



# Annapolis Education Commission

## May Meeting Minutes

### DRAFT

The Annapolis Education Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting virtually on **Monday, May 4, 2020**. Chair Macris called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Macris, Griffin, Starkes, Vice Chair Collison-Lee, Golder, Pachler, Norman, Ellis, Finlayson, Booth, Vice Chair Collison-Lee

**Commissioners Absent:** Cortez

**AACPS Staff Present:** Jolyn Davis, Bob Mosier

**City of Annapolis Staff Present:** William Rowel

**Guest Present:**

- I. **Approval of March Minutes**
  - a. Motion to approve the March 2020 minutes as distributed
    - i. Motion carried unanimously, minutes are approved as distributed
  
- II. **AACPS Staff Update**
  - a. Distributed about 10,000 chromebooks to students
    - i. Mass distribution is completed so additional devices will be handled on a case by case basis at the school level
    - ii. Any families that have expressed need for a chromebook have been contacted multiple times to pick up the device
      1. Using bilingual facilitators, and many methods of contact
    - iii. Families have been respectful and grateful regarding one chromebook per family policy
    - iv. There are not enough chromebooks for 1-1 for every student
    - v. Technology team has done an amazing job outfitting chromebooks to be used outside the school building
    - vi. Well over 2,000 chromebooks given out in the cluster
  - b. Distributed 700 laptops to teachers and staff
  - c. As of last Monday, 3,525 students countywide had not logged on to Google Classroom
    - i. Not the same as # of students lacking chromebooks
  - d. Number of Annapolis cluster students not logged on to Google Classroom down from 1,045 two weeks ago to 460 today

- e. Current hurdle is getting students to complete assignments, not necessarily getting technology access
- f. Contact school principals if you would like school specific access information
  - i. Numbers are mostly proportionate with school enrollment
  - ii. Middle school numbers are low
- g. New Family Information Line: (410) 222-5001
  - i. If parents need help with Parent Portal they can call this number
- h. Mobile Hotspots: best way for private organizations to help out
- i. Food Distribution
  - i. Approaching 900,000 meals served
  - ii. Eastport is moving from feeding 25 to 50 students per day
  - iii. Worked with city to add circulator bus to Bates MS
  - iv. Eastport and Stanton Center were denied as AACPS food distribution sites because they are already MD Food Bank distribution sites
  - v. AACPS has not been told that only HACA students can access food distribution
    - 1. Ald. Finlayson shared that they are not turning anyone away
- j. Grading regulation
  - i. Dr. Arlotto wanted to change the regulation and the Board did not support change to pass/fail
  - ii. Board voted to allow students in HS-level courses to have choice of letter grade or pass/fail
    - 1. Grading software cannot do automatic changes to grade type, this is a manual process done by teachers
  - iii. Three options:
    - 1. Do what Board approved-offer the choice
      - a. Costs about \$330,000 mainly for customized application for parents to provide consent
      - b. Manual work by teachers
      - c. Teachers/schools must work with parents to get logged into Parent Portal
    - 2. Automatic choice
      - a. If grade helps GPA, it will automatically be assigned as a letter grade
      - b. Ends up with some students having a combination of letter grades and pass/fail
    - 3. Fourth marking period can help but not hurt third marking period
      - a. Everyone ends up with a letter grade
- k. Interventionists and special educators are still working and holding small groups and individual sessions
  - i. Students with IEP will have a new plan that addresses what services will specifically look like during this time
  - ii. All online textbooks have a read aloud feature
- l. Key words: grace, equity, patience and flexibility
- m. One graded assignment per week per course
  - i. While no “redo” policy, teachers are building in supports such as flexibility with deadlines

- ii. It's not too late for students to participate and complete assignments
- n. Dr. Gillin's Office of Equity is mainly addressing internet connection issue
  - i. Idea to put wifi on a bus and park it in the neighborhood
  - ii. May be possible to put a hotspot on the bus currently driving through the neighborhoods
- o. School principals are leading initiatives to distribute additional items
  - i. Please thank principals for leading this work
- p. Student member Golder asked about how grading options will be reflected to university admissions offices
  - i. Universities will be understanding of this semester understanding the situation
  - ii. Transcript combo of pass/fail and letter grades may be confusing and interpreted a certain way by admissions offices

