

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | April 6, 2022

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

Page 1 of 1

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

Joanna Tobin
President

Robert Silkworth
Vice President

Gloria D. Dent

Corine Frank

Melissa Ellis

Dana Schallheim

Michelle L. Corkadel

Bunmi Omisore

Upcoming Meetings

General Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2022
12:00 pm
Board Room

Policy Committee

Tuesday, May 3, 2022
3:00 pm
Virtual

Equity Committee

Tuesday, May 10, 2022
11:30 am
Virtual

Budget Committee

Tuesday, April 19, 2022
12:00 pm
Virtual

Board Workshop

N/A

4:00 pm 1. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session

6:00 pm 2. Opening/Recognition

2.01 Invocation

2.04 Establish Agenda Order

2.02 Pledge of Allegiance

2.05 Recognitions

2.03 Approval of the Minutes

6:15 pm 3. Public Comments

The Board will hear in-person and virtual public comment on agenda items during regularly scheduled meetings from up to a total of 10 speakers per agenda item of each meeting, prior to Board discussion of those items. Those wishing to provide live in-person or virtual public comment 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.

6:45 pm 4. Presentation

4.01 2022-2023 Student Transportation Opt-In Registration Program

7:15 pm 5. Reports

5.01 President's Report

5.04 Policy Committee Report

5.02 Superintendent Search

5.05 PTA Report

Committee Report

5.06 Superintendent's Report – School

5.03 School Start Times Report – Public

Operations

Outreach

7:45 pm 6. Consent Items – Award of Contracts (A)

6.01 Information Technology Professional Services

6.02 Landscaping and Grading Services

6.03 Security Vestibules - Severn ES

6.04 Security Vestibules - Shipley's Choice ES

6.05 Structural Steel - New Old Mill Middle School South

6.06 Boom Lift and Trailer

8:00 pm 7. Action Items (A)

7.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

7.02 Personnel

Policy Revisions - Second Reading

7.03 Public Comment at Board Meetings – Code BCB

7.04 Board Evaluation – Code BI

Other Action Items

7.05 Center of Applied Technology - North – Educational Specifications

7.06 Park ES Addition - Educational Specifications

7.07 2021-2022 Calendar Adjustment – Primary Election Day

10:00 pm 8. Review Items (R)

8.01 Award of Contracts

8.02 Piney Orchard Elementary – School Capacity

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

The following testimony was submitted for the April 6, 2022, 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 4.01 2022-2023 Student Transportation Opt-In Registration Program

1. An OPT-IN transportation system could not be a more inequitable registration program, and after the pandemic and the transportation inconsistencies still occurring every day, promoting this change for next year is absolutely ridiculous. Parents are overwhelmed with constant changes, and those students who have been left behind by the pandemic are at risk of not even getting to school next year with an OPT-IN system. An OPT-OUT system would be a better fit, but again, the constant changes the Board is seeking to implement when our children are finally beginning to catch up is absurd. We have our schools facing constant disruptions, and there is violence occurring at a higher rate in our schools this year, and we simply cannot implement a system like this right now. Our superintendent should have never been tasked with an OPT-IN program, and the Board should be ashamed for asking him and their staff to do so.

Elizabeth Fine
Gambrills

2. When reading the new opt in bus rule it says Highschool must be a mile and a half away to receive bus services. With this our community Elizabeth’s Landing would lose bus services. Our children have no safe way to walk to school we have no sidewalks on Ft. Smallwood or half of Duvall for our kids to walk on to safely get to school!

Bonnie Fitzpatrick
Pasadena

3. To ensure that all families have access to bus service if needed and that no one is left out, the policy should be Opt Out not Opt In.

Laticia Hicks
Crofton

ITEM 5.03 School Start Times Report – Public Outreach

1. If our transportation department is still bearing the brunt of a driver shortage at this point in the year, I would like to know what additional burdens we can expect next year when this new strain of changing and condensing transportation times comes our way? I also want the Board to note that start times and transportation is listed as the very first challenge under HYA’s leadership profile after interviewing external and internal groups. So, considering our buses are still unable to transport students consistently, parents continue to express their concerns about changing start times, and start times being

listed as the very first challenge on our superintendent's leadership profile, I ask you to postpone at least a year. You have our AACPS staff trying to implement these changes during a very significant time of upheaval during a superintendent search, post-pandemic, and parents still providing transportation for their students nearing Spring break. Families are extremely frustrated with the lack of planning for over two years now, from COVID return to transportation to everything in between. We cannot expect to handle this in the Fall when we can't handle it now. This was passed by the Board during the middle of the pandemic when families were not taking notice and trying to survive. It is time to admit we were wrong, and we cannot implement this right now. I again urge you to postpone the implementation of start times for at least a year.

