



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Crystal Bender, President  
Ms. Lori Lepley, Vice President  
Dr. David Bohn  
Mr. Max Green  
Mrs. Linda Widmyer  
Mr. Jeffrey Blank, Superintendent  
Miss. Eowyn Hansrote, SMOB

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

May 27, 2025

The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

## Superintendent's Report

### Recognition of Eowyn Hansrote, Student Member of the Board 24-25

- Presented by Mr. Jeffrey Blank, *Superintendent*

Congratulations on graduation and all the success that you've had in your career as an Allegany County Public School student and we have thoroughly enjoyed all the input and all the things you've taken part in with this board.

- Mr. Jeffrey Blank, *Superintendent of Schools*



### Recognition of "Changemaker" Award Winner for Women's Action Coalition

- Winner of \$1,000 Scholarship – Eowyn Hansrote

"Eowyn embodies the qualities of a changemaker that we are looking for. That's leadership, commitment to community service, and a determination to make a positive change. Her reference for the scholarship wrote about Eowyn's desire to create a more inclusive and supportive community and her efforts to raise awareness and funds for marginalized groups. We admired her empathy for others and her proactive efforts to address social issues. We feel that Eowyn sets an example for other students and you have the unique ability to bring others together in a very healing way for meaningful community service."

- Cherie Snyder, *WAC Member*



Pictured left to right: Cherie Snyder, Eowyn Hansrote, and Carmen Jackson

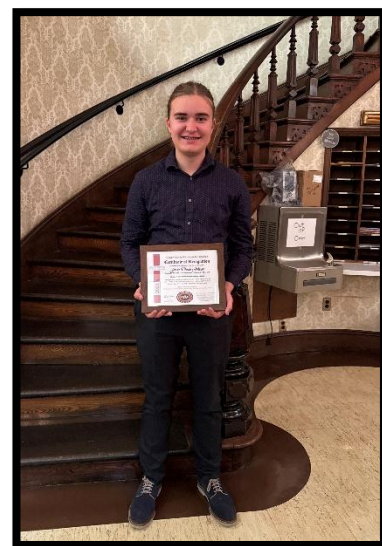
# Superintendent's Report cont.

## Recognition of “Changemaker” Award Winner for Women’s Action Coalition

- Winner of \$100 Scholarship – Jude Thoele-Gibson

“Our committee was so impressed with his ability to lead and motivate his robotics team as their team manager. He demonstrated in his work and support of international robotics teams with challenges and ability to act locally and think globally. We have to keep our eyes on him, he’s going to do great things, no question about it. Jude’s reference wrote the following: ‘Jude’s citizenship and kindness are at the highest level I’ve seen in a student. I can barely think of any student I have had in my 20 years of teaching, with the leadership and empathy for others than Jude has done.’ That is what we call a Changemaker.”

- Carmen Jackson, *WAC Member*



## Present Proclamation Recognizing May 2, 2025 as School Lunch Hero Day

- Presented by: Mr. Max Green
- Presented to: Mr. Todd Lutton, *Supervisor of Food Services*

“Thank you on behalf of the Food Service Department, for the recognition of the staff. The staff out in the kitchen, my office staff, warehouse workers, work very hard throughout the day to feed the students in Allegany County. They are kind of behind the scenes and you don’t hear a lot from them, but they do a tremendous job and I appreciate that.”

- Mr. Todd Lutton, *Supervisor of Food Services*



## Recognition of ACM Tri-State Math Contest

- First Place Team: Allegany High School
  - Bryce Bridges
  - Jett Loar
  - Anderson Guzman Pineda
- Individual Winners:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place – Bryce Bridges
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Jett Loar
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Anderson Guzman Pineda
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place – Jack Taylor
  - 7<sup>th</sup> place – Nicholas Wilt
  - 8<sup>th</sup> place – Nathan Fousek
  - 9<sup>th</sup> place – Rishabh Patel
  - 9<sup>th</sup> place – Sutton Smith
  - 9<sup>th</sup> place – Micah Georgeson



Pictured left to right: 1<sup>st</sup> row: Charles Moran, Michael Nestor. 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Bryce Bridges, Jett Loar. 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Anderson Guzman Pineda. 4<sup>th</sup> row: Rishabh Patel, Nicholas Wilt

# Superintendent's Report cont.

## Present Proclamation Recognizing May as Pupil Personnel Worker Month

- Presented by: Mrs. Linda Widmyer
- Presented to: Dr. Brian McKinley

“All of our Pupil Personnel workers would like to thank everybody on the board for allowing us to do what we do every day, and the public as well.”

