
Parent Advisory Committee

October 24, 2017
Group Notes

Attendees:

Board of Education

- Michael Lukas, Chairman
- Barbara S. Palko, Vice Chair
- Victoria T. Kelly, Member
- Virginia R. McGraw, Member

School system staff included: Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Amy Hollstein, Deputy Superintendent; Linda Gill, Executive Director of Schools; Marvin Jones, Executive Director of Schools/Interim Principal; Kristin Shields, Director of Title I Programs; Arin Bonner, Title I Coordinator; Karen Peters, Coordinator of Testing; Angel Willett, Executive Assistant

Community members: Tina Wilson and Monise Brown, Charles County NAACP Education Committee

Thirty-seven PAC representatives, four Board Members, eight staff, and two community guests.

Welcome and Greetings

Mrs. Hollstein thanked the Parent Advisory Committee representatives for attending and introduced dignitaries in attendance.

Superintendent Hill warmly welcomed guests, thanking them for their support and taking an active role in their school(s). "A school system is only as good as its community." (*unknown*)

Dr. Hill acknowledged the Benjamin Stoddert Middle School situation. She expressed her appreciation for the Center for Children and United Way of Charles County. Both agencies have partnered with Charles County Public Schools to provide *Darkness to Light* training for all school system employees. Training opportunities are available for parent organizations, which can be scheduled through principals.

Mrs. Hollstein recognized the new PAC representatives and explained the meeting format. Meetings are informal and include a group activity of which parents are engaged in a guided conversation and asked to provide feedback on a particular topic. Another component of the meeting includes a presentation on "something new" (e.g. ParentVUE).

AGENDA

Activity, Discussion, Feedback, Something New

Parental Involvement and Pathways to Academic Success – Career and College Readiness

Tina Wilson and Monise Brown, Charles County NAACP Education Committee

Education is a priority. The goal of the Education Committee is to create programs that will assist parents. We all want academic excellence for our students. Dialogue centered around:

- Where do students go when they graduate from high school? Will they be on the college path or career ready?
- What can the NAACP do to assist and partner with parents and educators to prepare them to support their child(ren) in the next steps he/she takes?
- What suggestions does the committee have for partnering with educators to meet student needs?
- Why does it matter?

Extra-curricular Eligibility Policy

Amy Hollstein, Deputy Superintendent; Linda Gill and Marvin Jones, Executive Directors of Schools

Ms. Hollstein introduced the group activity. Parents received a copy of Policy 6431 General Curricular: Extra-curricular Activities and Athletics Eligibility Requirements for Grades 6-12. PAC representatives and staff worked in groups to identify positive and negative outcomes for the following aspects:

- A belief that adding a discipline factor to the current policy will result in better behavior of students
- Students that are “not eligible” entering high school do not have a connection to school and do not become integrated as well into the culture
- It appears that some students who have good GPAs, but earn one “F” for a variety of reasons are unfairly penalized
- The attendance policy is at times an example of the haves vs. the have nots

If eligibility standards for middle school students were more stringent, would attendance improve and behavior infractions be less? One parent commented that not every student goes home to the academic support they need. Another parent voiced that middle school is a tool within itself. If students get the GPA they need to promote to high school, that is motivation to succeed. Nearly all parents in attendance agree that students should begin high school with a clean slate. *(group comments begin on page 4)*

ParentVUE Features

Karen Peters, Coordinator of Testing

Ms. Peters demonstrated the landscape of ParentVUE using different devices. The ParentVue app gives parents real-time access to their student’s information, including attendance, class schedules, gradebook, course history, discipline, health, and school information. *(see screenshots, pages 7-11)*

- ParentVUE tech support: parentvue@ccboe.com.
- District URL for mobile app: <https://ssis.ccboe.com>
- ParentVUE Account Overview: <http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/parentvue-account-overview>

CLOSING

Questions * Responses * Comments * Reminders

Attendees requested current PTSO guidelines.

