anne Arundel County Public School system – one in elementary, one in middle and one in high school. As we all prepare to respond to the family survey requesting our learning model choices, I have some questions and concerns that I would like to see addressed.

How does the “Virtual-Plus” model improve learning over the current “Virtual-Only” model?

As described on the AACPS website, what you call “Virtual-Plus” appears to simply be relocating children to receive virtual learning in a new setting. The teacher will teach the same content to both the in person and virtual student groups. Children will still be on their Chromebooks (which we don't all have by the way) for instruction. This means that teachers will not be able to expand their teaching style for the in person environment. They will instead have to divide their attention between two groups in different settings with different needs with a single approach.

If you are looking for some examples of how this new hybrid teaching model might go, I suggest you look outside of education. Ask anyone who has participated in a work meeting that was held in person with some attendees joining virtually about their experience. Spoiler alert – it isn't good. Those attending tend to chat and interact as you would expect during an in person event. This leaves the remote attendees missing much of the discussion. The in person attendees then become bored and frustrated while the meeting leader has to repeat content for the remote attendees....

Jennifer Roberts

Severna Park

5. Dear distinguished board members, and Dr. Arlotto,

I am a parent of a kindergartener at Crofton Elementary School. Please do not institute the hybrid opening plan that requires teachers to teach virtually and in-person simultaneously. The many concerns of the community about the hybrid opening plan have not changed. This plan will be worse than the all-virtual plan for kids who go in person (having to sit all day at their desks) and worse for kids who are at home (not able to get the attention they need from a teacher who is teaching in-person and virtually simultaneously). This plan does not address the problems that many kids are having with the virtual instruction, and will only make things worse.

I do think the board should consider reopening the elementary schools fully (at least for the youngest learners) once the teachers have all had an opportunity to get vaccinated. However, I believe that schools should not open at all until it can be done in a developmentally appropriate way. I very much doubt that private schools have required their kindergarteners to sit at a desk all day (or even all but 30 minutes of the day), and I don't think that is an acceptable solution.

Thank you,

Amanda Streib

6. Dear Members of the AACPS Board of Education,

Thank you for all you do for our AACPS students and staff during these most trying times.

I am writing in advance of the Board meeting this week with an important request. Please remember the Seniors. Please—in any return to school plan—make the Senior Class of 2021 a top priority.

Most Seniors have shortened schedules, providing for limited time in classrooms and some can transport themselves to school.

It be wonderful if AACPS never had a Senior Class that didn't get to spend at least some portion of its final year in the classroom.

My daughter is a senior this year at Severna Park High School. She's doing well learning from home and working almost full time to help pay her way to college next year. She's already been accepted on an academic and an athletic scholarship out of state, and her future is so exciting for her. It's her present that can be helped. Helped by being able to go to school with her classmates, helped by being able to go to prom, helped by being able to compete in her senior year of High School sports, helped by being able to walk the stage with her classmates she's known since kindergarten.

We all know once we graduate, those friendships are likely to flounder. We have one chance to give them this lasting memory.

Please take a moment to imagine missing out on your Senior year. No prom. No senior night for spring, fall, or winter sports, no walking the stage with your friends....

Laura Kelter
Severna Park
Senior Class of 2021 Parent

7. I have a 2nd grader, 5th grader, and a 7th grader in AACPS. I really want them back in school. I'm sad as I watch their cousins across the country back in schools with minimal disruptions, except masks, while my children are at home. I cannot rave long enough about the amazing jobs the teachers are doing. And that is why I am writing. To send teachers back, asking them to teach and supervise actual living children

and also monitor children learning from home is awful. I am not the first to say this. And I'm sure there is some reason why you believe you have to do it this way. But don't. I die inside when I think of doing more asynchronous days, but I would rather help my kid two days a week with asynchronous and allow him to actually have the attention and expertise of his teacher the other two days than the option being presented. Or, we could believe the lived experience of thousands of kids across our country, mask them all, and send them all back. Or stay virtual. But please, please don't ask the teachers, especially the elementary teachers to teach in person and over the computer at the same time. This year is already hard enough, please don't make it harder.

Sincerely,

Kelli Higley

Severn

8. Board,

I sincerely hope every measure is being made to safely open the schools for hybrid learning (at least!) on Feb 1, 2021. As I have not seen much communication regarding teachers or family feedback from the first survey, I am concerned that people will be faced to make uninformed decisions, and therefore will do so with fear and uncertainty.

I am including a link to an article published on the UNICEF website in December 2020. UNICEF calls for a return to the classroom for all students around the globe. Per this article, 1 in 5 children worldwide did not return to a classroom in November 2020. 1 in 5 worldwide, of which Anne Arundel County contributed to. This is shameful!

