



# Greater Severna Park Council

Delegation Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2019

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*\*Delegation meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month\**

President Maureen Carr York opened the GSPC Delegation meeting at 7:36 p.m., a quorum being present.

## Special Guests

Elizabeth Rosborg, Arnold Preservation Council

Reece Peak, County Executive's Office

Zach Sparks, SP and Pasadena Voice Editor

Amanda Fiedler, County Councilwoman

Pat Lynch, Broadneck Council of Communities (BCC)

## Secretary's Report (Holly Slack)

Motion to approve as corrected made by delegate and seconded. Motion adopted.

## Treasurer's Report (Steve Poland)

Checking account: \$5,538.23

## President's Report (Maureen Carr York)

Working ahead to get all communities registered early for 2020 membership.

## Guest Speaker: Dr. George Arlotto, Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools

- 6 years as Superintendent.
- AACPS is continuing to grow. We have added over 550 students and looking at over 1500 more.
- There are 84k students, which makes us the 38th largest school system in the country. It's a good thing that people are moving into the area, coming from private schools, and moving from home schooling. The challenges are in daily operation and capital side.
- Instruction focus is to have students reading well by the end of 3rd grade. They began to focus on K-2 a few years ago when 25% of students in 3rd grade going to 4th grade were

not on the national benchmark level. This is now cut in half to 12%, which is good, but not great.

- Middle School math: Students that are not succeeding in math at this level. There are students that do well in elementary, drop off in middle school, and then back up in high school. Now middle school is more collaborative.
- 9th grade completion: A key marker is moving students successfully from 9th to 10th grade. They are identifying feeder schools where students have not been unsuccessful and creating programs.
- Data: Created very different website to dig into data by school or content. They are updating data to make user-friendly and have more access to information.
- Creating opportunities where students could be interested, such as sports or robotics, and focus on delivery and instruction.
- Building magnet programs which was a 10-year build. STEM, IB program, health program. This includes high schools and feeder middle schools such as PVA, STEM, and IB. There is a waitlist in every one of those programs and challenges to create transportation. There is a lottery system for those programs as well as 2 charter schools and 2 contract schools. The difference is a charter school where there are attendance boundaries and anyone can apply. Contract schools have an attendance boundary defined by BOE that currently feeds from Annapolis elementary schools. Creating programming including signature programs. SPSHS has a business innovation and leadership and a Business Advisory Council. Each high school has a signature program.
- Budget is 1.2 billion dollars. This was a wonderful budget year and most of it will probably go to salaries and compensation for employees.
- Capital projects tend to move very well. Building Crofton High School and next is Old Mill. Meade High School will be next. Old Mill complex will be 2 different schools: Papa John's will be called Old Mill West for now. Relocating Center for Applied Technology to Old Mill.
- Meade project moving a little slowly. 100 million is coming from federal government towards project. He went to the first meeting in Aug of 2014 but still meeting with personnel and federal government to approve various aspects. Meade is an odd design not conducive to a high school. Originally designed as an open space high school.

*We have heard there was talk about Broadneck redistricting. What about Severna Park? (Paul Spadaro, Magothy River Association)*

Dr. Arlotto: No. We are redistricting Broadneck elementary schools and getting recommendations from the committee tomorrow. We will get into possibly redistricting parts of Severna Park when doing Old Mill West. It will not have an attendance boundary for a school that has not broken ground yet. Key concerns are what schools are overcrowded at that time. North County and Glen Burnie are overcrowded and have high enrollment, so will be looking

closely at those areas. We are considering what schools are overcrowded now and moving students with a purpose. Using new construction to alleviate in overcrowding.

*You are buying land to have new schools built. There are 40 acres of land needed for new high schools and a little less for elementary and middle schools. We need to be considering that. Very few are open now. How does the school system work with county to acquire land to build the schools? (Elizabeth Rosborg, APC and CAC)*

Dr. Arlotto: We do not buy land. The county buys land on our behalf. A few years ago the County Exec started a piggy bank to acquire land. Not sure how much money is there, but working closely with land acquisition team for county. They have all demographics and know the open and closed school list. We are working with developers to find property. Papa Johns was purchased by the county and once broken ground, they will deed it to the school system. We know where we are growing and bursting at the seams. We need to find space to open schools. Under purview of Rec and Parks-- southgate park is owned by county but new Old mill middle school will go there.

*To be involved in a redistricting committee, how do you get selected? (Pat Rogers, Mitisba Drive)*

Dr. Arlotto: Redistricting committees are current parents of students that go to the schools that could be impacted. There has to be 2 active parents at each of those schools that make up the committee. The larger the boundary, the more that make up the committee. The PTO will work with the principal who meets with leadership and tells them to select people. Anyone can still contribute and attend public meetings. If not selected, parents cannot vote, but can voice opinion at committee meetings and at school board meetings that will have public hearings on the redistricting. There may be from Broadneck next week but the school board will not make a decision until April.

