



COLLEGE PARK ACADEMY

College Park Academy
Board Meeting: Public Session
September 25, 2024
6:00-8:00 pm

In attendance:

Board Members: Rob Day, Carolyn Bernache, Donna Wiseman, Carlo Colella, Jim Rosapepe, Bob Catlin, Gayatri Varma, Hank, Boyd, Erica Estrada-Liou, Kimberly Griffin

Staff: Stephanie Ban, Duane Arbogast, Sandy Abu-Arja, Nicole Nelson, Steve Baker, Sean Mugrage, Angela Ohl, Jamie Haton

PTO: Jordan Patty

Public: Yu-Wei Wang, Angelo, Antoinette, Jordan Patty, Tamara Cleveland, Katarina H, Susy Iype, KC Johnson

6:02 PM Call to Order – Public Session – Rob Day

- Rob thanked parents, students, staff etc. for a successful start of the school year.
- Approval of June 6th minutes meeting – Carlo moved to approve- Carolyn Second. All in favor- Unanimous

6:04 PM Budget & Finance Report -Carlo Colella

- Sean went over FY 24 Q4 Budget – Income was \$400K higher than anticipated and expenses were \$230K less overall was \$635K more than expected.
- Jim Context – Financially healthy now uncertain for future due to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Prudence for the next months and year.
- Carlo – investments are well positioned and staggered for optimal performance.
- Sean went over FY 25 Budget – math consultant added and recruiting expenses for new staff – both approved. -with amendments to budget, projected net for this year is \$131K.

6:14 PM Academic Affairs Report – Carolyn Bernache thanked the Academic Affairs committee and shared a thank you to the Board and School Community from a family she met in Laurel.

- Community Events
 - Art Mural Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 10/17- Carolyn Bernache: Please complete the RSVP.
 - PTO Board Dinner/Back to school night social – Nicole Nelson Board/PTO Engagement Dinner: 8/13/24
 - College Park Day -Oct 5th
 - Good Neighbor Day – Oct 26th
 - PGCPS Specialty fair – Nov 7th
- Alumni Association
 - Panel Discussion for Life at UMD panel in Jan 2025
 - College Fair /Alumni Mixer in May 2025
- Arts Program – Duane Arbogast gave details
 - Outreach to Arts Community with Sandy -Melissa Sites (College Park Arts Exchange)
- CPA 2.0 – Erica Estrada-Liou gave details – explained the agenda
 - Teacher experience
 - Curricular alignment -Tools & Resources
 - Student fit- Placement & intervention
 - Beyond classroom learning – outside tutoring competitions etc.
 - Culture – Beliefs, attitudes
- Steve Baker commented that we usually outperform our colleagues. - PSAT scores.
- Jordan Patty, PTO President suggested PSAT scores be included in the metrics.

6:26 PM Marketing & Communications Report – Hank Boyd thanked the team for their hard work. Showed new CPA videos -Grad ceremony and Grade 8 Promotion– YouTube Channel

6:34 PM Executive Director’s Report – Sandy Abu-Arja

- Charter renewal process – Letter of intent given in June.
- Full renewal application to be submitted Oct 7th
- PGCPS Board of Ed will make a Decision on Charter Renewal in June.
- Renewal is every 5 years – Opportunity for site visit to verify CPA’s plans- Renewal plan is positioned very well.
- Blueprint for MD’s Future – very complex- navigating the uncertainty of funding- PGC gave budget, and we were 4% less than SY 24 – Communicating with key stakeholders to stay within the 2% withholding to stay in good standing financially.
- PGC gave us same per pupil allocation as we had last year – SY 24

6:40 Principals’ Report – Steve Baker gave updates.

- Enrollment – Student enrollment dropped in 8th graders leaving for sports programs we cannot offer – withdrawals to 9th grade are athlete exits. We have been consistent in number of students enrolled in specialty programs.
 - Enrollment update- 683 students -slightly overenrolled (2 students leaving)
 - 55.8% total of catchment area includes sibling preference. – School is at capacity.
- Staffing update – New teachers – Ms. Coral – new career counselor -Question about her full-time status.
- Program Coordinator vacant -specific for UMD
- Math 7th vacant – recommendation for hire made by Steve. - waiting on HR response.
- MCAP DATA report – Steve explained scores and why Math 2.0 is so focused.
- AP Scores Summary – High School – offering and how students are scoring on tests - # of students taking tests
- Summer learning programs recap – 2-month program – students moving from below grade to on grade. - Data review is happening now. – Participation was high 72.8% and up
- Summer science program – 46 students participated in grade 8
- CPA Plus – before and after school programs – clubs/activities/sports – a lot of participation.
- Athletics – Why all games are away per Hank from a parent - CPA does not have the space
- Awards/Accolades –
 - 15 AP scholars
 - 4 of 5 Stars from MD Board of Ed.
 - #47 of 141 Charter schools nationally – Per Washington Post Poll - Rigor & access
 - Ranked in top 10% of schools in US – (#1691 of 18,000)
 - #1 HS in PGC – Tied for #1 Grad rate in MD
 - #2 Charter School in MD
 - #30 high school in MD
- Asterisk – Math Game on – Definition provided by Erica –
- Math Club is an extracurricular opportunity for students to learn new skills and develop socially in a fun and supportive environment playing tabletop board games. The club focuses on classic strategy games alongside new, innovative games that promote game-based mathematical learning. We do not play computer games, rather we focus on collaborative or competitive games being played in-person. Through games, students explore logical thinking, strategic planning, and conflict resolution creatively. We aim to increase student procedural fluency and promote positive mathematical dispositions. Improving fluency and dispositions will allow for more students to be successful in mathematics and to remove barriers to STEM related fields. Broadening the notion of who can be successful in mathematics, will allow for a more diverse pool of future STEM majors.

2024- 9 Students received Biliteracy Award

7:19 PM PTO Report - Jordan Patty, President

- Welcome Back Breakfast for teachers and staff
- Ongoing membership drive – Carline – Back to school nights – registered 59 families so far.
- Meetings will be first Tuesday of each month beginning next week
- No meeting in December – Virtual meetings bring better attendance. Families that live farther away benefit from them.
- Fundraisers – restaurants – try to find other places in other parts of the county.
- Google form set up to use this year. – to find out what kind of assistance they are looking for. – info into a spreadsheet to figure out what people's needs are better.

7:25 PM Announcements –

- Carolyn and Sandy Request for everyone to RSVP to Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Invite is in your inbox. – resend – email to board
- Jim recommended getting photos of each board member with Mural for their individual social media.

7:27 PM: Public Commentary

- Morning Drop off? – issue getting in and out – Officer for drop off is paid for traffic duty.
- Causing problems with Tardy Policy. -PGC Officers hired to help w/Traffic control

7:32 Public Meeting explanation of the Executive Session – by Rob

- Motion to adjourn to Executive Session. - Hank Motioned – Erica Seconded.
- All in favor – unanimous.