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

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December 20, 2005

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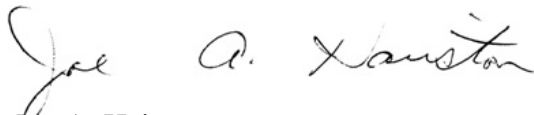
I suggested at the last Board meeting that the mid-point of the school year is an optimum time to reassess our progress and to initiate any necessary changes. Since the last Board meeting, this has been my area of focus.

I held a meeting with high school principals and English department chairs and another with middle school principals to discuss ways to accelerate our progress and better prepare students for success on the High School Assessments. Our ninth graders must pass these exams to qualify for graduation. Their current performance reveals that we have a significant opportunity to enhance our academic program, especially in the area of secondary English.

My activities have also included visits to selected schools with Board Student Member Gabrielle Wyatt. Spurred by her concern about academic rigor and student performance on critical exams, Ms. Wyatt took the initiative to plan visits to schools with lower scores. She also suggested that we speak to students selected at random, rather than the top-performing students usually identified as school spokespeople. Already we have visited Dundalk, Chesapeake, Overlea, and Kenwood high schools. At the beginning of 2006, we will also spend time with students at Woodlawn, Sparrows Point, Owings Mills, Randallstown, and Lansdowne high schools and Milford Mill Academy.

What has been evident in my conversations with secondary administrators and my conversations with students is that they share my understanding of the urgency of accelerated achievement and my commitment to even greater academic success.

The pressures on this and every other school system have never been greater. I talked at length about that topic at my recent presentation to the emerging leaders enrolled in Leadership Baltimore County. But the promise has also never been greater. We are continuing to build on a legacy of achievement, and there are no limitations to what we can achieve.



Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

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

### *Past*

- 12/7 Meeting with Principals and English Department Chairs
- 12/7 Meeting with high school principals and English department chairs
- 12/7 Student Council Advisory Group Meeting
- 12/8 IAC Hearing FY 07 Capital Request
- 12/8 Legislative Dinner – District 8
- 12/9 State Superintendents' Meeting
- 12/9 AVID Panel, Washington, D.C.
- 12/12 Baltimore County Leadership Education Day
- 12/13 School Visits with School Board Student Member Gabrielle Wyatt – to Dundalk and Chesapeake high schools
- 12/14 County Executive Luncheon with Regional Manufacturing Institute
- 12/15 MD Democratic Business Council Breakfast
- 12/15 EAB Executive Committee
- 12/16 Middle School Principal Meeting
- 12/16 Hillcrest Elementary Champion Team Meeting
- 12/19 School Visits with School Board Student Member Gabrielle Wyatt – to Overlea and Kenwood high schools
- 12/19 Legislative Dinner – District 6

### *Upcoming*

- 12/21 Area Superintendents Principals Meeting
- 12/21 School visits to Woodlawn Middle School and Woodlawn High School
- 1/5 School Visits with School Board Student Member Gabrielle Wyatt – to Woodlawn and Lansdowne high schools

- 1/6 **PSSAM State Superintendents Meeting**
- 1/6 **Kenwood High IB Alumni Day Assembly**
- 1/6 **Essex Middle River Chamber Awards Dinner**
- 1/7 **TABCO – BACE Legislative Breakfast**
- 1/8 **Staff Retreat**
- 1/13 **School Visits with School Board Student Member Gabrielle Wyatt –  
to Randallstown and Sparrows Point high schools**
- 1/17 **School Visits with School Board Student Member Gabrielle Wyatt –  
to Owings Mills High School and Milford Mill Academy**