



# Are You in the KNOW?

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN YOUR ABSENCE

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic there are celebrations to have and the victories are yours! The activism CEA members have shown over the past year from attending BOE meetings, rallying in Annapolis, participating in the Valentine Card Campaign, reaching out to elected members of the board of education, sharing your stories during Public Comment, emailing or calling your delegate and senator, has made a difference. YOUR voices were heard!

The **Blueprint for Maryland's Future** passed the House and Senate before the General Assembly adjourned on March 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a huge victory for you, our students and public education. Last week Senate President Bill Ferguson joined MSEA for a special statewide Teletown Hall meeting. He made it very clear that the **Blueprint** was more important now than ever. As a former teacher, he understands the inequities that our students face and can see the magnitude of these inequities, just in the past 43 days. The Senate passed the bill in an overwhelming *bipartisan* vote to overhaul education funding. The bill is currently on Governor Hogan's desk.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the BOE meeting, Ms. Diane Workman shared a plan to improve the outcome for students in the elementary Behavior Development Program (BDP) and the Alt-Ed Program. She announced a Pilot Program for the 2020-2021 school year, where all of these elementary programs would be at one location in the county. In August Mutual Elementary will have three BDP classrooms and two Alt-Ed classrooms. Additional staffing (Vice Principal, School Social Worker, Behavior Technician, Alt-Ed teacher, and Instructional Assistant) will be hired to support the programs. This is a tremendous support for our educators, as well as our students.

With so much happening these days, I know your physical and mental well-being and that of your students and their families is what is in the forefront of your minds, but please know these wins will have enormous payouts for many years to come. Helen Keller said it best, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

## TIDBITS (*Just in case you have not heard...*)

- ◆ On April 23<sup>rd</sup> the BOE approved a *Calendar Adjustment* for the 2019-20 school year. I have been contacted by several members wanting more clarification on the process and curious about the make-up days, so I thought it might be helpful to offer the following explanation:

MSDE determines the number of student days in a calendar year. In a normal year it is 180 days. However, MSDE waived five (5) of the ten (10) days from March 16-27 because of the very unusual circumstances. So now each county must determine how they are going to meet that 175 student day requirement, have it approved by their local BOE, and then apply to MSDE for the waiver. This is what Dr. Curry did during the BOE meeting. He explained that we only had five (5) days to make-up since we went back to work/school on March 30<sup>th</sup>, made up two (2) days during Spring Break, will make-up one (1) day for Primary Election, and then add the last two days to the calendar in June, making the last student day, June 15<sup>th</sup>. By doing this, Calvert County will fulfill MSDE's requirement of 175 student days.

- ◆ In December CCPS received a rebate from CareFirst for the 2019 fiscal year. During our February and March Superintendent Meetings, CEA advocated for a Healthcare Holiday for all active and retired members. This was also approved during the April 23<sup>rd</sup> BOE meeting. Stay tuned for more details!

**Don't forget Open Enrollment ends April 30<sup>th</sup>!**