

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

PRESENTATION ON THE OFFICE OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

April 25, 2022

Background Information:

The Office of Family and Community Partnership builds meaningful partnerships between schools, parents/caregivers, families, and community members, designed to enhance student achievement. Establishing a strong, equitable network of engaged parents/caregivers, and community members, helps students to succeed in school and in the community. The goal of this office is to connect families, school system staff, and community stakeholders in meaningful partnerships that will help increase student achievement and support wellbeing. “Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) parents are our students’ first and best teachers.”

Discussion:

HCPS Office of Family and Community Partnerships has worked to establish many outreach efforts to support engagement among parents and caregivers, and community members. The Parent Academy works with community partners and parenting experts to provide a series of workshops designed to engage HCPS parents/guardians as partners in their children's education, providing useful information and resources needed to help their children succeed in school, and in the community. The Parent Academy Real Talk video series, provides an opportunity for parents to hear about “hot topics” and learn how to support their children focusing on issues of concern for parents such as safety and security, cell phone use, stress management, and mental health. The Parent Academy Facebook page shares up-to-date information on topics of interest for parents. Parent and Community Engagement (PACE) liaisons have been established at each school to support parent/caregiver, family, and community engagement, a priority of school performance and progress. PACE staff work with PTAs to assess parents’ needs, building two-way relationships and enhanced communication, including schools’ websites and social media platforms, develop partnerships with area businesses and community organizations, and hold multiple events and workshops both in-person and virtually. The HCPS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) provides input on procedures all schools can put into place to improve communication and parent engagement at the district and local school level and will also work to provide parent advocacy trainings to support student learning at the school-based level.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education accept this informational update and report on the HCPS Office of Family and Community Partnerships.