- *Provided by email*
- *Available online at: <http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/parent-teacher-organization-pto>*

How often are teachers required to enter grades? **Superintendent Rule 5132.5 - Student Information System:** *Each school will maintain an online grading system that parents/guardians can use to view their child's school records such as grades, assignments, and attendance. At a minimum, the online grading system will be updated by teachers once every two weeks during the school year. While the online grading system serves as a tool to communicate student records, the interim report continues to be the required notification when the student is in danger of failing for the quarter, the semester or the year.*

Parent(s) commented that Charles County Public Schools needs a STEAM program. Don't limit to STEM.

Another parent asked that the following be addressed at next PAC meeting: How do we communicate back to school community? Via Facebook?



Reminder – If the primary school representative cannot attend a PAC meeting, the representative, principal or principal's designee should coordinate with the alternate. Reminder notices are sent by email to the primary representative for each school. Alternate reps and parents are welcome to attend. The meeting dates for the current school year are included in the parent handbook/calendar and also noted below.

Meetings for school year 2017-18:

- Mid-year meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2018
- Spring-end of year meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 2018

ELIGIBILITY POLICY

(To maintain authenticity of the committee's feedback, comments reflect the writer's language with minimal editing.)

Positives	Aspects	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives them something to look forward to • Need to recognize good behaviors more. Acknowledgements • Keeps the children in check and makes them held accountable! • "Good kids" may be prompted to get it together or else. If it is tiered – not making the student ineligible, but maybe the discipline occurs at school through the coaching staff. Eventually it would come back to the parent's role • Bad behavior does not get rewarded by playing a sport or doing another activity. • May make some students think twice about their actions • Will encourage students to achieve in school to play sports 	<p>A belief that adding a discipline factor to the current policy will result in better behavior of students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcing good behavior, instead of removing activities or telling them you'll get this if you listen • Bad kids get more attention than the kids that do well. Why? Fifteen teachers handle bad kids that leave • Students are not in control always • The student may be naturally gifted for the activity, but parent involvement is low so discipline will further "limit" this student • If a child is already "impacted", it could make the situation worse for that student. It isn't fair to penalize the students making the grade • Some students who are constant behavior problems never know the feeling of being of a specialized team or group • Sometimes failing or lower grades are not a result from a lack of motivation • Other things to look at other than GPA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing • This may be true, but does this get their attention to shape up • Students may find what they love and may motivate them in class 	<p>Students that are "not eligible" entering high school do not have a connection to school and do not become integrated as well into the culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's not working if your percentage of kids are "not eligible" is high • Does not give the students a clean slate and fair chance • They don't have a clean start • If this is "their thing", you may never make that connection or build the relationship • For middle school moving into high school, start over – clean slate!!! • Get into other types of trouble • Not giving them a clean slate

Positives	Aspects	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep - form a committee to look at the reasonable expectations to this rule • ? not sure. An "F" is low • The F should stand 	It appears that some students who have good GPAs, but earn one "F" for a variety of reasons are unfairly penalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fair because the rest of the grades are good • "We don't know why he/she earned an F." Were their circumstances • What curriculum • The curriculum they are taking could be more difficult • It taking accelerated courses, not fair to get ineligible status. Add probation period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It does set a standard, but is it fair for all • Treating each student fairly vs. the same. May need to consider individual circumstances 	The attendance policy is at times an example of the <i>haves vs. the have nots</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fair to all • 4.5 is hard if you and your family have come from elsewhere and something happens • Families may send kids to school while ill • Those that don't have access to healthcare

Additional feedback (*in blue*) on current Policy 6431 requirements:

6 th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student who is promoted from the fifth grade to the sixth grade automatically meets the GPA and attendance eligibility requirements for the first quarter. <i>Apply to the start of high school.</i> • Beginning second quarter, students must have earned a 2.25 2.0 GPA from the first quarter with no failing "F" grades. • Must not have more than 4.5 days absent previous quarter.
7 th – 8 th grades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet local promotion standards • Must have earned a 2.25 2.0 GPA from previous quarter with no failing "F" grades. • Must not have more than 4.5 days absent previous quarter.
9 th – 12 th grades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet local promotion standards • Must have earned a 2.25 2.0 GPA from previous quarter with no failing "F" grades. • Must not have more than 4.5 days absent previous quarter.