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/covid-19-unicef-warns-continued-damage-learning-and-well-being-number-children>

I beg of you to communicate actions being taken to assure the safety of teachers, so they chose to return with confidence. Please proceed with the hybrid learning model for Feb 2021 so we can begin the process to open the schools for our children FULLY as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Margot Forthofer

Folger McKinsey elementary school parent

9. To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a middle school and a high school student. I am writing to express my concern that the focus seems to be on getting the pre-k-5th grade students back into the school buildings. While this is, of course, very important, I believe our teenagers are being forgotten. These kids need to go back to school! The social and emotional impact on these students far outweighs the risks of contracting Covid! Apathy has set in. The motivation to pursue resources for future college and career choices is gone. At

home with two previously self-motivated and straight A students, I continue to hear "what's the use" and "I'm not learning anything". Their grades are suffering! And let's talk about athletics! We can shop in crowded big box stores and grocery stores, travel in full airplanes, and eat in restaurants, but my children can't be outside playing organized sports. This is illogical and unfair! Our student athletes are having years of their lives stolen from them, years that they can NEVER get back. PLEASE consider providing hybrid options for our middle and high school students. If nothing else, LET THEM PLAY SPORTS IN PERSON!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

From a very concerned parent,

Amy Heinrichs

10. To the members of the Board,

Once again I am writing to you in the hopes that every effort will be made to open schools beginning Feb 1. Our children are suffering from both an educational and emotional standpoint. My children who have always loved school now wake up dreading the online school day. They are frustrated, lonely and their school performance is declining more and more as the virtual year dredges on.

I am including a link to an article published on the UNICEF website in December 2020. UNICEF calls for a return to the classroom for all students around the globe.

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/covid-19-unicef-warns-continued-damage-learning-and-well-being-number-children>

As a parent, I feel a frustrated and dismayed watching my children struggle and suffer while the majority of the world has returned to in person learning with almost no incident or increase of spread. I am a product of the public school system and have always believed public school was right for my children. I'm distraught by the failure of public schools to consider in person education as essential for our students. Please return to in person learning ASAP! There has been ample time to prepare for a safe return. The lack of preparation is disappointing. I assure you that parents will not stand by and allow our children to suffer much longer. We demand action and our children deserve it.

Sincerely,

Claire McGuinness

Jones Elementary School parent

11. Good afternoon:

I am writing in regards of the possible in-person back to school in Anne Arundel County.

I know you have received many emails and letters from many parents. Most of them my own neighbors from Severna Park. These parents are constantly letting everyone know on social media venues their thoughts about this issue.

I also know that you are being extremely pressured to reopen the schools at the request of the many parents.

I hear my neighbors concerns, specially concerns about their High School Seniors (my daughter is also a senior at SPHS); and their argument is that their child will miss the prom and hanging out with their friends.

I can assure you sir that I do not feel the same way. We are in the middle of a universal pandemic. I know of several friends, co workers, and a friend's 15 year old son; who have succumbed to the Covid 19 virus.

I am not worried one bit about my 17½-year-old daughter missing her Prom. I am, however; worried sick about her contracting the virus, or becoming an asymptomatic carrier and bringing it back home to us; or even worse contaminating an elder individual at her work. She works for a retirement community.

Those are my main concerns. I also worry about her having long term health issues if she contracts this virus. The reality of it all is that not even the scientists and doctors know the full impact this virus is having or will have in the future health of those who have had it....

Sofia Putkowski

12. Dear AACPS Board of Education and committees,

I have contacted you numerous times throughout this pandemic. I have been advocating for in person schooling.

As we all know, the restaurants took Pittman to court to try to overturn the recent shutdown edict. During the case, Dr. Kalyanaraman was basically discredited by the judge saying that his projections were not based on anything real and that they were absolute worst case scenarios. The judge was disgusted.

In addition, the CDC, Fauci, etc. ALL say that our children are way better off IN SCHOOL than staying virtual. The SCIENCE says to get our children back in school NOW. If a particular school has an outbreak, then handle that by classroom, grade, etc. But for the other 88,000 kids, school can continue. It's a large county and keeping ALL kids out of school is utterly ridiculous when it is doing so much more harm than good. If other states, counties and schools can figure this out, why can't AACPS? Our students are falling further and further behind the rest of the country and world.

I would like to again plead with you to open the schools back up. Please prioritize the high school seniors. Get them back in school ASAP. They have lost so much they can never get back. Many have

partial schedules and also drive. That can alleviate the bussing issue and allow busses to be reallocated to schools that need them. Have you asked parents to commit to drive their children? I am sure there are many who would gladly do this if it meant their kids could be back in school Children who need to ride the bus can be issued a bus pass....

