

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | March 17, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, Board meetings are currently being broadcast for the public 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

General Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

12:00 pm

Board Room

Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

3:30 pm

Virtual

Budget Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

3:30 pm

Virtual

4:00 pm 1. Motion to Enter Closed Session

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 Recognitions

2.06 CRASC Report

2.07 PTA Report

2.08 CAC Report

2.09 Policy Committee Update

2.10 Budget Committee Update

2.11 Equity Committee Update

7:00 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. All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes. Written comments on agenda items can also be submitted through a form available at www.aacps.org/boardtestimony. 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 (I)

4.01 Student Wellness Lens Report

4.02 George Fox Middle School Historical Renaming Evaluation Committee Report

8:30 pm 5. Consent Items – Award of Contracts (A)

5.01 Energy Management – Control System Programming

5.02 Meade HS Modernization – Gypsum, Walls, Ceilings, and Painting

5.03 Quarterfield ES Replacement – Concrete

5.04 Quarterfield ES Replacement – General Works

5.05 Quarterfield ES Replacement - Mechanical

5.06 Quarterfield ES Replacement – Structural Steel

5.07 Student Transportation Consulting Services

8:45 pm 6. Action Items (A)

6.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

6.02 Hillsmere Elementary School -- Stormwater Management Inspection and Maintenance Agreement

6.03 Hillsmere Elementary School -- Forest Conservation Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions

6.04 Old Mill West High School - Forest Conservation Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions

6.05 Items of Legislation

9:15 pm 7. Review Items (R)

7.01 2020-2021 Reopening Update

7.02 Monthly Financial Status Report and FY2021 Revenue and Expenditure Projections

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

The following testimony was submitted for the March 17, 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 – George Fox Middle School Historical Renaming Evaluation Committee Report

1. Dear Members of the Board,

I am a staff member at GFMS. We have been working really hard to rebrand our school and narrative with the community. We totally support the idea of a name change if the committee finds it appropriate. However, we have become quite attached to our fox mascot - not because of the name George Fox, but we have connected it with so much of our school climate and culture. We have a family of foxes in our woods that we watch out the back windows.

Our teachers have invested all kinds of their own resources into fox decorations, clothing, we have foxes everywhere. We have developed a new logo brand with our new leadership, and while we will certainly still have to adjust some of our school initiatives connected to the name George Fox (like our GFMS motto: goal-oriented, future driven, motivated scholars); we would really love to keep our mascot that we have grown so fond of.

Thank you for considering our request!

Sarah Nees
Severn

2. When I read the article in the Capital Gazette regarding the name change for George Fox Middle School, I was reminded of the campaign to change many school names in Texas because the honorees, long deceased, had once been officers in the Army of the Confederacy. Those name changes, like those for Army bases across the nation, resulted in unforeseen financial costs for the several schools. Would it not be appropriate to rename the school in honor of George Fox, (b.1624, d. 1691), active in Maryland and one of the founders of the Society of Friends (Quakers). The greatest expense might be for a new plaque in the foyer.

Noble Hetherington Jr
Dallas, TX

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TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 5.07 – Student Transportation Consulting Services

1. As a parent of twins starting their first year of high school in the fall, I am very concerned about bus schedules, routes, and bus capacity. There must be a way to resolve the transportation shortfalls in our school district, and I urge the board to take the time, energy, and money needed to improve transportation for our children. Having students on hour long (or more) bus rides to and from school, having students catching buses at 6am or earlier, and having students crowded on buses with standing room only are all unacceptable ways to transport our children. If approving this new transportation contract will get the job done, then please vote to approve the contract! We need solutions without compromise on these issues.

Tamara Beger
Odenton

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TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 7.01 – 2020-2021 Reopening Update

1. At every turn, there has been resistance to returning students to AACPS classrooms. Whether it has been vaccine availability/effectiveness, equity, ventilation, distancing requirements, or what to do about lunch, there have been unscientific and feelings-based reasons given as to why kids can't be back in school at all, let alone more than two days/week. All of those reasons have been slowly eroded by evidence that kids being in school five days/week is not only not playing Russian roulette with their lives and the lives of AACPS staff, it is possible and preferable and happening all over the country and supported by science and data...just apparently not supported by the scientists and elected officials who've been holding our kids' education hostage for the better part of a year.