Lower GPA to 2.0 to be more inclusive for students who might struggle academically. Inform sports/athletics that 2.25 is needed for college draft. "F" rule should only apply to core courses.

ELIGIBILITY POLICY

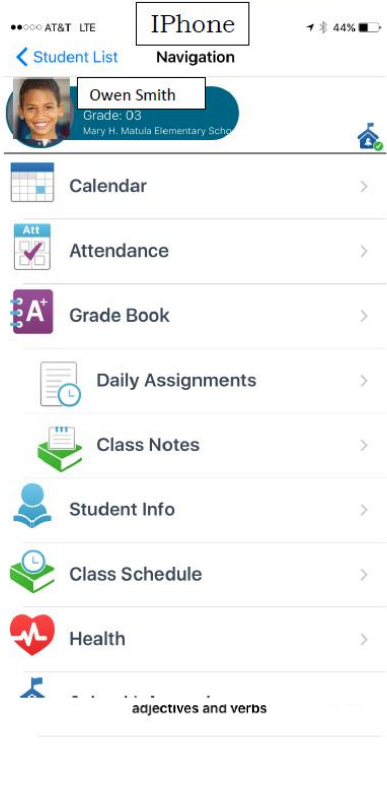
Questions your group would like considered:

- Grading scales in high school are different. Other external factors that cause low GPA and poor attendance
- When students began ineligible, how many became eligible the next quarter? Which requirement seems to be impacting the ineligibility status the most?
- 4.5 for attendance is tough. If we go home for a funeral (Iowa), we will be out 5 days period
- What is the % of kids not eligible? How much is teachers and principals involved in the decision
- Can parents be provided with what training the teachers receive so parents will know what to expect with the growth of our children

Summary of your groups point of view:

- Not enough data to understand the issue
- Start high school with a clean slate. If the student does not maintain attendance standards or grades, student will not be allowed to proceed
- Why not be consistent with one program to use across all schools? Hold an assembly at the beginning and middle of school years
- Change the 8th going to 9th to mirror the 5th going to 6th for the 1st quarter. Fair is fair. We need a review process to weed through the circumstances that don't show up on paper. Why the fight happened, what is home life like? Teachers could advocate along with parents and present a case for kiddos
- The F component should be removed. If a child has 6 classes and has 5-As and 1-F, he/she still meets the required 2.25. By making them ineligible for earning an F grade, it contradicts the 2.25 policy
- Also, 4.5 attendance days should be removed. There are a number of reasons a child could miss those days. If he/she meets the GPA requirement, this should not be a factor ... (keep in mind, every child does not have access to a doctor in order to obtain doctor notes)
- This still needs some fine tuning! Discipline needs to be considered
- There needs to be no change of policy, but there is no way to appeal the cases that fall thru the cracks. If your teachers and principals (assets of CCPS) feel there should be a review committee to review those exceptions
- We believe that high school students should begin on an even playing field and be evaluated by the second quarter for his continued eligibility. We believe that consistency across the board from the parent to the teacher and the Board members are steady and consistent of what's expected of the children with their behavior

App Screen View, pages 7 & 8



iPhone Synergy Main Page

Navigation

- Calendar
- Attendance
- Grade Book
- Daily Assignments
- Class Notes
- Student Info
- Class Schedule
- Health

