

**Board of Education
Superintendent's Report
December 11, 2018**

Good afternoon. Earlier this month, the Maryland Center for School Safety awarded Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) a \$374,567 grant that will allow us to expand health services for students, implement student identification badges, broaden our delivery of restorative practice, purchase additional school bus cameras, provide more professional development and enhance our alert system. We appreciate the efforts of Director of Safety and Security, Jason Stoddard, for his work on this grant. Later today, we will highlight additional grants that we receive and how we use that grant funding.

Also on the agenda today is a presentation on discipline. Student discipline is a concern statewide. Last week at our superintendent's meeting, State Superintendent, Dr. Salmon, announced the creation of a Discipline Task Force which will report to the State Board of Education in May. Here in Charles County, we have implemented several new programs over the past few years to address student behavior, and you will hear about some of them today.

Later today we will say farewell to four Board members who have been a part of our CCPS family. Thank you for your four years of service to Charles County Public Schools. Four years is a long time when you think about it. It is enough time for students to enter and graduate from high school. It's longer than the time students attend middle school. It's just enough time, though, to make a huge difference for students and our school system.

If you think about the enormity of the decisions you have made over the past four years, it is significant. This Board has tackled a comprehensive elementary school zoning change. You approved a site for a new elementary school and then you approved, planned, delayed and then named a new elementary school which will be complete about the same time you leave office. You served during a time when the school system rebuilt what we now call the transition school, and watched as the staff and students of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School relocated to the temporary school. You oversaw the opening of the Col. Donald M. Wade Aquatic Center and placed a moratorium on Milton M. Somers Middle School's new enrollment to manage growth.

Along the way, you also raised academic and professional standards, raised the bar for participation in extracurricular activities and pushed for alternative ways to handle discipline.

And, that's just the beginning of a list too long to recite today.

Individually, each of you has provided unique talents and perspectives. You have given the students and staff the ultimate gift of your time, dedication and best thinking, and you have made a difference.

Mrs. Abell, Mr. Lukas and Mrs. McGraw — we look forward to the next four years. We are happy to see you serve another term and to have experienced Board members here to offer history, perspective and continuity as we welcome four new members.

Mr. Crawford ... Thank you for your service, and thank you for the never ending respect you always show to students and staff. You are the first to compliment an employee and the first to recognize a job well done. You have compassion for everyone – from our youngest student to our oldest employee. We thank you for caring and always making it a priority to encourage our new teachers. Thank you again for your service to the children of Charles County.

Mrs. Kelly ... You have done a lot to remind the community of the importance of parental involvement and the impact of volunteers in our schools. We have a number of new programs that directly reflect your efforts. Two programs — the Be the Difference award for volunteers and the Parent Shadowing program for middle school — come to mind. You have been stalwart in your efforts to monitor student populations and overcrowding in our schools. Thank you for your service to the children of Charles County. I know you are vested in Charles County Public Schools and we look forward to your continued involvement through Parent Teacher organizations and volunteer work.

Mrs. Marshall ... You always looked out for the children, insisted on a strong mentoring program for teachers and showed support for including the fine arts in the Board's goals. Because of your efforts, our mentoring program has increased in size and importance and plans for the Maurice J. McDonough High School renovation includes opportunities for expansion of the CCPS fine arts programs. Your down-to-earth approach to issues has been refreshing. Your family has dedicated many years to Charles County Public Schools, and we thank you for all you have done as a teacher, teacher mentor and Board member. Thank you for your service to the children of Charles County.

And, finally, Mrs. Palko. ... You leave a legacy of a lifetime of service to Charles County Public Schools, first as a teacher and administrator and for the past four years as a Board member, vice chairman and now chairman. You have left your imprint on our career and technology education program, especially our Teacher Academy of Maryland. When we have students return to teach, we will remember the passion in which you pushed to make the program better and our outreach stronger. You always made time to recognize students, attending hundreds of events and making sure both students and staff know that they had Board support. You have been a strong leader, and we will miss you. Thank you for your service to the children of Charles County.

To our new Board I say welcome. This Board has set high expectations for you to follow. We look forward to working with you over the next four years.

As always, thank you for your support of teaching and learning.