

DAVID'S BOE MEETING BRIEF

Breaking down Board of Education meetings

FINANCIAL LITERACY UPDATE

Julie Dill, the Director of Curriculum & Professional Development, gave a presentation on how Wicomico County Public Schools offers an instructional program in personal financial literacy to students across all levels of education. During the presentation, she explained that the program utilizes a Junior Achievement Partnership, with new additions this year including a High School Stock Market Challenge and visits to the Perdue Henson Junior Achievement Center, set to open in the spring.

In addition to these efforts, financial literacy topics are also integrated into a range of other courses that students must take to graduate, including Family & Consumer Science, Business Education, Government & Consumer Economics, Computer Education, and math classes.

One exciting new development is the pilot of an algebra-based Financial Literacy course at Parkside High School, which immerses students in real-world financial applications and simulations.

Furthermore, middle school students in Family & Consumer Science courses now learn about additional financial literacy topics that are relevant to their age group. For instance, sixth-graders practice making financial decisions, while seventh-graders analyze the differences between needs and wants, explore comparison shopping, credit cards, and the stock market's role in economics. In eighth grade, students learn about college, resumes, interviews, and budgeting for the future. In high school, students will delve into the costs of raising a family, the advantages of investing, long-term financial goals, and insurance.

Overall, these efforts show Wicomico County Public Schools' commitment to providing its students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become financially responsible adults.

COMPLIANCE REPORT

Our audit firm, UHY, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, completed our annual Compliance Report under Federal Uniform Guidance for the period ended June 30, 2022. The Audit Committee, which I am a member of, reviewed the compliance report with the auditors on January 19, 2023. The Board accepted the report at today's meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

- **Personnel Matters:** At each meeting the Board approves appointment of certificated staff (teachers), 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:** The Board awarded four contracts this month:
 - 10-Passenger Van for transporting students
 - Document Management Solution for storing electronic documents and conversion of existing paper archived documents
 - Internet Service Provider to provide service for schools
 - Athletic Equipment Reconditioning Services
- **Policy Approvals:** Various policies were reviewed on their 3-year cycle. Others had minor changes.
 - Names on Building Plaques Policy
 - Facility Naming Policy
 - Investments Policy
 - Procurement Policy
 - Retirement Plan Funding Policy
 - OPEB Retirement Plan Trust for Employees of Wicomico County, the Board of Education of Wicomico County, the City of Salisbury, and Wor-Wic Community College Investment Policy
 - Ethics Policy

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.

EXTRA MILE

AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to Raymond Perry, Media Associate at Wicomico Middle School; Curtis Phillips, Instructional Assistant at Choices Academy; and Corey Davis, Technology Specialist at North Salisbury Elementary School for going above and beyond.

BOARD PRIORITIES

Earlier this month, the Board convened for a work session to discuss and identify our priorities. After careful consideration, we determined that student discipline and the code of conduct will be our primary focus, followed by student safety as a close second.

In addition to these priorities, I have proposed that the Board considers changes to our policy development process. I believe that implementing a more open and transparent process that seeks public input on policies before adoption would be an improvement. Many other Boards of Education in Maryland have already implemented similar processes, and I believe that we could benefit from doing the same.

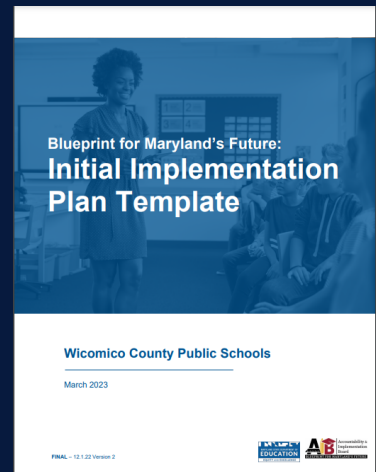
BLUEPRINT UPDATE

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Rick Briggs informed the Board and public that the draft 178 page Blueprint Implementation Plan, as required by the state, is available for public input. All comments should be directed to comments@wcboe.org.

The draft plan is available on the WCBOE.org website, via a link in the center horizontal navigation menu.



[Draft of Wicomico County Public Schools Blueprint Plan](#)



2023 – 2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Board reviewed two Post Labor Day calendar options. The first was previously provided to the public for input, and the second was based off public input. One of the main themes of public input received was a desire for a shorter winter break and an expand spring break. The Board voted to choose the calendar option with an expanded spring break.

DECEMBER					MARCH					APRIL				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
				1					1	1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	29	30			

HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENTS

Board Members will present diplomas as follows:

Date/Time	School	Board Members
Tuesday, May 30, 2023 7:00PM	Evening High	Allen Brown John Palmer
Wednesday, May 31, 2023 3:30PM	Wicomico High	Gene Malone Kristin Hazel
Wednesday, May 31, 2023 7:30PM	James M. Bennett High	David Plotts Bonnie Ennis
Thursday, June 1, 2023 3:30PM	Mardela High	Allen Brown Susan Beauchamp
Thursday, June 1, 2023 7:30PM	Parkside High	David Plotts John Palmer