Calendar- review assignments by day

Attendance- see students attendance and how it is coded

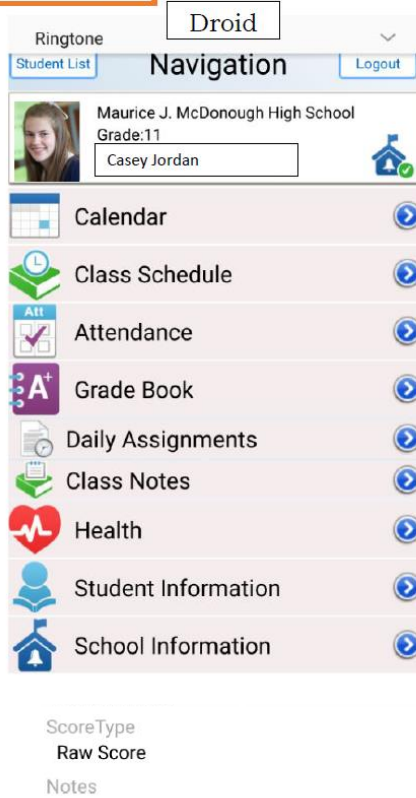
Grade Book- assignments by class

Student Info- review student information including address, birthdate, etc

Class Schedule- information about class including teacher

Health- review immunizations and medical conditions

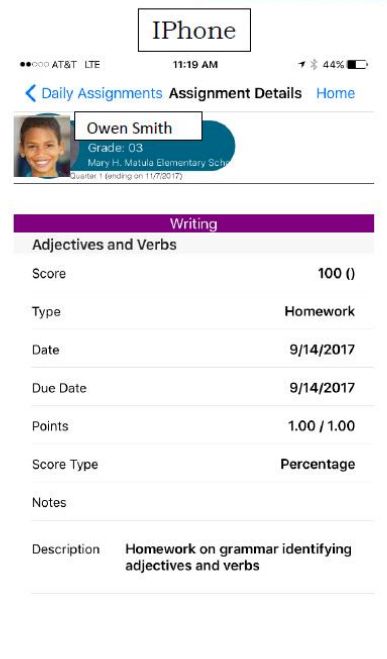
School information- school address, phone numbers and website



Droid Synergy Main Page

Navigation

- Calendar
- Class Schedule
- Attendance
- Grade Book
- Daily Assignments
- Class Notes
- Health
- Student Information
- School Information



iPhone Synergy Daily Assignment

Daily Assignments

Assignment Details

Writing

Adjectives and Verbs

Score: 100 ()

Type: Homework

Date: 9/14/2017


Due Date: 9/14/2017

Points: 1.00 / 1.00

Score Type: Percentage

Description: Homework on grammar identifying adjectives and verbs

Under Grade Book, select Daily Assignments. Select a specific assignment. The score, date, type of assignment, points and score type are included. Only iPhone users will see a description of the assignment, if one is provided by teachers.



Droid Synergy Daily Assignment

Details

2: ORCHESTRA II-H (088120)

Ensemble Placement Test

Score: 20 out of 20.00

Type: Product

Date: 9/11/2017

DueDate: 9/11/2017

Points: 20.00 / 20.00

ScoreType: Raw Score



Synergy Attendance

Elementary Daily Attendance

AT&T LTE 12:06 PM 39%

[Navigation](#) **Attendance** [Home](#)

Owen Smith
Grade: 03
Mary H. Matula Elementary School

[Legend](#)
[Summary](#)

09/19/2017
Unexcused
✖

09/18/2017
Unexcused
✖

09/06/2017
Excused
✔

Elementary school attendance is taken daily. Middle and high school attendance is taken every class period. Please see the legend below. Attendance codes may change based on notes, etc. See legend below for tardy/absent codes.

Secondary Period Attendance

Maurice J. McDonough High School
Grade: 11
Casey Jordan

[Legend](#)
[Summary](#)