- Dr. Brian McKinley, *PPW*



## Recognition of Student Salute Winners 2025

- The Student Salute Program highlights the accomplishments of dozens of Allegany County High School Seniors. Students who plan to attend Frostburg State University are also eligible for a scholarship. The Chamber's Education and Workforce Development committee selects the top three students based on GPA, participation in honors, AP, college, and special programs, awards and achievements, leadership positions, extracurricular activities, employment and volunteer contributions.
  - Kamryn Rice - \$5,000 scholarship to FSU
  - Gunner Wilson - \$500 scholarship to FSU
  - Charlotte Crawford - \$500 scholarship to FSU

“WCBC is very honored to be able to help with the High School Student Salute. That's because of the support of the board of education, our sponsor in Chessie Credit Union, absolutely Frostburg State University and more than anything, the Chamber. They do a mammoth amount of work to find those students who have really excelled academically. And it's an honor for us to be part of that.”

- Mary Clites, *WCBC*



Pictured left to right: Mary Clites, Gunner Wilson, Kamryn Rice, Charlotte Crawford, Andrea Kraft

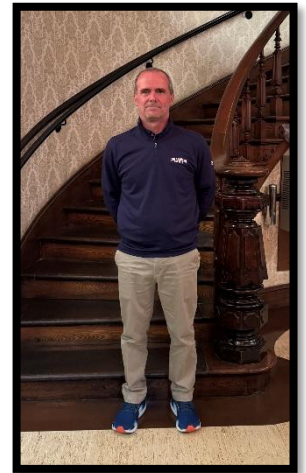


## Superintendent's Report cont.

### Recognition of The Richard A. Johnson Environmental Education Award

- The Richard A. Johnson Environmental Education Award honors those who mentor and inspire our citizens and future leaders in environmental science and stewardship; recognizes excellence in environmental education and in the research and public service that supports environmental education; and enhances environmental education opportunities for students of all ages.
  - Presented to Matt Kline, *Science Teacher*

“Mr. Kline was nominated for this award because of his endless devotion to the students and the agriculture program at Mount Savage School. In addition to his superior classroom instruction, Mr. Kline’s dedication to the agriculture program at Mount Savage surpasses all expectations. He first began the program by guiding students to design and plant several garden beds. He and his students provided fresh produce for Mount Savage families, which was a true eye-opener to see the needs of our surrounding families. These kinds of programs do not exist because of administrators, they exist because of teachers. Because of Mr. Kline’s energy and desire to share his talents with others, Mount Savage students have gained life experiences that will allow them to pass their talents on to generations.”



- Dr. Laura Holland, *Principal, Mount Savage School*

### Recognition of CHEER students – Special Education Program / ACM

- Allegany High School
  - Andrea Lynn Atkinson
  - Makenzie Lynn Hott
  - Rhiannon Elizabeth Trexler
- Fort Hill High School
  - Ian Stanley Warren Babitz
- Mountain Ridge High School
  - Camden Michael Wempe

“Our leadership spoke with downstate folks and they were very impressed with our program. It’s a model to follow nationwide. We really have a great gem. And in no small part due to Dr. Wendy Main’s efforts. This is a very fine example of collaboration between our two institutions.”

- Dr. Mihaela Wood, *Dean of Arts and Sciences, ACM*

“It is the third cohort and we are celebrating that our five students have collectively earned over 60 credits at ACM throughout the year. So, that’s really a celebration for our students. What started as a 4-day immersive camp in collaboration with ACM really ended up in this very innovative program for students with disabilities earning a diploma. The goal of the CHEER program is to offer an innovative immersive college experience for our high school seniors. It’s been life-changing to some of our students.

All five students have enrolled and have financial packages, have met their advisor, and are returning to ACM in August.”

