
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

March 14, 2006

I want to use my report time for this meeting to speak about the important role parents, guardians, and family members play in the educational process. They are our students' first and most important and influential teachers. Schools can work without parent involvement, but with parent involvement, the educational process is richer and more meaningful.

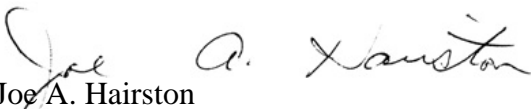
The parents, guardians, and family members of our students are in our schools volunteering in classrooms, hallways, and cafeterias, soliciting and donating additional resources, chaperoning trips, and lending their skills and expertise to share knowledge and unique experiences with students.

Too often as students get older, parent involvement lessens. Parents step back to let their sons and daughters establish more independence. However, parent involvement is essential at the secondary level when young people are making critical decisions about their lives, education, and careers.

It was my pleasure earlier this month to be a part of a special celebration at Owings Mills High School, as that school became the first Baltimore County high school and one of only 225 schools in the nation to be certified by the National PTA as a Parent Involvement School of Excellence.

This designation means that Owings Mills High School excels at communicating with families, promoting parenting skills, involving parents in student learning and school decision making and advocacy, welcoming parents as volunteers, and using community resources.

With this designation, Owings Mills High School is setting a new standard for parent involvement at the secondary level. I hope that other communities will see this as evidence that more can be done and as a challenge to get more involved with their schools in ways that support teaching and learning.


Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 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**
- 3/14 **Lunch with County Council**

Upcoming

- 3/15 **Board of Education Public Hearing on Windsor Mill Middle School Boundaries**
- 3/16 **County Executive's Educational Advisory Board at Villa Julie College**

- 3/16 **Student Council General Assembly at CCBC Essex**
- 3/21 **Visits to Woodlawn High School and Lansdowne High School with Board Member Gabrielle Wyatt**
- 3/21 **Celebration of Possibilities at Oregon Ridge Lodge**
- 3/22 **Guest speaker at Phi Delta Kappa event at Hopkins Club**
- 3/23 **School visits**
- 3/23 **Maryland High School Mock Trial Competition Finals, Ceremonial Courtroom, Old Courthouse, Towson**