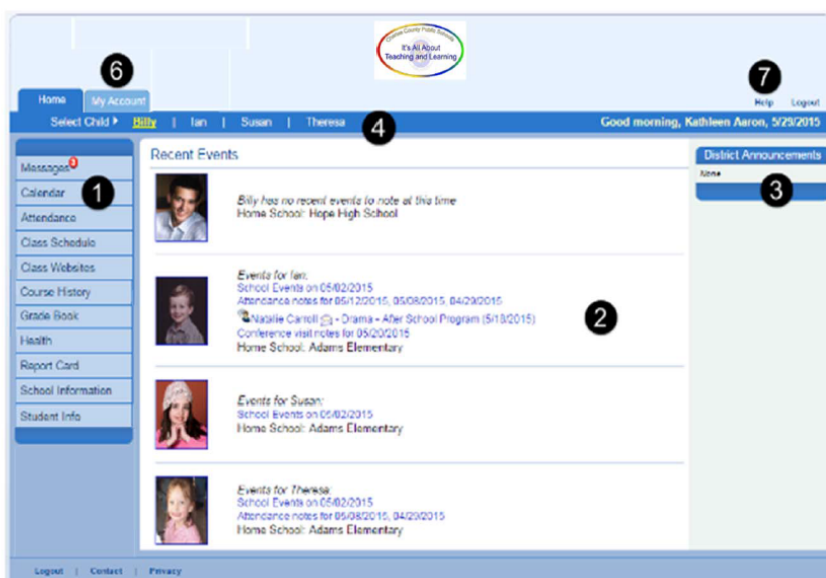
09/18/2017

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
			✖				

Legend		Done
	Excused Tardy	
	Unexcused Absent	
	Excused	
	Activity	
	Unexcused Tardy	

Edupoint

Home Screen

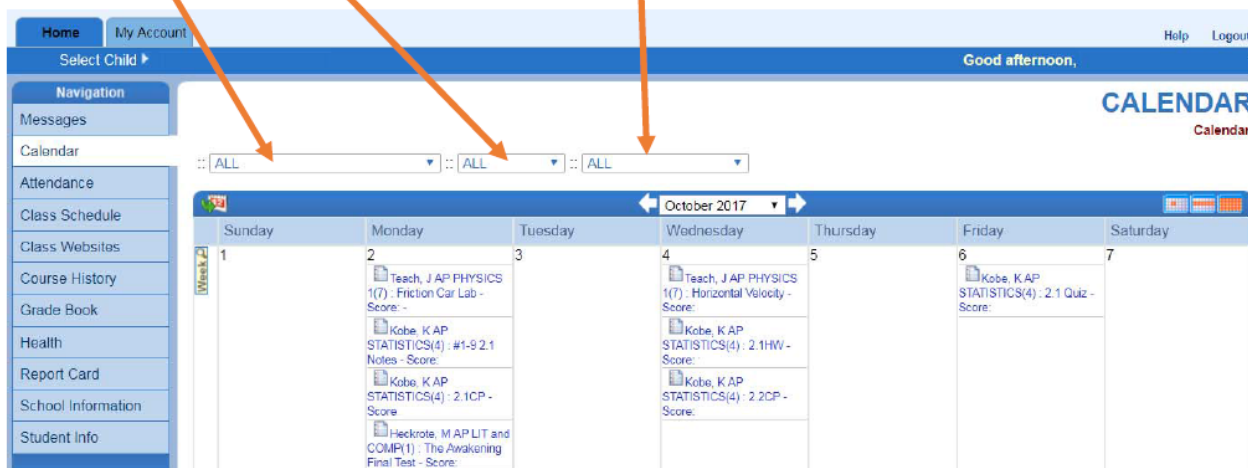


The information on the home tab includes:

- The Navigation Bar (1) contains links to display records for the selected child.
- Recent Events (2) includes grading period dates, conference events, discipline events, school events, attendance notes, and nurse log notes. Information in blue is a link for more detailed information.
- District Announcements (3) display on the right.
- In ParentVUE, the parent's children actively enrolled in the district have their first names listed at the top of the screen (4). Click the child's name to view his or her information.
- The user's account information is accessible by clicking the My Account tab (6).
- All the screens have links to the Contact, Privacy, and Help screens (7).