*What is the criteria for redistricting? (Pat Lynch, BCC)*

Dr. Arlotto: It is done on a cyclical basis based on need because of overcrowding or new school without attendance boundary.

*Why aren't they spreading out? (Michele Perrera, Colchester, Oak Hill parent)*

Dr. Arlotto: Yes, Oak Hill is getting bigger. We have no control over development. Unchecked development can have a real negative impact on schools. If it gets to that point, we may have to move students. Benfield has empty classrooms and are under-enrolled. If Oak Hill gets to a point, we may move students.

*There is currently a need for highly skilled tradesman. What is that relationship with the high school? (John Norville)*

Dr. Arlotto: There are 2 technical centers, CAT North and CAT South. 12 comprehensive high schools from SPHS up go to CAT South and CAT North of SP. Students spend a half day at school and then bused to CAT for the technical program. They have automotive and collisions repair. All are diploma bound and walk away with certificate in things like oracle database management or carpentry. There is a Skill USA competition in Louisville, Kentucky. Our students are well-known and often win gold medals. CTE programs back into high schools. There are labs for teaching oracles and hoping to have more access to those programs. CAT programs are full and have waiting lists. They have partnerships with local businesses. Cummings engine donated a full cab and drove in the latest diesel cab.

*How will you handle the mandate of the Kirwan commission pre-k mandate if we do not have room for it? (Brad Myers, GSPC Vice-President)*

Dr. Arlotto: 100% right. In 2007 the state mandated to provide students all day kindergarten. Operating budget included educating kindergartners, but no additional money on capital side to build the additional classrooms, so they had to add space with portables. We are still adding wings to schools for kindergarten. All superintendents believe that Kirwan commission is coming to a place with funding formula for pre-k. They currently have some that schools that have pre-k but we pay for it ourselves. As that develops, we are hoping there will be capital money to add space. There is a plan for a 10 year roll out. We are not required to add any students in year 1, but we will use the money to supplement what we are already doing. Many pre-k students are still half day. May go back to portable business if added without capital. There is a brand new pre-k center with 60 pre-k kids. Maybe we will create centralized pre-k.

*If 4 year olds and certain 3 year olds are admitted to school system, what about transportation? Will parents want them getting on a bus? (Doug Nichols, GSPC Director)*

Dr. Arlotto: Nothing is final with the Kirwan commission. 3 year olds will probably be more about getting them head start money. Public schools will not take on 3 year olds, as there is definitely no room for that. Kirwan money is available for head start and local Ys that do 3 year olds. Transportation is always an issue and the tail that wags the dog. In order to receive Kirwan money, state will supply and ask county to match.

*Is there any plan for the school system to work with the county about redistricting and opening or closing schools? (Lisa Bender, Severn River Association)*

Dr. Arlotto: We work with the county government on the open and closed list that shows 90-95% capacity. If we open a school that has recently been closed, then we have problems.

*Is there any way to regulate how the Kirwan commission is enacted? 3 and 4 yr olds learn very differently. How will you get all classrooms on the same page? (Lisa Bender, Severn River Association)*

Dr. Arlotto: 4 year old for pre-k. We write curriculum and have rewritten the elementary curriculum starting with kindergarten. It is now much more interactive and project-based, collaborative. Move, move, move. Science and social studies.

*The stadium has feedback reflections of sound in community. Are you aware of this? Will there be a fix? (Richard Newton, Erin Garth)*

Dr. Arlotto: Sorry we have not been able to come up with a solution. We are aware of it and communicated via email. Sound engineers have been out. If you have suggestions, please let know.

*Is Triple E coming to Severna Park? (Chris Myers, Parenting for Different World that sponsors a monthly talk on the second Thursday of the month at Community Center)*

Dr. Arlotto: The added Broadneck and Glen Burnie cluster in this school year, but there are still 4 clusters that do not have it that will include triple E. All about budget but it might be next year or the year after. It is a very exciting program. 3rd grade classroom has more opportunities to leave and engage in other cultural arts “Enhancing Elementary Excellence” is based on hands-on learning experience, and adds an hour of planning time for elementary teachers. Adding a 5th cultural art will give them more time to plan.

*Melissa Fagan, Bellemeade: Infrastructure needs--Oak Hill seems like a bandaid in terms of infrastructure needs. It is not a thought-out space. They are cutting into other spaces for after-school activities. With increased kindergarten and new homes, there is a need for more classrooms. Is there a way that as schools reach capacity, you go and make sure schools have capacity?*

Dr. Arlotto: We have over 30 schools built in open space. Chesapeake Middle and High school were closed in. Put in new mechanicals such as lighting and space. If air issues at Oak Hill, will look into it. HVAC is new but makeshift, not thought-out. One demographer out on the road, but as families move in that could be unchecked development, and sometimes schools just have to makeshift. Band or chorus might have to be on stage instead of classroom. State will not give us more money to construct schools. We have tried other things like redistricting and spreading students out to empty spaces. Somebody is going to be unhappy if moved from Oak Hill. Only decision he hates more than redistricting is closing for snow.

