

Charles County Public Schools  
Parent Advisory Committee Meeting  
April 20, 2017



Notes

**Meeting Location: Staff Development Room**

*Use the elevator to the left of the receptionist area to access basement.*

**Agenda**

**Welcome**

*Linda Gill, Executive Director of Schools*

*Marvin Jones, Executive Director of Schools*

**Superintendent's Message**

*Dr. Kimberly A. Hill, Superintendent of Schools*

**Questions and Answers from Jan. 24 Meeting**

*Line Up*

**Grading and Retention Policy for Middle Schools**

**Closing and Exit Slip**


**Reminders:**


- The public hearing to consider the requested Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budgets is scheduled for May 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the county government building auditorium.
- Parent Advisory Committee meeting dates will be published in the 2017/2018 Parent Handbook Calendar.


*As the last PAC meeting for 2016/2017 comes to a close, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your continued support. Your contribution to the school system is important and matters. Together we make a difference for the students of Charles County Public Schools. Have a great summer!*

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting, April 20, 2017

Charles County Public Schools Programs, Clubs, and Initiatives

	
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## Charles County Public Schools

### **Policy #5131 Promotion and Retention**

The Superintendent of Schools shall establish rules and procedures governing the promotion or retention of students in Charles County Public Schools. The promotion or retention of a student must be consistent with system rules and regulations and be in the best interest of his/her overall development.

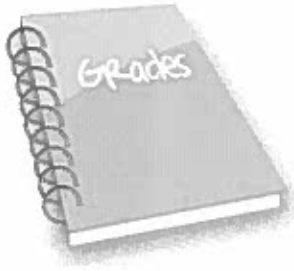
*Section 7-205 of the Annotated Code of Maryland*

### **Rule #5131.32 Promotion and Retention: Middle School**

In order for a sixth, seventh, or eighth grader to be promoted, the student must:

1. Pass Language Arts/Reading; and
2. Pass Mathematics; and
3. Meet one of the following:
  - (a) Pass Science and Social Studies and at least one Related Arts course; or
  - (b) Pass Science and at least two Related Arts classes; or
  - (c) Pass Social Studies and at least two Related Arts classes.

Students failing a required core subject during the school year may attend summer school to achieve a passing grade.



## Discussion Questions

1. Does the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) middle school Promotion and Retention Rule #5131.32 reflect what you believe about teaching and motivating all students to learn?
2. Does letting a student sink teach him/her to swim?
3. Is the current grading scale where an F = 59% - 0% supportive of learning for all students? Would you be supportive of the following scale?
  - A = 90% - 100%
  - B = 80% - 89%
  - C = 70% - 79%
  - D = 60% - 69%
  - F = 59% - 50%
4. What one change would reduce student failure rates?
5. How can grading practices be improved?

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting – January 24, 2017  
Questions, Comments, and Answers

*(The questions/statements replicate the author's words to maintain authenticity of the text.)*

**1. Keep 1<sup>st</sup> year teachers long term.**

We invest a lot of resources into training new teachers. It is our goal to retain effective teachers.

**2. Why so much money for buses?**

A bus costs about \$100,000 to purchase from the manufacturer. A school bus in Maryland can only be used for 15 years before it is replaced. In addition to the cost of the bus, Charles County Public Schools pays for diesel fuel, bus maintenance, driver training, and drivers' salaries. CCPS also contributes towards employee benefits for drivers who access them.

**3. Better early recruitment of teachers, so not 20-40 spots open week before school starts.**

We have transformed our recruitment process this year to better attract top teaching candidates as early as possible. We have already signed contracts with teachers for next year. We will be hosting a comprehensive job fair on May 5.

**4. It remains unclear how teachers will use the May data to inform instruction for students who have moved on.**

PARCC data is attached to individual students. For example, a fifth grade teacher would not use the PARCC scores to adjust instruction for those same students. The fifth grade teacher would be able to analyze that data, reflect on how they taught and what they taught to improve their instruction for the next year's class. That teacher could find a more effective way to teach a specific math standard or spend more time on a reading standard. Additionally, your child's sixth grade teacher can analyze the fifth grade PARCC scores for their new class and adjust instruction based on those scores.

**5. Parents must better understand what this looks like to maintain confidence in the test; how are students with IEPs supported?**

Special Education students are supported via the accommodations listed in their IEPs. Teachers are good about ensuring that those accommodations are consistently applied and available as per their access during daily instruction.

**6. How are teachers trained to breakdown the data into actionable steps?**

Principals are responsible for leading their school teams through the analysis of student data and taking appropriate, focused action. Principals work with their administrative teams and instructional leadership teams to make data-based decisions. We implement extensive training for principals on analyzing their data as well as offer to work with their school teams.

**7. How to implement more practice for PARCC (2<sup>nd</sup> graders)?**

We are working with principals, vice principals, and instructional leadership teams to help them integrate the rigor of PARCC assessments into daily instruction. This effort must be reinforced by classroom teachers.

**18. The afterschool buses are needed, when will it come back?**

Funding for afterschool buses was eliminated due to budget constraints in FY 2015.

Eliminated (to support the operations of St. Charles High School (Phase II).)

**19. When will the 25 or more student classes receive an IA?**

Our Staffing Committee reviews all requests for additional staff. There is no particular threshold for adding staff to a classroom.

**20. Can we get a copy of the feedback that we gave you at the first PAC meetings minutes?**

No minutes were taken at the first PAC meeting. We have suggestions from participants about topics you would like to explore and are using them to plan future PAC meetings. Please feel free to share the agendas and your discussion notes with your stakeholders.

**21. Can we find out what you actually end up doing about the budget?**

Our finalized budgets are posted online at <https://www.ccboe.com/aboutus/boe/budget.php>.

**22. Why is the need for speech so great? Is this an area we are severely lacking in?**

We must provide services based on student need. Currently a large group of students require speech and language therapy.

**23. We discussed how we are the #1 in growth of Special Ed because we have a great reputation and this number is because of move-ins. If our budget doesn't get approved, will it have a negative effect on our programs as we become overwhelmed?**

Yes. Our proposed budget was planned to accommodate the needs of our growing special education budget.

**24. How does a student qualify for bus service?**

Transportation is provided to elementary and middle school students residing more than one mile from their school and to high school students residing more than one-and-one half miles from their schools.

Some students have special needs that require specialized transportation, such as a wheelchair lift or additional supervision. Transportation is discussed as a part of the IEP meeting or 504 meeting to determine if specialized transportation is necessary. The child's IEP team or 504 team makes that decision.

**25. What other methods are being used to retain teachers if salaries cannot be increased?**

There are many other ways to support our teachers although salaries are important to them. Supporting teachers with college reimbursement, stellar professional development, mentoring and technology are just a few examples of the support we offer.

# Parent Advisory Committee

## 3, 2, 1 - EXIT

School Represented: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

April 20, 2017



Three things you learned.



Two questions you still have.



One fact you knew already.

Additional Comments:

## Public Hearing

**FY18 Operating Budgets**  
**Charles County Government Building Auditorium**  
**May 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**



Speakers must sign-in prior to the hearing.

Call 301-645-5070 with questions regarding the hearing and its agenda.

For potential schedule changes, monitor the county government website.  
[www.charlescountymd.gov](http://www.charlescountymd.gov)

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