Elizabeth Fine
Gambrills

ITEM 5.06 Superintendent's Report – School Operations

1. Hello Board,

My name is Greg Thrasher , I am a substitute teacher in the AACPS . I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments and recommendations to the BOE regarding the role of substitute teachers.

All those from teachers, administrators, staff and others continue to provide outstanding efforts and services for the entire community. I applaud them all including of course the BOE.

The BOE is a foundational beacon for leadership in the community from education to significant matters that effect and impact our community.

Given that awesome responsibility , I want to acknowledge the role of resolutions issued by the BOE from recognition of parents and the community to acknowledgment of BLM as well.

I am here to request that the BOE consider a resolution for the incredible role and services our substitute teachers provide in both the classrooms and outside the classrooms, it is worthy of the powerful and prestigious resolution by the BOE . When the BOE speaks it creates ripples throughout the entire community elevating the role of substitutes will yield incredible returns especially for the substitutes as they work in the classrooms.

I also recognized and understand that the Superintendent is responsible for day to day operations.

I would appreciate if the following recommendations were forwarded to the

Superintendent for review, examination and merit.

-Recommendations to enhance Role of Substitutes in AACPS

Elevate role of ST as an educator and not just a temporary employee in the classroom
CE credits/ workshops for substitutes
regarding these recommendations....

Respectfully submitted:

Greg Thrasher
Upper Marlboro

ITEM 8.02 Piney Orchard Elementary School – School Capacity

1. I withdrew my energetic 1st grader from POES this school year because I feared he wouldn't do well in a severely overcrowded school like Piney Orchard. I would like to bring him back to AACPS one day, but I can't even imagine when that would be... when the Superintendent/BOE start making decisions that show they think he matters. Certainly not now and unless the population growth is addressed at the middle school level, not then either. And by the time he gets to HS more redistricting will have occurred and if history is any predictor, the Arundel Cluster will be used as a holding place for other schools and be overcrowded as well.

The Superintendent/BOE consistently makes poor predictions and decisions that are harmful to the Arundel cluster. Every year the population increases and every year we are ignored. While I realize WCES is meant to alleviate the burden, it is far too late. With a student population at POES now over 956 (above the estimated enrollment for 2024!) the school is overcrowded, unsafe and inequitable. The BOE knew the impact of the redistricting decision back in 2018/2019. The feasibility study on West County didn't even occur until 2020 and they STILL HAVEN'T BROKEN GROUND!

Now that the Superintendent/BOE have created this equity gap, it's time to fill it. Make temporary adjustments to the way the county does things. Require all surrounding schools at or below 110% capacity to open for Out-of-Area Transfers for students zoned for POES NOW.

Netsanet Kiffle
Odenton

2. My husband and I have two daughters enrolled in POES in Odenton and are very worried about overcrowding at the school, which has seen unprecedented levels of growth due largely to a nearby developer's and county political actions, and the prioritizing of Crofton over other area students that are disadvantaging our kids. POES,

which was just a couple dozen kids from its 649 student capacity when my 5th grader started, is now nearly 350 students OVER capacity, with even more students (approx. 1100 on the LOW end, given how inaccurate previous numbers provided by the county have been) expected to be crammed into the space next year.

This is not news to you. It's no secret that POES is extremely crowded and I am at a loss as to how this was ever allowed, even temporarily and why it has taken a group of parents to force you to even hear about the issue. Next year's slated enrollment is comparable to Arundel Middle School. It's already at a level that puts our numbers above 10 of 19 middle schools in the area. Adding more portables, as is the current plan, does not increase capacity. The gym, cafeteria, administrative offices and other parts of the school don't increase in size. The school, which was designed as a maximum walk facility, is now facing insane drop off and pick up lines which are dangerous and unacceptable to both students, parents and school staff. The playground equipment has been removed for portable placement, making the enclosed space (which has just one egress) unsafe for students to play in....

Alexandra Snyder
Odenton

3. Piney Orchard is estimated to be at 1050 students for 2022-2023. That is 161%. Safety for our children and a well-balanced space for our students should be #1 concern. Limited space means teachers cannot offer their full attention the matters at hand if there are too many students in a classroom. Not enough support staff now. Limited transportation to the school. Limited parking and drop off options now. See my email that I sent to the board.

Jamie Herrera
Odenton

4. My name is Margaret Bomba and I have one child who attends second grade at Piney Orchard Elementary School and another child who is scheduled to begin Kindergarten there next year. I know the enrollment projections in the past have been deeply flawed, and I am writing to express my concerns about continued overcrowding at Piney Orchard in the coming years.