- Dr. Wendy Main, *Supervisor of CHEER Program*

## Superintendent's Report cont.

### Present Proclamation Recognizing May 5-9, 2025 as National Teacher Appreciation Week

- Presented by: Ms. Lori Lepley
- Presented to: Mrs. Kimberly Sloane, *President ACEA*



## Unfinished Business

### Consider Second Reading of School Attendance Areas Policy

- Approved

### Consider Second Reading of Resident and Nonresident Student Eligibility Policy

- Approved

## Hearing of Constituents

### Public Comment

- Carmen Jackson

## New Business

### Vote to Renew Legal Services

- Approved

### Consider First Reading of Student Schedules and Course Loads Policy

- Approved

### Consider First Reading of Evaluation of Students – Grading Policy

- Approved

### Consider First Reading of Telehealth For Students Policy

- Approved

### Consider Regulations Review of School Attendance Areas Policy

- Reviewed

### Consider Regulations and Exhibit Review of Resident and Nonresident Student Eligibility Policy

- Reviewed

## New Business cont.

### Consider Exhibit Review of Authorization for Participation in Interscholastic Athletics

- Approved

## Reports of Special or Advisory Committees

### Student Member of the Board

- Just finished elections for next year
  - SMOB for next year will be Angel Israel

### Board Member Updates

- Dr. David Bohn

“On behalf of the entire board of education we extend our deepest and heartfelt gratitude to a truly remarkable group of people. The events of this past May, the sudden and severe flooding that swept through Westernport and Lonaconing, tested our communities and in particular, our school system in ways we could have scarcely imagined. Yet, in the face of rapidly rising waters and imminent danger, what shone through was the incredible courage, professionalism, and unwavering dedication of so many. To our principals at Westernport Elementary, Westmar Middle and George’s Creek Elementary, who led their schools with calm and decisive action, ensuring the immediate safety of our precious students and staff, we thank you. Your leadership on the ground was nothing short of heroic. To our Superintendent and our central staff who coordinated a massive, complex emergency response with skill and tenacity, working tirelessly behind the scenes, your efforts were critical and we are immensely grateful. To the brave men and women of our local police departments, fire departments and all emergency personnel, your swift action, your bravery in conducting rescues, often wading into treacherous waters save lives. You truly are the definition of heroes in our community. The images of students being carefully carried away and boated to safety will stay with us always. Also, to our incredible school teachers – in the midst of chaos, you were the calm in the storm for our children. You comforted them, kept them safe and managed an unimaginably stressful situation with grace and with fortitude. Your commitment to our students went far beyond the classroom. And we cannot forget the often unsung heroes, our kitchen workers, who ensured students had food, even as conditions deteriorated. Our janitors and maintenance workers who faced the immediate and overwhelming aftermath and are now dealing with the monumental task of cleanup and repair. Your hard work and dedication are profoundly appreciated. And to all other school staff, our bus drivers, and our community volunteers who played a big part, or whether it was a small part in protecting our students and supporting our schools during the crisis, we thank you as well. The true measure of your collective effort is perhaps best captured by one of our own students, who after being evacuated, remarkably commented that this rescue “was better than a week at outdoor school.” While we’d certainly prefer our outdoor school experiences, this comment speaks volumes about the sense of safety, care, and even adventure that you managed to instill in our young people during a frightening ordeal. It’s a testament to your incredible spirit. Finally, we must extend a special thank you to the broader community, and specifically to Frostburg State University and the Frostburg community. While some of our students were temporarily sheltered at Mountain Ridge High School, we understand the community of Frostburg opened its arms. We also want to acknowledge reports of FSU offering its campus facility and food services to help our displaced students from Westernport and Westmar schools to be able to complete their school year. This extraordinary generosity of offering a space for learning and sense of normality to resume is a beacon of hope and a true demonstration of partnership. And we are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive institutional neighbor. The road to recovery for our schools and community in Westernport and Lonaconing will be long. But, as we move forward, let us carry with us the inspiration of these past weeks. The knowledge that, when faced with adversity, the people of Allegany County and all those who support our students came together with strength, compassion, and an unbreakable spirit. And we, the board, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

# Reports of Special or Advisory Committees cont.

## Board Member Updates

- Max Green
  - Was not able to attend Local Advisory Board last month
    - Will share future updates
- Lori Lepley
  - Attended Washington Middle Schools' Wild, Wild West Carnival
    - Was a huge success
- Linda Widmyer
  - Part of the Education Committee for Chamber of Commerce
    - Fall Workforce Forum will be planned
    - National Civics Bee