September 1, 2019

To our valued BEPAC Partners:

We are pleased to share with you some very exciting changes that are coming to the BEPAC organization. For thirty years, BEPAC has partnered with businesses and organizations to support schools in an effort to prepare the future workforce. As an Executive Board, we believe that now is the time to expand BEPAC to be even more inclusive to ensure that we are supporting the needs of schools, that we are recognizing all of the businesses and organizations who are partnering with our schools, and that we are continuing to focus on how we can most effectively serve as a bridge between education and the workforce. Below, we have provided the answers to some of the questions that you may have about these changes, but if you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to send those my way.

Will there still be BEPAC dues?

No. It is our goal to restructure BEPAC to be all-inclusive of business partnerships and activities throughout the school system. As such, we will shift away from a dues-based membership structure to recognize and support all partnership work within the school system. Instead of “BEPAC Members”, partners will be recognized by BEPAC for their contributions as “Partners in Education.”

Will there still be a way to support BEPAC financially?

Yes. We have implemented a donor structure and will also run two donor campaigns annually. These funds will be used to support BEPAC initiatives and will supplement revenue that was previously generated through membership dues.

How will this affect on-going BEPAC initiatives?

BEPAC will continue to host and support all of our current initiatives including our grant programs (Classroom Partnership Grants, National Competition Grants, and the Teacher of the Year Grant) and scholarship programs (the Henry A. Shaffer Scholarship and the D’Ette W. Devine Teacher Academy of Maryland Scholarship). We will also continue to host Preakness Pride and the New Teacher Reception. With this new structure, we plan to implement even more programs and initiatives as we redirect our focus from membership to partnership.

Will this change the structure of BEPAC membership meetings?

Somewhat. The traditional membership meetings will be replaced with a quarterly partnership social and meeting with Dr. Lawson hosted by BEPAC. As with membership meetings, this will be an opportunity for Dr. Lawson to have a two-way discussion with members of the business community about issues related to education in Cecil County and how we can work together to support students, schools, and the future workforce.

We are excited about what the future holds for BEPAC. We will be sure to keep you updated as we move forward with these changes and we hope that you will join us in this endeavor. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or feedback. As always, thank you for your support of BEPAC and the students and staff of Cecil County Public Schools.

Sincerely,
The BEPAC Executive Committee