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March 2019



The



Advocate

President's Message >>>



Several thousand MSEA members and community partners are preparing their signs and red apparel for our biggest opportunity in a decade to advocate for public education in Maryland!

March Comes In Like a Lion

MSEA Members Roar into Annapolis!

Having waited over a decade since the Thornton Funding was passed, we are ready to unite our voices as a series of major legislation is presented that can substantially impact public education in Maryland.

Last month, I began to share a few of the legislative priorities MSEA is addressing this year. However, there were and are so many more than can be addressed in a single issue. As I continue on this topic, the hope is that this knowledge moves you to action.

Even though the Kirwan Commission isn't finished yet, there is no time to waste in advocating for the funding that will be necessary to implement the positive improvements for public education.

The Kirwan Commission has determined that the cost of implementation is near the \$3.4 billion mark. Since the recommendations of the commission are scheduled to go into effect in 2021, it is crucial that the General Assembly make decisions now to begin funding them.

With this in mind, we are asking the current legislature to set aside \$750 million this year and earmark it towards the full implementation of these recommendations in 2021. Lack of planning for adequate funding led to the failure of the 2002

**“Unite
Our
Voices”**

Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002, commonly referred to as Thornton. This money will be used to increase educator pay, increase staffing, expand and fund Pre-K and more.

So, come add your voice and presence in support. I hope to see you on the bus! In solidarity and service,

Kim

Kimberly Sloane
ACEA President

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School Readiness Fair



On Saturday, March 2, hundreds of area children and their parents attended the annual School Readiness Fair at the Country Club Mall. This event is organized by Deb Kolb, ACEA member and Coordinator of the Judy Center of ACPS. A variety of community organizations offered information and resources to parents and children with the goal of providing opportunities for our area youngsters to be prepared and successful in school. As this date coincides with the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the Cat in the Hat was there to greet the children. Taking over the role this year, was another ACEA member, David Buskirk. Many other ACEA members also volunteered to help make this event a success.



Several ACEA Officers, Board of Directors, and Delegates took an opportunity at the MSEA Convention to be the first to get on the bus. A few seats are still available. Call to reserve a.s.a.p.!

Next stop...Annapolis!



ACEA Calendar >>>

MARCH 11 – March for Our Schools! in Annapolis

March 12 – BOE Meeting - 6:00 p.m. – TBD

March 14 – ESP of the Year Selection Committee Meets

March 18 – ACEA Board of Directors and Representative Assembly- 4 p.m.

March 18 – ACPS Teacher of the Year Banquet at Allegany Museum

March 25-29 – Voting window open for ACEA Elections

March 26 - BOE Meeting – 6 p.m. – TBD

ACEA Elections March 25-29, 2019

ACEA has seven regional representatives and four at-large representatives that are elected to serve two-year terms as members of the Board of Directors in years ending in odd numbers. Ballots will be distributed in each school by your school representative, and must be returned to ACEA by 5 p.m. March 29, 2019.