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# Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

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February 8, 2011

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For more than a decade, Baltimore County Public Schools has worked to cultivate a college-bound culture. We believe it is our obligation to prepare students to reach their highest potential, and, increasingly, careers offering living wages require post-secondary education. We understand that all students might not choose to attend college, but we know that the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in college mirror those they will need to succeed in the workplace.

National leaders have embraced the goal that, by the year 2025, at least 55 percent of Americans ages 25 to 34 will hold an associate degree or higher. Among developed countries, 11 nations have a higher percentage of young adults with college degrees – including Canada, Korea, the Russian Federation, Japan, New Zealand, Ireland, Norway, Israel, France, Belgium, and Australia.

The latest available statistics, from 2008, show that overall 41.6 percent of young adults in the United States have an associate degree or higher. That percent drops to 30.3 percent for African Americans and 19.8 percent for Hispanics.

Maryland is one of the most successful states in having its young people complete college degrees. Only eight states and the District of Columbia, have percentages that top Maryland's 44.6 percent. Still no state has yet reached the 55 percent goal; there is more work to be done.

To guide this work, the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center has just issued its 2010 Progress Report to examine where the nation stands in meeting this goal. The report also reviews progress in addressing the 10 recommendations of the Commission on Access, Admissions and Success in Higher Education.

Half of the ten recommendations directly relate to public school systems. They are:

Goal One: Provide a program of voluntary preschool education, universally available to children from low-income families

Goal Two: Improve middle and high school college counseling

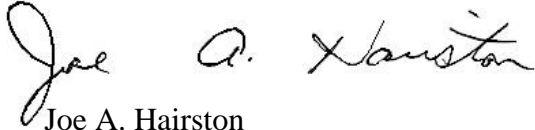
Goal Three: Implement the best research-based dropout prevention programs

Goal Four: Align the K-12 education system with international standards and college admission expectations

Goal Five: Improve teacher quality and focus on recruitment and retention

These goals and the strategies proposed to meet the goals echo those in our *Blueprint for Progress*. They reinforce that the purpose of public education is to prepare students for the future.

We continue to make progress, and we encourage continued and expanded community support in our focus on academic excellence and achievement.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe A. Hairston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "A." before the last name.

Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

## **Presentation to the Board of Public Works –January 26, 2011**

Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

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Good afternoon, Governor O'Malley, Comptroller Franchot, and Treasurer Kopp.

We are here today to advocate for public school construction funds that will help Baltimore County Public Schools continue to provide safe and effective learning environments for our students.

Joining me today from the Baltimore County Board of Education are Mary-Margaret O'Hare and George Moniodis. The State's current commitment of \$21.2 million recognizes some of our key capital project targets. We thank you for your support.

Based on information previously provided to the IAC and the information we will now share, we hope that the State's level of funding can be enhanced.

Specifically we seek your support in three priority areas:

- Continuation of our high school construction and renovation program,
- Relief for severe overcrowding in our elementary schools in the central area of the county, and
- Repair and improvement of critical building infrastructure.

We appreciate your past support of our limited renovation program. Over the past 12 years, Baltimore County Public Schools has improved the learning environments of all older elementary and middle schools. The condition of Baltimore County's high school facilities continues to demand attention if we are to meet our instructional goals.

Our request includes the remaining \$23.9 million necessary to complete the construction of the new Dundalk and Sollers Point Technical High Schools, of which \$5.5 million has been committed, and the remaining \$5.1 million needed to complete the limited renovation of Milford Mill Academy.

We are also requesting support to continue our high school renovation program with Parkville and Hereford High Schools. BCPS has been at the forefront of advancing STEM education in Maryland. To continue moving forward, modernization of science instructional spaces will be a critical element of all high school projects proposed, as it has been throughout our renovation program.

As we examine capacity throughout our school system, it is important to note that Baltimore County Public Schools is growing. Our student population has increased for the

past two years and is expected to rise by about 800 students in 2011. Two areas of the county are growing markedly ahead of the pace countywide.

Those communities are located in the northwest area of the county along the 795 corridor and centrally along York Road in Towson, Timonium, and as far north as Sparks.

Your continued support to address the challenge of overcrowding is greatly appreciated. West Towson Elementary School, which opened in August 2010 with 451 seats, began to relieve severe overcrowding in the central area of the county. Our next step is to resolve crowding at Hampton Elementary School. The Fiscal Year 2012 state request includes \$6.6 million for a 300-seat addition to Hampton Elementary, of which \$950,000 has been committed.