Lori Smith, mom of a very sad senior

13. Happy New Year to all of you. Welcome new members of the Board, I look forward to getting to know each of you.

I am a proud parent of an AACPS 5th grade student and I am a proud alumni of AACPS myself and so is my husband. We began looking at education options prior to even having a child which is why we moved back to Shady Side when we found out we were pregnant with our first child. We knew we wanted our child to attend Shady Side Elementary like we did and like my husbands father did. She is a 3rd Generation Seagull and we have always been proud of that. In 2014, she started her Elementary School career with the Pre-K program and has now been a student for 6-1/2 years. She is looking forward to promoting from Shady Side with her peers and moving onto Middle School. I have become active with the PTO as well as been engaged with AACPS programs and committees. On her last day as a student in person on March 13, 2020, we assured her that she would go back to school, once things were figured out after a short break. That promise didn't come true. June came and went and we all thought that over the summer, things would be figured out and that all students that chose to would be welcomed back in person for the September start date. That didn't happen either. Here we are 10 months later and our students are still not back in the classroom. Teachers and Staff are doing their absolute best to make these students have a successful year, under the circumstances but nothing can replace in person learning....

Thank you,

Julia Howes

14. Dear School Board Members,

One of the most sacred aspects of your job as a School Board — as politicians — is to protect the most vulnerable, to protect those with no political power, to protect those who are disenfranchised. Here, when it comes to the issue of school closures - that constituency is children. Children don't have any power to effect change because they cannot influence the political process in any meaningful way. They cannot contribute to any candidacy or PAC in any meaningful way and they cannot organize as a union. Please exercise the most sacred aspect of your job and be their voice. Look at the CDC recommendations and the science, be creative and resourceful, and get our children back in the classrooms now because children are more at risk from continued school closures than they are from COVID19 at this point.

One of the most respected institutions in the world, McKinsey - has gathered the data and evidence and

finds that continued school closures will significantly harm children, particularly low income and marginalized children. "New evidence shows that the shutdowns caused by COVID-19 could exacerbate existing achievement gaps". <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/covid-19-and-student-learning-in-the-united-states-the-hurt-could-last-a-lifetime>.

McKinsey found that continued school closures leads to learning loss, higher drop out rates, higher levels of anxiety and depression, social and emotional disruption from isolation, and reduced academic motivation and performance from the cancellation of athletic events and graduation ceremonies.

In another report, experts have found that, relative to their risk of contracting disease, children and adolescents have been disproportionately affected by lockdown measures....

Karen Koistinen

Connor 12th grade SPHS

Patrick 9th grade SPHS

Molly 5th grade OHES

15.

Get your act together and open the schools. Kids are being left behind.

Erica O'Neil

Gambrills

16. The Board of Education-

Hello. My name is Emerson Sprinkel and I'm an eighth grader at Severna Park Middle School. It is my understanding that student emails are being accepted to be read at the next Board of Education meeting, hence my reaching out. As a student, but also as a teenager in the middle of a pandemic, I understand the difficulty in making executive designs like this. However, returning students to school should be the highest priority at this point. I know most likely everyone who reads this is an educated adult who has already finished school, but please consider the perspective of a student right now. School used to be my absolute favorite thing, but now I find myself constantly waiting for these classes to be over. The environment is stale and I can assure you that a schedule change is not the solution. The solution is working efficiently to send us back. I have 5 siblings, and 4 of them are younger than I am. As an eighth grader, despite how much I want to go back, I see how this is impacting my siblings in elementary school and feel that they should be valued above all other older grades. School is where you develop your social skills, and that's not easy to do when you're sitting in front of a computer all day. It's hard for them to stay focused and love learning when every efficient method perfected by educators has been ripped away.

I understand you can't just send us all back, but I find myself being constantly disappointed with the results of "updates"...

Thank you for your time,
Emerson Sprinkel

17. Dear Anne Arundel County School Board Members,

I am writing to voice my opinion in regard to the reopening of schools. We need to get our children back into the classrooms. There is going to be a long-term impact from the lack of education and socialization that our children are receiving.

My son is a struggling 10th grade student who is not doing well in this environment. His overall education and mental health are being negatively impacted by the educational decisions that have been made by the Board of Education. My 2nd grade student is struggling with learning how to read. Reading groups and instruction online are not meeting the developmental needs of my seven year old.

It is time that we figure out a way to get our kids back in school. It may not be the traditional way that we once did it, however we need to do something to impact the education of our children. I am asking you as board members to consider the needs of the children in making your decision about the return to in classroom learning. These children are our future, and they deserve to be educated just as all children before them have. Please be their voice as they do not have a voice of their own.

Best regards,

Brigid Stair

Ethan Kinsey 10th Grade SPHS

Benjamin Stair 2nd Grade Benfield Elementary

18. Dear Members of the AACPS Board of Education,

Many thanks to each one of you for your dedication to all of the AACPS students and staff. No one is ever prepared for all that we have gone through with covid-19, and I believe, as most do, that you are doing as much as you possibly can.

