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

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March 28, 2006

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Recently in an interview with *Scholastic Administrator* magazine, I had the opportunity to talk about the essential role principals fill as the leaders of our schools. I would like to take just a few minutes this evening to discuss that subject a little more.

I speak often about the critical interaction between teachers and students. They are why we are here. We continue to progress as a school system because of the teaching and learning they do.

The principal cannot be in every classroom when this important work is taking place, but the principal sets the academic tone for his or her building, manages his or her building, and hires and supervises the teachers and other staff.

I have established my administration based around what I call the service model – which essentially sets forth that the purpose of central office is to provide the best possible resources and support to ensure that principals can successfully lead their schools so that teachers can teach and students can learn. Every aspect of my administration from fiscal services to printing to transportation to grounds maintenance to research and data management is designed to serve the schools.

When our service model is at work, we are doing our *best* work.

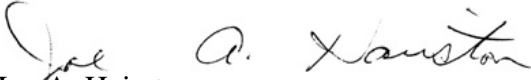
I want to applaud Baltimore County Public Schools staff members for their teamwork in advancing our service model and effectively serving our schools. I particularly want to applaud our principals for the strength of their leadership. Advancing achievement in every area depends on the quality of our principals and their leadership, and I am very proud of the work they do.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to honor our schools for sustaining or achieving significant student achievement gains. In honoring these schools and their principals, I was actually honoring the entire school system for the tremendous progress we have made as a team and for the tremendous promise we demonstrate every day.

Related to the March 15<sup>th</sup> event, about 100 educators representing those honored schools were special guests at last Friday morning's Regional Manufacturing Institute Conference. This "Innovation Conference" brought together approximately 300 leaders of businesses large and small along with leaders from government and education. The event featured several prominent speakers including Maryland's Secretary of Business and Economic Development, Aris Melissaratos, Maryland's Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Dr. James H. Fielder, Jr., and Robert B. Tucker, author of *Driving Growth Through Innovation*. I was pleased to be there, as a member of the RMI Board of Directors and as Superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools. I was especially pleased to hear these speakers reinforce the messages we have

been emphasizing – the importance of education and innovation as keys to success in the new economy.

Before I close I want to mention one new activity planned for next school year. AVID has asked Baltimore County Public Schools, and we have agreed, to host an AVID District Directors' Leadership Training from October 24-27. We are honored that we were selected as a site for this national training, which will give us the opportunity to showcase our exemplary AVID program, just as we did earlier this month at the 2006 AVID/College Board National Conference.

  
Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

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

### *Past*

- 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 **Visit to Franklin High School**
- 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**
- 3/24 **Regional Manufacturing Institute Event at Towson University, University Union**
- 3/27 **Human Resources Retreat**

### *Upcoming*

- 3/29 **Instructional Technology Workshop**
- 3/30 **Panelist (along with Board Vice President Warren C. Hayman) at National School Boards Association, Council of Urban Board of Education news conference, at National Press Club, Washington, D.C.**
- 3/30 **Hop for Hopkins at Hernwood Elementary**
- 3/31 **Essex Middle River Chamber Principals Breakfast at Hilton Garden Inn, White Marsh**
- 4/3 **Future Educators Association Conference at Towson University**

- 4/3 ***Christian Science Monitor* interview**
- 4/4 **Special Education Community Forums**
- 4/5 **Board Recognition Ceremony at Cockeyville Middle School**
- 4/7 – 4/9 **National School Boards Association Conference, Chicago**
- 4/12 **County Executive’s presentation of FY 07 Budget to County Council**
- 4/18 **ReTABCO Luncheon at Columbus Gardens**
- 4/19 **Student Council Advisory Group**
- 4/19 **Gifted and Talented Advisory Group**
- 4/20 – 4/22 **National Council on Educating Black Children Conference, Chicago**
- 4/23 **Baltimore Jewish Council Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation**
- 4/24 **1000 Hour Volunteer Ceremony at Cockeyville Middle School**