Hampton's enrollment is currently 161.6% of capacity in a region where enrollment is expected to exceed capacity by nearly 500 students in the next few years. The state's commitment of additional funding is critical to moving the project forward.

Finally, our Capital Improvement Program includes the repair or replacement of critical infrastructure at a number of schools. These projects will provide a watertight building envelope, decrease energy costs, and enhance occupant safety and comfort with heating and air conditioning systems. The timely repair or replacement of critical infrastructure continues to be key to ensuring student safety and comfort.

Baltimore County Public Schools continues to demonstrate that we strive to create safe and supportive learning environments, even as we recognize fiscal limitations:

- We have successfully maximized the useful life of our infrastructure with an aggressive maintenance program.
- Through our program to manage our extensive inventory of older schools, we have identified facilities that are suitable for limited or complete renovation and undertaken the replacement of buildings that cannot be salvaged.
- Where community growth and rising enrollment dictate, we have planned for the expansion of over-utilized facilities and the construction of new schools where needed.
- We use a computerized maintenance management system as well as internal building surveys and inspections to routinely assess and act upon failing infrastructure and to modernize buildings before the environment becomes a threat to student health and safety.

I appreciate David Lever and the staff of the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction for their assistance as we have progressed through our building renovation program and our assessment of our critical school capacity needs.

Our meaningful collaboration is a cornerstone of Baltimore County Public Schools successful facility construction and maintenance program.

Thank you for your support. Together, we have an opportunity to improve the conditions that impact the safety, health, comfort and overall well-being of students, teachers, and staff in our public schools and to develop and maintain environments more conducive to teaching and learning.

We have provided additional information on the projects that we are here to discuss today and are happy to respond to your questions.

Thank you.

## **Review of Superintendent's Calendar**

### *Past*

- 1/13 **Participated in Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards and Installation Dinner, Martin's Eastwind**
- 1/14 **Offered remarks and presented awards at Martin Luther King Jr. Content of Character Awards Ceremony, New Antioch Baptist Church, Randallstown**
- 1/18 **Attended unveiling of former County Executive Jim Smith's portrait, Historic Courthouse, Towson**
- 1/19 **Attended Board of Education Public Hearing on FY 2012 Operating Budget, Ridge Ruxton School**
- 1/20 **Interviewed by Raven Hill, Baltimore Sun reporter, Greenwood**
- 1/24 **Met with Donald Graham, chairman of the board and chief executive officer, The Washington Post Company, Washington Post Building, Washington, D.C.**
- 1/25 **Participated in Maryland State Department of Education recognition of Eastern Technical High School as a National Blue Ribbon School, MSDE Headquarters, Baltimore**
- 1/26 **Presented appeal to Board of Public Works, Annapolis**
- 1/29 **Attended Champions of Courage Essay Competition luncheon, Hyatt Regency Baltimore**
- 1/31 **Attended College Board College Completion Agenda event, Maryland State House, Annapolis**
- 2/3 **Made presentation to Baltimore County Planning Board**
- 2/4 **Participated in Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland meeting, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 2/7 **Interviewed by Education Executive Magazine**

2/7 **Participated in Johns Hopkins University and Maryland State Department of Education Center for Technology in Education Advisory Board Meeting, Columbia**

***Upcoming***

2/9 **To host a visit by State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick and senior executives of the College Board, observing a SpringBoard® lesson, Arbutus Middle School**

2/9 **To host a meeting of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, Greenwood**

2/10 **To participate in State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick's "Tour of Excellence" visit, Towson High School**

2/10 **To attend reception for Dr. Jay Perman, President, University of Maryland, Baltimore**

2/11 **To meet with the Baltimore County Delegation, Annapolis**

2/14 **To visit schools**

2/14 **To attend ribbon-cutting of renovated Randallstown Library branch with County Executive, Randallstown**

2/16-21 **To participate in American Association of School Administrators/Education Research and Development Institute meetings, Denver**

2/18 **To attend Horace Mann League luncheon, Denver**

2/24 **To host meeting of Superintendent's Educators Advisory Committee, Linwoods**

2/26 **To present awards at countywide Black Saga finals, New Town High School, Owings Mills**

2/28 **To visit schools**

3/2 **To visit schools**

3/3-5 **To participate in meeting of the College Board Superintendent Advisory Panel, New York**