
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education


April 25, 2006

Attached to this report is a review of my calendar since the last Board meeting and a look ahead until the next Board meeting. As always, it is filled with meetings, school visits, conferences, media interviews, and community events. We may be nearing the end of the school year, but the pace is not slowing.

Along with many of you, I participated in this month's National School Boards Association conference in Chicago. In addition, Board Vice President Warren C. Hayman and I were featured panelists at a Council of Urban Boards of Education news conference. Held at the end of last month at the National Press Club, this news conference was an opportunity for the Council to unveil *Where We Learn*, a report on how students feel about school climate. The report is based on a survey of 32,000 students from 15 school districts in 13 states, including students from five Baltimore County schools.

What I find important about reports such as this is simply that they reflect and share the wisdom of students. Students know who cares and who does not. They know when they are receiving a quality education and when they are not. That is why we make such an effort to listen to our students. In addition to having a student member on the Board, I meet monthly with a Student Council Advisory Group, visit schools regularly, and this past school year, as you know, our student member, Gabrielle Wyatt, and I have been meeting with small groups of randomly selected students at various high schools.

What I have learned from listening to students and staff and from the experience gained over more than 36 years in public education is the importance of putting achievement first. It must be clear to every teacher, staff member, and student that the purpose for our schools is teaching and learning. Then we must set the bar high for achievement and academic rigor – challenging and expecting more from all of our students. Many other issues, such as negative perceptions and safety concerns, will be resolved once this purpose is established and the tone is set.


Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 3/29 **Instructional Technology Workshop – “The Electronic Briefcase”**
- 3/30 **Panelist (along with Board Vice President Warren C. Hayman) at National School Boards Association, Council of Urban Boards of Education news conference, at National Press Club, Washington, D.C.**
- 3/30 **Hop for Hopkins at Hernwood Elementary**
- 3/31 **Essex-Middle River-White Marsh 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 **Grange Elementary Family Literacy Faire**
- 4/5 *Baltimore Sun* and *Metro News* interviews
- 4/5 **APICS 2006 PACE Awards Dinner, Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor**
- 4/6 **Cockeysville Service Center recognition program for mechanics**
- 4/7 – 4/9 **National School Boards Association Conference, Chicago**
- 4/12 **County Executive's presentation of FY 07 Budget to County Council**
- 4/19 **Student Council Advisory Group**
- 4/19 **Gifted and Talented Advisory Group**
- 4/20 – 4/22 **Co-chair and panelist at National Council on Educating Black Children Conference, Chicago**
- 4/23 **Bear Creek Elementary 50th Anniversary Celebration**
- 4/23 **Baltimore Jewish Council Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation**
- 4/24 **1000 Hour Volunteer Ceremony at Cockeysville Middle School**

Upcoming

- 4/26 **Panelist at *Summit on Protecting Maryland's Competitive Edge*, University of Maryland, College Park**
- 4/26 **BCPS Job Fair, Timonium Fairgrounds**
- 4/27 **School Visits – Chapel Hill, Kingsville**
- 4/27 **Lansdowne High School Employer Appreciation Luncheon, Snyder's Willow Grove**
- 4/27 **COMCAST Student Achievement Award Ceremony, Towson University Arts Center**
- 4/28 **AIMMS Ceremony (honoring Board President Tom Grzymiski and several staff members), Martin's West**
- 4/30 **Maryland Muslim Council Dinner, BWI Marriott**
- 5/1 **Sandy Plains Elementary School Science Fair**
- 5/1 **Press Conference with County Executive (re: school construction funds), Catonsville Middle School**
- 5/2 **Reading to students at Middlesex Elementary School**
- 5/2 **TABCO Recognition/Retirement Dinner, Martin's East**
- 5/3 **Speaking to students at Logan Elementary School's Career Day**
- 5/3 **Student Advisory Group**
- 5/3 **Career and Technology Education Student Recognition Dinner, Martin's West**
- 5/4 **Governor's Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Advisory Committee**
- 5/4 **Ridgely Middle School Blue Ribbon School Award Ceremony with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Grasmick**
- 5/5 **Visit to Stemmer's Run Middle School**
- 5/5 **Towson University Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet, University Union**
- 5/7 **Wellwood International School's 50th Anniversary Celebration**

- 5/7 **Presenting award at Cappies of Baltimore Gala, France-Merrick Performing Arts Center**
- 5/8 **Executive Staff Retreat, Sheppard Pratt Conference Center**
- 5/8 **Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce Awards for Excellence in Education**
- 5/9 **Offering remarks at Advanced Placement Induction Meeting, Perry Hall High School**