As you prepare for this week's Board meeting, I am hoping my email reaches you in time and moves you to please remember the Seniors. While I realize this pandemic has impacted the lives of all students, the Class of 2021 is sadly unique in what they have been unable to experience.

My son is a Senior this year at Severna Park High School. He is doing fairly well with the virtual learning, but clearly would benefit from both the in-person instruction as well as the chance to be around his peers. He has already been accepted to several colleges, with merit scholarships to boot. While he is excited for all that is to come, he is also sad to see his high school years come to a close in this manner. His capstone "Project Lead The Way" class that is solely group/project based-- the culmination of the engineering curriculum-- will never meet in-person if things don't change. He is getting by with FaceTime and Google Meet, but one doesn't have to look far to see that kids are mentally struggling. As parents, we have done our parts by keeping kids quarantined, making them mask up and social distance when they need to leave the home-- all in the hopes that they will be able to attend school with their classmates, go to prom, participate in sports, and walk the stage to graduate....

Jen Whitlock

Senior Class of 2021 Parent

19. Dear Board members .

Why are the kids in Anne Arundel county not going to school in person yet or at least a hybrid plan? The county has figured out how to keep the casino open and Walmart and Lowe's and many other places but schools are still in virtual learning makes me think that our members and staff aren't trying hard enough to open up schools. Don't you think our highest priority should be getting kids back in school. Many other places and other private schools have figured it out, don't know why our county can't. And I think they need to open them up, if your scared parents don't want to open the let them decide if they want to keep them in virtual or not. If the county can open up many other things that don't seem essential they can figure out a way to get kids back and learning. And I feel like a lot of the politicians don't care enough because there kids are in private school and are in class so they are not pushing hard enough to get them open. What I'm looking for is answers you are elected and appointed to these positions for a reason. I'd like to know if there is any plan at all to get them back to learning ?

Respectfully, Drew Geib

Lake Shore

The following testimony was submitted for the January 6, 2021, 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 7.01 – Mo Gaba Day Proclamation

1. Dear Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing regarding the proposal before you to create an annual day honoring Mo Gaba. I want to start by stating that I am certain the intent behind this idea is good and genuine. I know so many people in Anne Arundel County, in Maryland, and beyond were inspired by Mo. He has been honored locally and nationally in amazing ways. He was an inspiring young man and how lucky AACPS is to have called him one of ours. His spirit is missed by many.

However, I am *very* concerned about the unintended consequences of creating a day in Mo’s honor. As a former pediatric hospice social worker I have worked with hundreds of families who have experienced the devastating loss of a child. I have seen first-hand the pain that such well-intentioned recognitions can cause for families.

Frequently, the attention of the media (local or national) is captured by the spirit of a child with a terminal illness. When this happens, I have seen families with children suffering from the same or similar illnesses see the attention one child receives and wonder, “Why not my child?”

Many children die in AACo every year. All are deserving of being remembered. All were brave and unique and lovable. All would no doubt have an inspiring story to tell if they were all given the chance to tell it. The families of these children know these stories. Sadly, the public often does not learn each unique story.

When recognitions like the one you are proposing for Mo happen, some grieving families are left with a reminder that their child is not being remembered in the same way....

Kristen Caminiti

Gambrills

The following testimony was submitted for the January 6, 2021, 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 7.09 – Adoption of the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

1. Dr. Arlotto and Members of the Board,

As we did last year, the Calendar Committee made of up representatives from PTA, CAC, TAAAC, AEL, SAAAAC, AFSCME, CRASC etc. has submitted calendars to include a full week off for spring break. This week is essential for the mental health of students, staff, and families.

A full week of spring break is the norm in the USA (many districts have 2 weeks off in the 2nd semester, a February winter break, and an April Spring break). The only reason many MD schools stopped giving a full week off was because of the governors start/end date mandate. We are no longer constrained by a mandate, so it is time to reinstate this much needed break like our local county neighbors. Montgomery, PG, Baltimore County, and Baltimore City have full weeks off this year (2 started before and 2 started after Labor Day). Montgomery County and Baltimore County already approved their calendars for 2021-2022 with a full spring break week.

We must also consider teacher retention/recruitment. Why work for a school district that pays less than neighboring counties and does not provide teachers with a sufficient break in the spring? Let’s show, through actions, that AACPS values their staff by providing a well-deserved and needed week off. A long weekend is not sufficient for travel, nor is it sufficient to reduce stress and stave off burnout.

Sincerely,

Leanne Carmona

CAC Member- Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee Representative

Calendar Committee – CAC Representative

SPMS Parent