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BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

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The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

Superintendent's Report

Recognition of SkillsUSA Winners 2024

- Isaiah Bouchard – Auto Body
- Payton Snyder – Welding Sculpture
- Caleb Morgan – Academy of Health, Job Skill Demonstration
- Bethany Scott – Graphic Communication, Graphic Dye Sublimation
- Teamworks
 - Avry Lease
 - Easton Mathews
 - Caleb Opel
 - Kamden Sears



Pictured left to right: Gary Taylor, Payton Snyder, Jared Morgan, and Caleb Morgan

“I really do appreciate the opportunity to take these kids to a national competition. What these kids have accomplished is something special. Caleb and Payton were in the top 10 nationally.

Caleb did job skill demonstration, taking a basic, entry level job skill. He did seizure protocol, where he went through what would happen if you were around an epileptic, how to take care of them, and what you would do in that situation. He demonstrated it for 5-7 mins in front of a group of judges.

Payton did welding sculpture, which started months ago. She took 8th out of 44 sculptures, which includes not only building the sculpture, but also presenting it. She learned the language and put together a book along the way, documenting everything from prices of materials to pictures of her doing each step.”
- Coach Jared Morgan

“I coach Teamworks and what they do is build a small house in a four day competition. It's a pretty challenging competition. There were 48 teams this year and we placed 22nd, and competing against 3 and 4 year schools. This is our third time in the last five years that we've made it.”

- Coach Gary Taylor

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

Recognition of SkillsUSA Winners 2024

- FBLA
 - Ben Myers
 - Alysa Langan
 - Harley Smith
 - Lana Cassidy
 - Violet Strozykowski
 - Austin Jacobs

“We had a couple different competitions including help desk, cyber security, coding, and programming. To train these kids, we do a lot of different work orders in the classroom area. Technology will usually break left and right and they usually call our classroom first to fix it. The (kids) get real hands on experience before they do the competitions themselves, so that’s a good way to train, along with the curriculum.”

- Coach Tyler Kurek

FFA State Convention

- Colin Sheehe’s speech “Municipalities are Restricting Renewable Energy, Now What?” earned him first place at the Maryland State FFA Convention and Competition
 - After giving his speech, Colin had to field 5 minutes of impromptu questions from judges

“Colin’s speech was delivered with poise, confidence, and skill and he exhibited an impressive ability to think on his feet while answering questions from the judges. Colin’s achievement has also made Allegany High School history as he is the first FFA member to earn first place at a state competition. Colin’s hard work, preparation and skill, left an indelible impression with all who interacted with him and heard his speech at the state convention.”

- Annie Stark, FFA Advisor

“I would say what I actually probably got the most out of was the very first initial stage, the writing stage. In an English class, you might get an assignment giving you a very specific prompt. But the prompt for this contest was “write any speech that has anything to do at all with agriculture or natural resources.” I got to do my own research, come up with my own bibliography, and really shape the topic and argument that I wanted to do. That alone, I think is the most valuable experience.”

- Colin Sheehe



Pictured left to right: Tyler Kurek, Lana Cassidy, Harley Smith, Ben Meyer, and Austin Jacobs



Pictured left to right: Annie Stark, Colin Sheehe, and Heidi Laupert (AHS Principal)

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

CEP (Community Eligibility Provision)

- CEP is a Federal Program that is offered to low income counties to offer free breakfast and lunch to all of the students in Allegany County for the 2024-2025 school year

"We had been asking Mr. Blank, what could we do, but we were just at the point where financially it was just going to strap us. But I think COVID kind of brought to the forefront how dependent these kids were on school meals in the summer and the access they had at that time when it was funded. We hated to see all that go away. So this is fantastic, thank you for putting in for that. We hope the community is paying attention and realizes what a great thing this is."

- Crystal Bender, Board Vice President

Instructional Update

Summer School Update

- Credit Recovery
 - Opportunity for students who have failed a class to recover it within a 20 day period
 - Offered three times during the school year, but also during the summer
 - Students can earn up to two credits back
 - Allows 9th graders to stay on track for college and career readiness requirements
 - A few changes were made this year
 - Stricter attendance policy – students allowed 3 absences before being dismissed from the program
 - Each class had a set of assignments and it was required that all assignments be completed
 - 190 credits were recovered over the summer
 - 83.4% of the credits were higher than a D, as opposed to 22% of the credits last year
 - Almost double the amount of credits were recovered from students with IEPs
 - Three times the amount of credits were recovered from students with a 504
 - 55 credits recovered by Freshman going into their 10th grade year
 - Math, English, and Science were almost equal in credits recovered
- Original Credit
 - Offering Physical Education, Health I, Health II, and Personal Finance
 - A total of 120 Original Credits earned across all courses
 - Most students take classes over the summer to help free up some time in the upcoming school year for dual enrollment, AP courses, sports, or other electives

Unfinished Business

Consider Second Reading of School Attendance Areas Policy

- Approved

Consider Second Reading of Homeless Children and Youth Policy

- Approved

New Business

Consider First Reading of Trespassing or Willful Disturbance Policy

- Approved

Vote to meet in Executive Session September 10, 2024

- Approved

October meeting will be moved to October 15, 2024

Reports of Special or Advisory Committees

Board Member Updates

- Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Policy
 - If there is an incident, it must be reported through the Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Form
 - The form can be found on the ACPS website, on the homepage, under “Report Bullying”
 - All school administrators and counselors have this form and it can be turned in through the school