*Benfield is too dangerous for kids to be crossing. (Michele Perera, Colchester)*

Dr. Arlotto: Transportation is the tail that wags the dog. AA county has lots of dead ends into water which creates unique boundaries.

Planning and Zoning: (Amy Leahy)

- 61 W Earleigh Heights Rd near Taphouse at ranger station. Taking a lot and building a home on it. Hearing on Nov 26 here at 6pm.
- Another approval where they will build community beach house called “shed replacement”.
- Marsh Landing: no updates. Dec 3 and 10th hearing.
- Forest Conservation bill up for a vote.
- Sheridan assisted living?
- P&Z if they want to have an application to change your land use, due by Nov 15. Those applications will be reviewed by P&Z for compatibility and will come before CAC. This is not rezoning--it is a change in land use. Looking at Severndale property.
- Proposal for senior apartment building to be built Brightview rd. Shipley’s crossing will be impacted. Townhouse development that never took off. Space in middle was an attempt at rezoning, helped in opposing. Lost at administrative hearing and board of appeals. Approaching through tax credit programs for seniors of moderate means but can jump over hurdles of R2. Have obtained funding and have tax credits lined up. Trying to work with community and being very cooperative.
- Lisa: If okay for senior, will it be converted to allowing for others?
- Maureen: Now senior condominium on veterans is renting to families. This organization has a track record and keep and lease. Have said they will put in lease and documents to keep as senior. Using tax credits will lock them up.
- Vicky Neglia at Shipley’s Crossing: Communicating with Mr. Bonk and Charlie who has settled on date. Will be at clubhouse.

#### Amanda Fiedler, County Councilwoman

- Co-sponsoring resolution establishing reforestation and planting. Taking fee in lieu money, and citizens get trees for free to plant.
- 5g passed and will have to come check out.
- Evergreen painting: the state highway usually paints and is reliant on their contractors schedule. Traffic engineers are willing to send contractors to paint, but it is too cold to dry.

#### Education Committee (Holly Slack)

A HUGE thank you to Dylan Roche for speaking to Gr 3-5 at Oak Hill on Oct ... he received glowing reviews!

#### Police Community Relations Committee (Doug Nichols and Mary Vogelsang)

Bay Bridge construction and why they can allow going through lines. Tow trucks are within 45 min of bridge. Money controls where bridge is built.

Environmental Committee (Paul Spadaro and Lisa Bender)

- Next Wednesday, Jane Cox will be talking about the Magothy at the Berrywood clubhouse.
- There is no Severn River Association meeting this month.

Public Works (Erin O'Neill)

No report.

SPHS Neighbors Committee

No report besides presentation.

Airport Noise Committee (Linda Curry)

Report sent to delegation via email.

ASPIRE Report (Amy Leahy)

ASPIRE Leadership Award dinner will be in March. Consider who you may want to nominate.

County Government Report (Reece Peak)

Covered by Ms. Fiedler.

Nominating Committee (John Norville)

John thanked Maureen for reappointing him as Chair of the 2019 Nominating Committee. He then announced the reappointment of Jack Mason & Amy Leahy to the Nominating Committee to prepare the Slate of Candidates for the Election for the 2020 Officers & Directors. He then issued the 2nd of 3 Calls for Candidates. Most of the Incumbents have agreed to be Candidates for re-election, & he thanked them for their Service. He asked that anyone interested in being a Candidate for Officer or Director for a one-year term in 2020 contact himself, Amy, or Maureen. They should be able to attend most of the monthly Board Meetings held 4th Tuesdays at the Library at 7:15, most of the monthly Delegates Meetings, & be willing to serve or Chair a Committee as needed. There were no immediate volunteers, & he stated that such Calls for Candidates would be repeated in Nov. & Dec., & that the Annual Elections would be held in December.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Fiedler said the "tower" house on the Earleigh Heights connector is up and can not take it down, but now applicants are required to show height on site plans.

New Business

Paul Spadaro made a motion to support the Forest Conservation Law, Bill 68-19.

*Discussion: This Forest Bill is a step in the right direction. Amendments currently passed are sufficient enough to protect our forest areas. It will hopefully slow down destruction of forests but trying to encourage developers to put in revenue toward correcting. There were concerns early on because looked like it will rule out development in larger areas and drive it here. They have increased the fee in lieu by 125%. The largest violation for clearing would have been 40k but now it is 200k. Builders will be able to increase density by going up instead of out. Looking to try and strengthen codes bc that is where modifications will happen. It does not do much to protect Severna Park, since it is focused on large forest areas in other parts of the county.*

**Two opposed. Motion adopted.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.

Next Meeting Dates

General: 12/10/19 Severna Park Library at 7:30pm

Board of Directors: 12/9/19 TBD