I took two days to be grateful that my kids came home from their in-person days elated. Now I see that the days they remain virtual are full of mood swings and big emotions because they know firsthand what I've known for a long time: that they're missing out and getting a sub-par education on the virtual days. I see people who called me a COVID denier (among other things) now trying to get their kids on wait lists to get back in classrooms. Their and your collective inability to assess risk can no longer hinder the ability of more-rational heads to prevail and get our kids back where they belong: safely, five days/week in the classroom.

Gina Senkowski
Edgewater

2. After reading Dr. Arlotto's op-ed in the Capital Gazette titled "Vigilance is key to victory over the virus in Anne Arundel schools", I was left without words. Dr. Arlotto stated, "In the hybrid learning environment, our students are back in buildings two days each week. It is my desire to increase that to four by the end of the school year, and to begin the 2021-2022 school year with students and teachers fully in person five days each week." We are halfway through March, and after Spring Break we will have two and a half months of school left. Our children have already had enough schedule changes and teacher changes, they are trying to adjust to the hybrid environment, and teachers/staff are doing their best to cope with splitting themselves between their virtual and hybrid students. And now Dr. Arlotto suggests that we introduce more changes that would add more hours of work and headache in order to juggle more students into more days of school. I urge the board to put a stop to this - please let our children and staff finish out the school year as-is. For the mental health and welfare of our students, families, and staff, please put a stop to any more changes and focus on planning a strong, 5-day schedule in the fall. Focus on summer school initiatives and assessing needs for the fall. Our children are strong, they are resilient, but even they have a breaking point.

Tamara Beger
Odenton

3. This has been a crazy 369 or so days. A 2-week shut down turned to end of year asynchronous. Not fully knowing what the fall would be and then constant changes throughout the school year.

A couple weeks ago we had yet another change, and a step in the right direction to get us set up for next year, and the last step of that change starts this coming Monday. We have about 12.5-13 weeks of school left of this school year. We cannot take another change. Our last survey made NO mention of moving to 4 days a week, yet I see an editorial today from Dr. Arlotto stating he would like to move to 4 days a week by the end of the year. We don't need more chaos and change this school year. We can't keep up with all the schedule changes. I am saying this as both a parent (of a virtual 8th grader and a hybrid 4th grader) and as a mental health counselor (providing school based mental health virtually to students in AACPS).

Please keep us where we are. Let us finish the year strong and stable. There is only so much change that even the most resilient of the resilient can handle. Enough is enough. This is a great test run for the fall. We do not need to push any further and cause even more trauma to students, families, teachers, and staff.

Rebecca Wrotny
Crofton

4. In a recent op-Ed piece in the Capital, Dr Arlotto stated that he'd like to return to 4-day a week school for everyone before the end of the year. I respected ask that another survey of families take place if this is the case. Those families who committed to 2-days might not be comfortable with 4 days and the changes that will make in student spacing. Those that are virtual might be more inclined to attend if it was a 4-day week. I'm not opposed to a 4-day return. I just feel like the families signed up for something concrete and specific and the changes to that are unexpected and may not be welcome.

Additionally, this is my elementary school's 3rd schedule since Christmas. The constant changes are difficult for kids and families. Please limit the changes as much as you can. Thank you.

Kim Dixon
Annapolis

5. I am writing to once again urge you to fully re-open schools for in person full time learning. Once again Anne Arundel county has lifted or loosened capacity restrictions on businesses, restaurants, casinos, etc. and once again our public schools are an afterthought. Why is it that our kids are continuing to the pay price? Do the children of this community deserve to be an afterthought? We are now entering the third week of hybrid learning for elementary students and there has been no widespread outbreaks of COVID and our kids are once again happy and learning in their school buildings. Kids are following protocols and masks are working. These kids need to be in their school buildings with their teachers on a full-time basis. There is no reason that hybrid learning needs to continue. I saw a recent report that 88% of AACPS school personnel have received the vaccine so really there are no more excuses. The last group of hybrid learners are scheduled to start next week and after that AACPS should circle back and start getting the elementary kids back to school full time for those that want to do so. Now is the time. We cannot wait any longer. The days are numbered on this school year and every day back in their buildings will only help our children. I can already see a difference in the quality of their work and in their mental health on the days when they are in school...

Cheryl Wolf, Severna Park