

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | November 1, 2023

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

Joanna Tobin
President

Robert Silkworth
Vice President

Gloria D. Dent
Corine Frank
Melissa Ellis

Dana Schallheim
Michelle L. Corkadel
Eric Lin

Upcoming Meetings

General Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
6:30 pm
Board Room

Policy Committee
Tuesday, December 5, 2023
3:00 pm
Virtual

Budget Committee
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
12:00 pm
Virtual

Equity Committee
Tuesday, November 28, 2023
3:00 pm
Virtual

Board Workshop
Monday, November 13, 2023
6:00 pm
Board Room

Board Hearing
Monday, November 13, 2023
7:00 pm
Board Room

10:00 am 1. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session

12:00 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 Recognition

2.06 Educator of the Month

2.07 Employee of the Month

2.08 Volunteer of the Month

12:15 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 10 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 comment can be found at www.aacps.org/boardcomment. All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes.

12:45 pm 4. Reports

4.01 Policy Committee Report

4.02 President's Report

4.03 Superintendent's Report

1:00 pm 5. Presentation

5.01 New Course Approvals (A)

5.02 Blueprint for Maryland's Future Update

2:00 pm 6. Consent Items – Award of Contracts (A)

6.01 Environmental and Industrial Hygiene Services

6.02 Lighting – Meade and Northeast Middle Schools

2:10 pm 7. Action Items (A)

7.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

7.02 Personnel

Policy Revisions – Second Reading

7.03 School Activity Funds Management – Code DF

Other Action Items

7.04 Old Mill Middle – North – Schematic Design

7.05 Old Mill High – Schematic Design

7.06 New Village Academy Charter School Contract

2:30 p.m. 8. Review Items (R)

8.01 Award of Contracts

9. 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 10 speakers at each meeting. The process of signing up to speak can be found at www.aacps.org/boardcomment. All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes.

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

The following testimony was submitted for the November 1, 2023, 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 5.01 New Course Approvals

1. Members of the Board of Education, and Dr. Bedell:

I support the AP African American Studies course. Though, I must confess to a twinge of envy, as both this course and the LGBTQ Studies I proposed before this Board in February of 2022 are being offered after my time in AACPS.

However, that envy is eclipsed by my excitement for students to come who will benefit from courses that bridge gaps in our existing curriculum. Courses like this ensure that the stories and contributions of these groups are not relegated to the margins but are celebrated as an integral part of our shared history.

Though I am confident that the majority of this Board will vote in favor of this course, I feel compelled to address those who desire to follow the path that the state of Florida did in January of 2022 by prohibiting this course.

Let me be clear: your opposition to this course sends a damaging message to our students—that their history, their struggles, and their contributions are not worthy of in-depth study and understanding. In an era where knowledge is power, such a stance is not only regressive but dangerous.

Offering this course is an opportunity for AACPS to set a powerful example by demonstrating that education is not about erasing uncomfortable truths, but about confronting them, understanding them, and learning from them.

Thank you for your time and dedication to shaping an educational system that truly reflects the rich diversity and complexity of our society.

Jaden Farris
Crownsville

2. I’m writing to ask that you vote in favor of the two newly approved courses: AP African American studies and The APEX Arts Theater. As a parent with two high school students in AACPS, I want my children to be afforded the opportunity to learn all of America’s history and to be able to tap into their creativity through a theater arts class if they choose to. Our public school system is designed to provide opportunities and academic support. Courses like these and specifically the AP African-American history

course will help with youth development and critical thinking. Understanding events in the past helps us to learn about ourselves, avoid past mistakes, and create better paths for our society through social awareness, compassion, and empathy. I believe that course offerings like these are critical to our students educational and personal development, therefore, I'm asking that you vote in favor of approving the AP African American studies and The APEX Arts Theater courses. Thank you.

Laticia Hicks
Crofton

3. I'm writing to support the expansion of the curriculum to include both the AP African American Studies and the Apex Arts Theater Prime 2 courses. The first course will allow students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of contributions by African Americans. This course will go much deeper into topics that are part of the standard curriculum. Students can potentially receive college credit and some students may be inspired to pursue African American studies as a major in college. Offering this course promotes diversity and cultural understanding. The second course sounds like a great addition to the arts curriculum and will enhance the theater education of performing arts students.

Catherine Davis
Annapolis