

DAVID'S BOE MEETING BRIEF

Breaking down Board of Education meetings

HOLIDAY CARDS

This month the Superintendent recognized four students whose illustrations appear on the 2023 holiday cards for Wicomico County Public Schools:

- Katlyn Hornsby, 10th grade, Mardela High School
- Allyson Ayala, 10th grade, Parkside High School
- Jordyn Welch, 12th grade, VPA, Wicomico High School
- Neida Ipina Duarte, 12th grade, VPA, James M. Bennett High School

These students participate in the Interactive Media CTE Program, held at Wicomico High School. Students produce photos, visual graphics, animations, graphic design, digital illustrations, videos productions, voice over productions, merchandising, and websites.

Visit www.imwcboe.org to view holiday cards for sale and examples of other artwork.

FRUITLAND PRIMARY PROJECT

The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company was selected by the Board to provide Construction Management at Risk Services for the pre-construction and construction phases of the Fruitland Primary replacement. This project follows the Board's approval of the schematic design of the school in October. The project is subject to the County Executive's funding in her Capital Improvement Plan, as well as the County Council's approval of the CIP.

PRE-QUALIFIED ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

The Board approved pre-qualified Architects, Engineers, and Construction Managers for projects under \$5 million. This month, the focus was on Civil (Site & Athletic / Water & Sewer) firms. Out of the twenty-two firms that requested information, ten submitted their proposals. After careful evaluation, five firms were approved for Civil-Site & Athletic, four for Civil-Water & Sewer, and three survey firms.

CONSENT ITEMS

- **Personnel Matters:** At each meeting the Board approves appointment of staff, leaves of absence for medical or to further the staff member's education, and separations. Since these are personnel related, discussion occurs in a closed session.
- **Contract Awards:** Multiple Job Order Contracts were issued, which allow staff to utilize pre-approved vendors for small projects:
 - Flooring – Tarkett USA
 - Carpentry – Evans Builders Inc. and The Whayland Company
 - Plumbing – Wilfre Co.
 - HVAC & Mechanical – Wilfre Co.
 - General – Evans Builders Inc. and The Whayland Company
 - Electrical – AET Electric Inc., Lywood Electric, Inc., and S & D Electric

Consent Items are non-controversial items voted on at once to streamline meetings. Board members either previously discussed the items or they had the opportunity to in advance.

BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER

WCPS has created a comprehensive newsletter to keep the community informed about progress on blueprint implementation. Furthermore, the newsletter includes surveys that request information from the Accountability and Implementation Board. Don't miss out! Access the newsletter by visiting: <https://www.wicomicoschools.org/page/blueprint-for-marylands-future>



Blueprint Implementation

December 2023

Blueprint Reflection Questions for the AIB

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future calls for school systems and schools to do things differently, based on evidence-based policies and practices to improve student outcomes. The AIB has created questions for Maryland School districts to use when contemplating the work ahead. We have created a way for you to share your thoughts on the AIB reflection questions. Please feel free to fill out the form for multiple pillars based on your expertise, interest, role, or engagement.

- **Pillar 1: Early Childhood** (Pre-K expansion, Kindergarten Readiness, Judy Centers)
- **Pillar 2: Elevating Educators** (Career Ladder, Diversity Recruitment and Retention, Talent Pathways)
- **Pillar 3: CCR** (College & Career Readiness, Post-CRR Pathways, Support Pathways, Career Coaching, High-Quality Curriculum)
- **Pillar 4: Student Supports** (Behavioral and mental health, Special Education, English language learners, Students experiencing homelessness, Communities experiencing poverty, Community Schools)



POLICY REVISIONS

This month the Board approve various policy revisions, as a result of the Board's periodic policy review:

- **Retiring of School Facilities Policy:** Minor revision to clarify how any retirements are reviewed.
- **Audit of School Activity Fund Policy:** Minor revision to update this policy into the Board's preferred format. This policy requires all student activity funds be audited annually by an independent certified public accountant.
- **Assault Leave Policy:** Minor revision to update this policy into the Board's preferred format and add clarification. This existing policy, as required by state law, provides assault leave to staff so they do not need to use sick time.
- **Employee Administrative Leave Policy:** Minor revision to add a related document, the procedure. Staff may be placed on administrative leave during investigations.
- **Violation of Criminal Laws Policy:** Minor revision to update this policy into the Board's preferred format. This policy requires employees not in any way encourage or condone the violation of criminal laws.
- **Employee Confidentiality Policy:** Minor revision to add additional related policies. This policy discusses how data not otherwise available through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) must be handled.
- **Board Negotiating Agents Policy:** Minor revision to update this policy into the Board's preferred format. This policy handles how individuals are appointed as agents in negotiations with employee bargaining units.
- **Board Annual Meeting Policy:** Minor revision to update the section of state law that requires the meeting. This policy, and state law, require the board hold an annual meeting to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman each December.
- **Fees for Continuing Professional Development Workshops Policy:** Minor revision to update this policy into the Board's preferred format. This policy permits individuals from other school districts to attend WCPS professional development.
- **Use of Physical Interventions Policy:** Minor revision to update this policy into the Board's preferred format. . This policy establishes expectations regarding the use of physical interventions for crisis prevention and intervention.
- **WCBOE Visitor Policy:** Minor revision to update this policy into the Board's preferred format. This policy authorizes the Superintendent to develop a procedure with details on how visitors are handled.
- **Behavior Threat Assessment Teams Policy:** Minor revision to update this policy into the Board's preferred format. This policy establishes Behavior Threat Assessment Teams at each school.
- **Gangs, Gang Activity, and Similar Group Behavior Policy:** Minor revision to update this policy into the Board's preferred format. This policy prohibits gangs, gang activity, and similar destructive and illegal group behavior.
- **Weapons and Dangerous Instruments in Schools Policy:** A minor revision to this policy to expand on the definition of firearm, to reference federal and state law, to take into account ghost guns and gun components. This policy states that no person shall possess, use, or threaten to use any weapon or dangerous instrument, or imitation thereof.
- **Student Conduct on School Vehicles Policy:** Minor grammatical changes and an updated related document reference were added to this policy that sets expectations for student behavior while on school vehicles.