
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

February 28, 2006

Every day we focus on advancing the academic achievement of our more than 107,000 students. That intense focus continues to produce positive results. These are results that are being noticed, discussed, and studied by other educators, policymakers, and the media. The difference we are making in Baltimore County Public Schools is making a difference in public education across the country.

Recently the Schott Foundation for Public Education released a report titled *Public Education and Black Male Students*. According to this report, Baltimore County Public Schools has the “highest graduation rate for African-American males of any large school district in the country, five points higher than that for white males in the country as a whole.”

Christian Science Monitor saw this report and wants to write about it. They want to know how we do what we do and why we are more successful than other jurisdictions.

The investigative school visits I am participating in with Student Board Member Gabrielle Wyatt attracted the attention of *American School Board Journal*. When we told the editors about this initiative, they committed, that same day, to writing about it for their May issue.

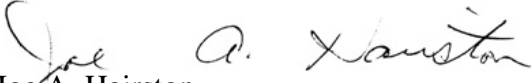
Here is still more evidence that the national media is paying attention to our successes: *District Administration* will be publishing an article about our Advanced Placement program, and *Scholastic Administrator* will feature an interview with me about public education in general.

As I mentioned in the last meeting, local coverage of our school system has also been increasingly positive. For example, recently *The Dundalk Eagle* wrote about a Dundalk Middle School art teacher, Tricia Lane, who coordinates the Artistic Owls Junior Optimist Club. Members of this club are students using their artistic abilities to contribute to the community. One of their major projects is a mural to promote Chesapeake Bay conservation. Ms. Lane is here this evening. I want to recognize her as yet another example of the excellence in teaching in Baltimore County Public Schools.

In addition to the national and local media, many national education associations seek participation and counsel from Baltimore County Public Schools. Next month, in San Diego, I will be a keynote speaker at the 2006 AVID/College Board National Conference. AVID Coordinator Dr. Jessie Douglas and former AVID Coordinator Shirley Page will accompany me and will assist me in sharing our story. Also next month, Board Vice President Dr. Warren C. Hayman and I will serve on a panel for the National School Boards Association's Council of Urban Boards of Education.

As you may recall, last year I was honored to receive state, national, and international recognition on behalf of our hardworking staff for our effective use of technology. Even more important, I have reported to you about our instructional technology staff, our library media staff, our special educators, and many, many others participating on panels, offering presentations, and serving on best practices think tanks across the region and the nation.

I share this information because this is about all of us – students, staff, families, Board members, and advocates. This is about the impact of the good work we are doing together. Our achievements give us reason to be proud. Let us continue to motivate each other to do more and do better. Let us continue making a difference in Baltimore County and far beyond.


Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 2/15 **Southwest Advisory Council, Woodmoor Elementary School**
- 2/16 **MABE Legislative Day Luncheon, Annapolis**
- 2/17 **Addressing the Baltimore County Delegation, Annapolis**
- 2/21 **MSDE/BCPS Schoolwide Achievement Recognition Breakfast, Towson Sheraton**
- 2/21 **Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, Dundalk Middle School**
- 2/22 – 2/25 **American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Conference, San Diego**
- 2/26 – 2/27 **Education Research and Development Institute (ERDI) Conference, San Diego**

Upcoming

- 3/1 **Remarks at last session of Aspiring Leaders workshop series**
- 3/1 **National PTA Parent Involvement School of Excellence Award Ceremony at Owings Mills High School**
- 3/2 **K-16 Leadership Council at Maryland Higher Education Commission, Annapolis**
- 3/2 **High School Reading Program, Timonium Holiday Inn**
- 3/3 **PSSAM – State Superintendents' Meeting at Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 3/7 **Governor's Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Advisory Committee at Maryland State Department of Education**
- 3/8 **School visits**
- 3/8 **Student Council Advisory Group**

- 3/10 **Keynote address at AVID/College Board National Conference 2006, San Diego**
- 3/13 **Visit to Sparrows Point High School with Board Member Gabrielle Wyatt**
- 3/13 **Welcoming remarks at Curriculum and Instruction Workshop**
- 3/13 **Maryland State Department of Education Blue Ribbon School Gala, Annapolis**
- 3/14 **Multicultural Day at Ridge Ruxton School**