### III. Student/Teacher Perspective

- a. Student member Kayla Golder
  - i. This situation came on very abruptly and the Board and teachers had to work quickly
  - ii. One assignment per week per class
    - 1. Waking up early to knock out the work has been helpful
  - iii. Best advice to students is to reach out to teachers
    - 1. AHS teachers have responded very quickly and are doing a great job of adapting
  - iv. Adaptations for some students such as no time limits for testing
  - v. Question: if there was one challenge that you had, what was it?
    - 1. Challenge with one teacher getting set up in Google Classroom
  - vi. Question: how are your peers doing if they don't have the same parental support and involvement?
    - 1. Kayla's peers have done most of the work themselves
    - 2. Parents are sent a list of missed assignments in Google Classroom
    - 3. Concern from students that pass/fail means they can stop doing the work
    - 4. Kim Golder shared that she is unsure about how she receives the weekly reports, but it may have been a form from back to school night
    - 5. Some teachers will email parents if there are missing assignments
    - 6. Laura Booth shared that parents can opt in to the classroom code to get daily or weekly summaries
  - vii. Question: are all AP students connected in Google Classroom?
    - 1. Kayla's understanding is that they are
    - 2. Teachers host live chats each day
    - 3. AP students are required to be logged in at certain times but they are not provided 1-1 devices

- viii. Question: Kenneth Starkes has a caseload of ten students but has concerns about honesty from students when they are asked about their work
  - 1. Kayla's advice is to start with the easier classes early in the week
- ix. Question: how do classmates feel about the grading options before the Board
  - 1. Kayla's classmates are concerned about performance on SATs but want to be able to rely on a letter grade for Algebra 2 to demonstrate mastery of content
  - 2. Scholarship money may be affected – especially for Juniors, when colleges are waiving the SAT
- b. Teacher perspective from Vice Chair Collison-Lee
  - i. Two teachers had not already been using Google Classroom so there was an additional adjustment period
  - ii. Teachers have children themselves so they are balancing their workloads with overseeing their own children's work
  - iii. Teachers were required to report on students they hadn't heard from in the first two weeks
    - 1. Counselor and PPW would work together to figure out why the student wasn't communicating
- c. Teacher perspective from Jess Pachler
  - i. Elementary school teachers mainly raised concerns about technology access and devices
  - ii. All devices are not compatible - iPads are not useful for teachers
  - iii. Students will log on but then will disappear
  - iv. Fifth grade teacher is doing Google Meets all day long which keeps students engaged because they want to see each other

#### **IV. Discussion: Equity and Food Distribution**

- a. Odessa Ellis shared that food bank distributions seem to be more Hispanic/Latino families than African-American families
  - i. Possibly transportation issues
  - ii. Food stamps and stimulus checks may be helping African-American families get the food they need
  - iii. HACA distribution sites are not as utilized
- b. Kayla Golder shared that some students are riding their bikes if they don't have transportation and are grateful to get any food
  - i. Some students receive FARMS but their families can still afford to put food on the table without picking up from meal distribution sites
- c. Jess Pachler shared that at Eastport Elementary there are at most 80 students picking up meals out of 240 students receiving FARMS
  - i. Majority of families that come are in cars and majority are Hispanic
  - ii. Received info that HACA distribution sites are for families living in HACA only
    - 1. If this is not true, we need to spread the word to all families
  - iii. Restriction that children must be present to pick up meals hinders pick up

1. This restriction was waived in Montgomery County and should be waived here
  - a. This is a waiver from MSDE and USDA
- d. Mr. Starkes agreed with issues around needing students to be present to pick up meals
  - i. As the situation goes on longer, families that can afford to put food on the table may not be able to
- e. Ald. Finlayson shared that Annapolis Office of Emergency Management is planning additional food pickups in other locations

## V. Open Discussion

- a. BoE vote on grading policy
  - i. Janet Norman shared the concern around whether these options were vetted with university admissions offices
  - ii. Chair Macris suggested that members that feel strongly about this issue reach out to BoE member Bob Leib
- b. BoE student member voting
  - i. Janet Norman shared the process for student member being elected
  - ii. Concern about equal representation for Annapolis High School
  - iii. Janet Norman moved to recalculate the number of voting delegates per school to make it more fair to Annapolis High and other large schools, rather than having a small school have two times the voting power per student as the Annapolis Cluster, based on the attachment
    1. Jess Pachler seconded
    2. Ald. Finlayson called a question
      - a. Motion to continue discussion passed 6-3
    3. Discussion: for AHS, one delegate vote equals 105 students whereas Chesapeake Science Point has 45 students per delegate
    4. CRASC is usually in charge of determining this process
    5. AACPS does the apportionment of delegates
  - iv. Laura Booth proposed an amendment to recommend that **the number of delegate votes for the student member of the Board of Education be proportional to the size of the student population at each school.**
    1. Janet accepted the motion
    2. Motion carried 4-2

## VI. Adjournment

- a. Vice Chair Collison-Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.

The next meeting of the Annapolis Education Commission will be a virtual meeting on **Monday, June 1, 2020 at 6:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Brianna Griffin, Secretary

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