
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

November 8, 2005

As Baltimore County Public Schools advances, continuing to build on its legacy of student achievement, what will propel the school system forward – faster and higher – is the intensity of focus and quality of effort each one of us brings to support the teaching and learning process.

Throughout the school year, one initiative that has helped me maintain my intensity and that constantly reminds me of the importance of quality is the Superintendent's Student Advisory Group. I meet with the six members of this group each month, and each month they impress me with their intelligence and with their insights into the needs, concerns, and interests of today's students.

It is my pleasure to introduce the members of this group:

- Gabrielle W., *Carver Center for the Arts and Technology student and the Student Member on the Baltimore County Board of Education*
- Jennifer O., *Carver Center for the Arts and Technology student and President of the Baltimore County Student Councils*
- Ali H., *Perry Hall High School student*
- Jayson S., *New Town High School student*
- DeLaine A., *Lansdowne High School student*
- Alex C., *Sparrows Point High School student*

In this Superintendent's Report, I also highlight some other excellent examples of the positive results of this intensity and quality. One of these examples is Ridgely Middle School being named a 2005 Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This recognition celebrates the school's consistency and depth. Another example is Kelly Smith, an English teacher at Dulaney High School, being surprised with a \$25,000 Milken National Educator Award for her quality instruction. Still one more is Juan Castro, Towson High School art department chairman, receiving an American Star of Teaching Award and being selected as one of four semifinalists for the prestigious national Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Outstanding Young Educator Award.

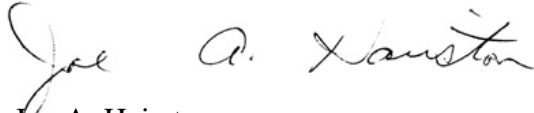
Two more examples, mentioned in this and previous reports were my recent keynote address to the Simba Conference in New York (for producers of educational materials), and my upcoming presentation, along with Instructional Technology Supervisor Thea Jones, to the Georgia Educational Technology Conference. In both instances, Baltimore

County Public Schools was asked to participate because of its growing international reputation for leadership in the administration and use of instructional technology.

As we continue our journey toward excellence, I want to remind all of us of the importance of opportunities like award presentations, kickoff events, and keynote addresses. These are opportunities to pause and acknowledge our achievements, our impact on the larger community, and the invaluable contributions of our stakeholders. Moreover, they are opportunities to stress the importance of our goals and direction.

Next week – American Education Week – offers us the chance to fulfill all these objectives. Our theme for the week is “A Strong America Starts with Great Community Public Schools,” and I invite the entire community to join us in celebrating our progress and looking forward.

We still have work ahead, but we can tackle it with more intensity and quality of effort when we are inspired by the positive outcomes we have already achieved.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe A. Hairston". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

School System Updates and Achievements

- **Early this fall, we heard a report from the Environmental Assessment Committee regarding indoor air quality in our schools. I have endorsed moving forward with the Indoor Air Quality – Tools for Schools Pilot Program partnership with the American Lung Association of Maryland. We have identified 40 schools to participate in this pilot program. We are working closely with the American Lung Association to kickoff and roll out this program as soon as the American Lung Association receives the expected EPA funding.**
- **Ridgely Middle School is one of six Maryland schools honored as 2005 Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.** Ridgely Middle School was selected by the Maryland State Department of Education on the basis of rigorous state and national requirements for high achievement and dramatic improvement.
- **Dulaney High School English teacher Kelly Smith was surprised with a prestigious \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation (MFF) National Educator Award.** I participated in the October 27 award ceremony along with Lowell and Fern Milken of Milken Family Foundation, actor/director Robert Townsend, State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Maryland State Board of Education Vice President (and former President of Baltimore County Board of Education) Dunbar Brooks, County Executive James T. Smith, Jr., Baltimore County Board of Education Vice President Dr. Warren Hayman, Central Area Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kim X. Whitehead, and several state and local elected officials.

The Milken Family Foundation (MFF) National Educator Awards provide recognition and unrestricted financial prizes of \$25,000 each to exceptional K-12 teachers, principals and other specialists who are furthering excellence in our nation's schools. This year MFF will award 100 recipients about \$2.5 million across the United States. Since the program's inception, 47 Maryland educators have received more than \$1 million.

Last October, Deidre Austen, a fourth and fifth grade teacher at Lutherville Laboratory received a Milken Educator Award.

- **On the same day, October 27, at Cockeysville Middle School, I participated in the 11th annual kickoff for the Kids Helping Hopkins program.** Through Kids Helping Hopkins students raise funds, awareness, and hope for the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Over the past decade, more than \$1 million has been raised.

Although the program started at Hernwood Elementary School, it now involves both public and private schools in Baltimore and other counties. This year, students are participating from 73 Baltimore County public schools and at least 30 additional public and private schools throughout the region.