Calendar

Filter by class, assignment type (homework, quiz, etc.) or assignment status (due, missing, scoreless)



Attendance

ATTENDANCE												
List View Calendar View												
Days of Attendance												
Legend	Excused	Excused Tardy	Unexcused Tardy	Unexcused	Activity	N/S Not Scheduled						
Date	Periods	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
09/08/2017			✓	✓	N/S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		N/S
09/11/2017			✓	✓	N/S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		N/S
09/26/2017			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		N/S
10/16/2017			✗									N/S
10/17/2017						✗						N/S
Total Excused		0	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	0
Total Excused Tardies		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Unexcused Tardies		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Unexcused		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Activities		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Class Schedule

CLASS SCHEDULE			
Semester 1 Semester 2			
Student Schedule for Semester 1 (09/05/2017 - 01/23/2018)			
Period	Course Title	Room Name	Teacher
0	HOMEROOM 12	250	Dychon Whitaker
1	ENGLISH IV/H	221	Maureen Heckrote
2	FRENCH II	LIB	Michael Meiser
3	AP PSYCHOLOGY	LIB	Michael Meiser
4	AP STATISTICS	241	Kaitlyn Kobe
5	LUNCH	CAFE	
6	AP COMP SCI	103	Brian Wells
7	AP PHYSICS 1	205	Joseph Teach
8	STAGE PROD I	119	Bryan Grosbach

Class Websites

CLASS WEBSITES	
(YR) Kobe, K AP STATISTICS(4) SEC:03703000404	
Chapter 2 free response practice created on: 10/17/2017	
Problems 11-13	
Resource	Description
Ch2 FR Practice.pdf	
Chapter 2 multiple choice practice created on: 10/17/2017	
Problems 2 through 8	
Resource	Description
Ch2 MC Practice.pdf	
TOPICS Homework Announcements Classroom Documents	

Course History Summary & Graduation Status

Navigation	COURSE HISTORY			
	Messages	Summary Graduation Status		
	Calendar			
	Attendance			
	Class Schedule			
	Class Websites			
	Course History			
	Grade Book			
	Health			
	Report Card			
	School Information			
	Student Info			

Student Course History			
Course Title (ID)	Mark	Credit Attempted	Credit Completed
Mattawoman Middle School Year 2014 Grade 08 Term YR			
ALGEBRA I (031514)	P	1.00	1.00
ALGEBRA II (032014)	P	1.00	1.00
SPANISH I (051514)	P	1.00	1.00
Westlake High School Year 2015 Grade 09 Term YR			
CON BAND I (087034)	A	1.00	1.00
E&SP SCI-H (041510)	C	1.00	1.00
ENGLISH I-H (011010)	C	1.00	1.00
FIT FOR LIFE (070514)	A	0.50	0.50
GEOMETRY-H (033010)	C	1.00	1.00
HEALTH (070574)	B	0.50	0.50
L/S IN GOVT-H (022510)	B	1.00	1.00

Graduation Status Summary for Class of				
Credit Requirement by Subject Area				
Subject Area	Credit			
	Required	Completed	In Progress	Remaining

Graduation Test Requirement Status Summary				
Test	Status	Date	Performance Level	Score

Service Learning Requirement		
Status	Hours Required	Service Learning Hours Earned
Met	75.00	75.00

Grade Book

Navigation	GRADE BOOK					
	Messages	Interim Q1 Quarter 1 Interim Q2 Quarter 2 Interim Q3 Quarter 3 Interim Q4 Quarter 4				
	Calendar					
	Attendance					
	Class Schedule					
	Class Websites					
	Course History					
	Grade Book					
	Health					
	Report Card					
	School Information					
	Student Info					

Grade Book Summary for Quarter 1 (ending on 11/07/2017)					
Period	Course Title	Resources	Room Name	Teacher	QTR 1
1	AP LIT and COMP (017010)		221	Maureen Heckrote	
2	AP PREP (APPREP)		LIB	Michael Meiser	
3	AP PREP (APPREP)		LIB	Michael Meiser	
4	AP STATISTICS (037030)		241	Kaitlyn Kobe	
6	AP COMP SCI (079030)		103	Brian Wells	
7	AP PHYSICS 1 (047220)		205	Joseph Teach	
8	STAGE PROD (014064)		119	Bryan Grosbach	

Grade Calculation Summary					
Assignment Type	Weight	Points	Points Possible	Average	Calculated Mark

Grade Book Summary for QTR 1							
Assignment Details for AP LIT and COMP (017010) / Period: 1 /							
Date	Assignment	Assignment Type	Resources	Score	Score Type	Points	Notes