My second grader began this school year in a class of almost 30 children, and we are so grateful that an additional teacher was hired to make the class sizes in his grade more reasonable. Having 25 or fewer children in a class (as compared to 30 or more) makes a huge difference for our kids. I have heard that as many as 30 5th graders are now crammed into small portable classrooms. I am very worried that both my children may struggle with huge class sizes for multiple years to come (considering that West County is unlikely to be completed on time).

I urge 4 specific actions to help our kids manage this extreme overcrowding:

First, please commit to providing Piney Orchard with the resources needed to hire enough teachers and staff to maintain reasonable class sizes and provide adequate student support.

Please commit to providing Piney with the resources for additional teachers, administrative staff, speech and literacy staff, teaching assistants, custodial staff, and lunch monitors. Having enough teachers and staff to support our kids is the most important thing you can do to help ease the unfair burden of overcrowding on these kids....

Margaret Bomba
Odenton

5. I am Michelle Romanishan Rice and my child will attend Piney Orchard Elementary School (POES) in Fall 2022. I am very concerned about the enrollment numbers at this school as well as how this affects the entire Arundel Cluster.
My son has been looking forward to starting Kindergarten and attending school with his peers from the neighborhood. It has been a challenge to turn the anxiety from COVID into excitement for new learning opportunities. The overcrowding has a lot of people advocating to remove the incoming Kindergarten class from POES altogether. However, the displacement our children would undergo by transitioning to a different school for Kindergarten, then back to POES for 1st grade, then onto West Elementary for 2nd is unrealistic for their young minds and emotions. Removing any grade from POES does not change the ongoing issue that the Arundel Cluster is entirely too overcrowded and will only get more overcrowded until we hit our peak around 2030.
Your immediate attention and planning for the overcrowding of POES, as well as the whole Arundel Cluster, are critical for our children's futures. Please keep our Kindergarteners at POES, provide the needed portables, grant additional teacher and Admin support, and ensure West Elementary stays on track. These suggestions will help the immediate needs of our children but please make education and safety a top priority by ensuring adequate space and resources are available for the entire Arundel Cluster in all your future discussions as our BOE reps.

Michelle Romanishan Rice
Odenton

6. I am a parent of a student at Piney Orchard Elementary and one at Arundel Middle. I am deeply concerned about the enrollment numbers and repeatedly flawed enrollment projections at both schools, but especially Piney Orchard. I have had children at Piney Orchard for the past 7 years, and we have loved our experience. However, the current number of students presents a safety risk and impacts our amazing teachers' abilities to effectively do their jobs. I am asking you to take immediate action on the following:
 1. Ensure West County Elementary School is completed on schedule, if not sooner.

2. Provide additional staff for POES to ensure class sizes are manageable and we have needed administrators, special educators, related service providers, teaching assistants, custodial staff, and lunch and recess monitors.
3. Create additional exits from the fenced area for safety during emergencies and drills.
4. Create an entryway security vestibule.
5. Create additional parking to accommodate more staff.
6. Replace at county expense anything that is removed (e.g. playgrounds).
7. Require all surrounding schools that are at or below 110% capacity to accept out of area transfers for students zoned for POES.
8. Identify and renovate an alternative space, such as the Carver Center.

While POES will still be extremely over capacity, these items will help make the school safer and improve our students' educational experience.

Heather Stormont
Odenton

7. My family moved to Piney Orchard eight years ago. We love the community and elementary school and the other families we have become friends with. My daughter has been at POES since Kindergarten and will be a 3rd grader next year. My son, who has health issues, developmental delay, and physical disabilities will not attend POES as an incoming kindergartener this year as the school is not equipped to support his needs. Everyone makes plans, and sometimes our plans have to change. As a parent of a child with disabilities, I've learned to go with the flow.

My daughter would tell you that she wishes that her brother could be with her. I wish that too. However, I want them both to receive the education that is best for them. Overcrowded schools are not optimal for anyone and I hope other parents can see that while having kids of similar age at two different schools is not what they planned for, it's also not the end of the world. As a single parent, I will tell you - it is doable. At the end of the day, the most important thing is having my children in an environment that supports their learning and development - the building doesn't matter.

POES is overcrowded. We need to learn to adapt and be flexible. After all, we want the best for ALL children. I believe the least disruptive move to ease overcrowding is to temporarily relocate the incoming Kindergarten classes to a less crowded school. This saves POES from more portables, which will displace our new playground, and allow the 5th graders to stay at a school more geared toward their needs.

Sarah Koontz
Odenton