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Allegany County Education Association

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*OUR WEBSITE IS UNDER RECONSTRUCTION: While it is temporarily down, please find us at our old website: <http://www.actamsea.org>

September 2019



The



Advocate

President's Message >>>

Unit 1

Austin Brinsfield	WS
Lindsay Burns	SP
Tiffany Buskirk	JD
Rebecca Carter	FS
Rebecca Hill	SP
Kayla Hutson	FO
Krystal Knotts	SP
Emily Lease	SP
Brandon Reed	AL
Nicholas Trifiro	VT
Kaitlyn Wharton	AL

Welcome new ACEA Members!

Unit 4

Andrea Cleveland	MR
Kari Johnson	XX
Melinda Kiddy	WM
Lindsay Martin	NE
Amber Thaxton	GC
Gina Thomas	BE
Lacy Twigg	FL
Treva Steiding	WT

New Beginnings

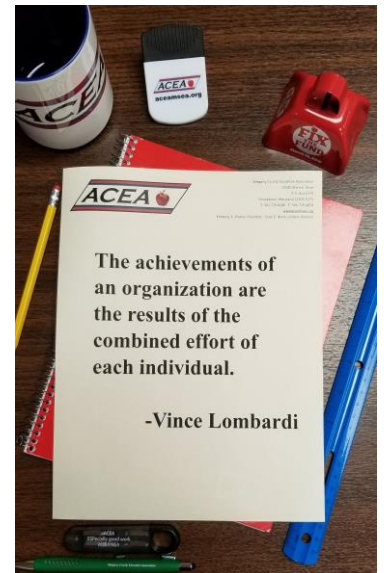
Leadership, Legislation and Labor

The season of change is neverending, and it is alive and active in Allegany County Public Schools this year, bringing with it the hope of improvements for all in public education.

As you are probably aware, ACPS has hired an Interim Superintendent, an Allegany County native, and who served as the former Human Resources Director, Mr. Jeffrey Blank. We welcome Mr. Blank who has indicated that he would like to improve collaboration and communication with the members of our association.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the legislation passed during the 2019 General Assembly, and for which ACEA and our MSEA colleagues across the state spent tireless hours advocating for it's passage, has also just begun. The significance of this comprehensive legislation must not be overlooked, as it is key to fully funding public education in Maryland. For this reason, MSEA and ACEA will be hosting a *Blueprint Community Forum* on Thursday, October 3 in LaVale. Additional details can be found on the opposite side of this newsletter.

As we pause to celebrate Labor Day, may we not forget that such a day was won through the efforts of thousands of our union predecessors. We are part of this legacy and are charged to continue to be diligent for our students, profession, and public education. There are many opportunities to get more involved with ACEA, such as joining your building representative team, or serving on



various committees, where you would help generate and direct the initiatives for our association. Together we can make a difference. In solidarity and service,

Kim

ACEA President

ksloane@mseanea.org



ACEA Blueprint Forum- Maximizing the Blueprint

- SPEAK UP FOR FUNDING AND POLICIES YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS DESERVE
- JOIN THE BLUEPRINT COMMUNITY FORUM ON OCTOBER 3, 2019 AT 6:30PM AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LAVALE

GETTING THE BLUEPRINT RIGHT

ACEA and MSEA members won big in the 2019 General Assembly Session by passing the first three years of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Blueprint added \$1.1 billion in new funding for improved salaries, staffing, and new student programs. *Now it's time to update the state funding formula to fully implement the Blueprint over the next decade to make sure that every school is adequately funded.* Everything related to public education in Maryland will be affected by the next phases of the Blueprint.

WHAT THE BLUEPRINT MEANS FOR YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS

- Educator Salary Increases
- Increased Special Education Staffing
- Increased Mental Health Staffing
- Funds for Schools with High Concentrations of Poverty

DON'T MISS ACEA'S BLUEPRINT COMMUNITY FORUM

Where: Christ Lutheran Church in LaVale
 When: Thursday, October 3rd @ 6:30pm
 Who: Anyone who cares about public education!
 Why: To learn about the Blueprint and to have your voice heard!

WHAT DO YOU WANT THE BLUEPRINT TO DO FOR YOU, YOUR STUDENTS AND OUR SCHOOLS? COME TO ACEA'S BLUEPRINT COMMUNITY FORUM AND BE HEARD!

ACEA Calendar >>>

- September 2 – Labor Day
- September 10 – BOE Meeting 6 p.m.
- September 11 – ACEA Board of Directors 4 p.m.
- September 16 - ACEA Representative Assembly 4 p.m.
- September 23 – MSEA Joint Governance Meeting
- September 4-13 – Ten Minute Meetings held at workplace locations: Be sure to check with your building representative or bulletin board for the date and time of yours, and plan to attend.

SAVE THE DATE! October 3 – MSEA Blueprint Community Forum



Happy Labor Day!

Check out this link for the history and importance of Labor Day:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewu-v36szlE>

Sick Leave Bank Sign-Up Opportunity

The Sick Leave Bank was established through contract negotiations in 1999. The purpose was to create a bank of sick days for severe medical hardship such as catastrophic illness or serious accident that has depleted all accumulated sick leave and vacation days where applicable. To join the SLB, you would be required to donate *two sick leave days* to the bank, and complete the Sick Leave Bank Sign-up Form. The form can be found and downloaded from our website. Once completed, you must return it to the ACEA to arrive no later than Friday, September 20.

*The calendars are coming!
 The calendars are coming!*

*Have no fear, as soon as they are ready, we will get them out to you. Once you get them (because we know you love your calendars), please take a picture of you and your colleagues with them and post it with a special thank you to the **Act 1st FCU Facebook** page for their gracious support of our calendar project! Also give a shout out to **ACEA Member Michael Shockey, Graphic Design Educator at CTE**, for his awesome work on the calendar!*