Kids Helping Hopkins is an excellent way for students to learn the value of service to the community. In addition to hosting fundraisers, student members have made cards, put together craft kits, painted murals, collect toys and new books, and more.

- **Juan Castro, Towson High School art department chairman and photography teacher, has received an American Star of Teaching Award and is one of four semifinalists for the prestigious national Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Outstanding Young Educator Award.**

Mr. Castro was nominated for the American Star of Teaching Award by his student Emily A., a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Emily identified Mr. Castro as the teacher who had been most influential in her academic career. On October 25, 2005, the Maryland State Board of Education recognized Mr. Castro for receiving this honor.

Art Coordinator Linda Popp nominated Mr. Castro for the national ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award. This award is designed to honor an education professional, 40 years of age or younger, who demonstrates exemplary commitment and exceptional contribution to the profession. Mr. Castro is one of four semifinalists for this award. If he is selected as the annual winner of this award, Mr. Castro will receive a \$10,000 prize and will be profiled in *Educational Leadership* magazine.

- **Three upcoming events of note:**

- **Transition Fair**

Thursday, November 10, 2005, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Loch Raven High School

Hosted by Baltimore County Public Schools, this Transition Fair that will give students and parents/guardians the opportunity to meet with individuals representing post-secondary career and educational options, such as two- and four-year colleges, technical/vocational training programs, the military, adult service providers, and businesses.

- **High School Honors Concert**

Monday, November 14, 2005, at 7:30 p.m.

Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

More than 300 students will perform at the 12th annual Baltimore County Public Schools High School Honors Concert. Conductors for the concert will be Dr. Anthony Leach from Penn State University, Dr. Brenda Leach from Towson University, and Brian Balmages, renowned composer and Baltimore County Public Schools graduate. Mr. Balmages has been commissioned to compose a finale for chorus and band, which will be dedicated to Baltimore County Public Schools and will premiere at the concert. Jonathan Pelevsky from WBJC radio will be the guest narrator. The concert is free, however tickets are required due to limited seating. To reserve tickets, please call the Music Office at 410-887-4024.

○ **Ella W. Campbell Oratorical Contest**

Wednesday, November 16, 2005, at 7:00 p.m.

Randallstown High School

High school students from Baltimore County's northwest and southwest areas will participate in a new oratorical contest named in honor of veteran education advocate Dr. Ella White Campbell. The contest, which is free and open to the public, is being presented by the Liberty Randallstown Coalition, Inc., in cooperation with Baltimore County Public Schools. In addition to the participating orators, the contest will feature music from the Milford Mill and Woodlawn Gospel Choirs as well as an appearance by Raven Magwood, the 12-year-old author of *On to Victory! The Winning Edge: Determination, Discipline and Dedication*.

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 10/26 **Meeting with Kendall Ehrlich and State Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Nancy Grasmick re: Maryland State School Health Council**
- 10/26 **Meeting with Student Council Advisory Group**
- 10/27 **Milken Educator Award Presentation at Dulaney High School**
- 10/27 **National Science Foundation Meeting at UMBC**
- 10/27 **Kids Helping Hopkins Kickoff at Cockeysville Middle**
- 11/1 **Baltimore County Awards for Excellence Breakfast**
- 11/2 **High School Summit Follow-up**
- 11/2 **Tech Prep Council Dinner Meeting**
- 11/3 **Visit to Pinewood Elementary School**
- 11/3 **Legislative Dinner – District 5**
- 11/7 **Lunch with high school principals**
- 11/7 **Special Education Community Forums** (*at Essex Elementary School,
Lutherville Lab, and Dogwood Elementary School*)

11/8 **Dinner with Area Education Advisory Council**

Upcoming

11/11 **Featured presenter at 19th Annual Georgia Educational Technology Consortium Conference, Atlanta**

11/14 **High School Honors Concert at the Meyerhoff**

11/14-18 **American Education Week: *A Strong America Starts with Great Community Public Schools***

11/15 **Friends of Maryland Education Awards Luncheon**

11/16 **Legislative Dinner – District 42**

11/17 **Governor’s Summit on Math, Science, and Technology Education, Rockville**

11/17 **Lansdowne High Parent Appreciation Dinner**

11/17 **Parent Summit with UMBC President Dr. Freeman Hrabowski and Del. Adrienne Jones**

11/21 **Lunch with High School Principals**

11/21 **Legislative Dinner - District 11**

11/23 **Chase Elementary School Library Dedication**

11/29 **Legislative Lunch – District 10**

11/29 **Board of Education Dinner with County Executive Jim Smith and County Council Members**

11/30 **K-16 Leadership Council Meeting at Maryland State Department of Education**

11/30 **Legislative Dinner – District 7**