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

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June 13, 2006

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This evening, school buses are parked, chalkboards are wiped clean, and most of our classrooms are empty for the next two months. But the work of Baltimore County Public Schools continues and intensifies, with a focus on principals, teachers, and, of course, our students.

Next week, we will be hosting our annual Principals' Academy. This Academy provides an invaluable opportunity for principals, experienced and new, to share knowledge and ideas with each other and to align their plans with the priorities for the 2006-2007 school year.

What I will stress to the principals, and to all staff throughout the upcoming school year, is the need for us to return to the basics and then orient ourselves to the future. Our school system has a solid foundation with its *Blueprint for Progress*. I often say, and I believe it bears repeating, that the *Blueprint for Progress* shines a light on the characteristics all responsible parents want for their children. The question is: what responsibility will each of us take to achieve these expectations; in other words, what will we do to get the job done?

The essential tools that support the *Blueprint for Progress* for this school system are our:

- Phase Planning Chart, which provides a framework for continuous improvement.
- Variables Chart, which reminds us of the forces that impact our work and the impact we have on the larger world.
- Service Model, which reinforces that our purpose is to support the teaching and learning going on in our schools.

As I have said many times, principals are the leaders of our school houses. It is their job to direct and support teachers, who are themselves the leaders of our classrooms.

I met last week with about 25 of these classroom leaders – our school system's nationally board-certified teachers. I had the chance to talk with them informally and to hear their thoughts about how we can create the environment to advance achievement for all students.

As you know, I have also had the opportunity throughout the year to meet, talk with, and work closely with students. Our students are why we are here.


I want to take this opportunity to offer my personal appreciation to one of the members of my student advisory group, Board Member Gabrielle Wyatt, who has now graduated from the Carver Center for Arts and Technology. In the fall, she will be attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County as a Sondheim Public Affairs Scholar. Gabrielle has demonstrated outstanding leadership and communication skills and a depth of understanding of education

issues. She has challenged all of us with her questions and ideas and in the process helped to elevate the level of conversation between administration and students.

Gabrielle is one of countless members of the Class of 2006 who make us proud. Let me mention a few more:

- Bradley Oppenheimer of Owings Mills High School won a \$10,000 engineering scholarship from Northrop Grumman.
- Emma Thompson, of Overlea High school, tied for first place with National Geographic magazine in an international printing and graphic arts competition.
- Rebecca Parks, of Franklin High School, was honored with the \$25,000 Target All-Around Scholarship for her commitment to academics and volunteerism. More than 23,000 students applied for this scholarship.
- Lee Marsh, an AVID student at Kenwood, received a \$23,000 scholarship from Washington and Jefferson College, and Kristen Wilburn, an AVID student at Pikesville, received a \$30,000 per year scholarship from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. These awards and the many others received by AVID students are particularly impressive because AVID serves students who had been underachieving. The success of AVID students proves once again that all students can excel given the right combination of instruction and supports.

We are all proud of what our students have achieved and how well they represent this school system, and we look forward to seeing how they will improve our world.



Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

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

### *Past*

- 5/24            **Public Hearing on FY 08 Capital Budget, ESS Board Room**
- 5/25            **County Council adoption of FY 07 Budget, Council Chambers**
- 5/25            **Baltimore County's Alliance of Black School Educators Awards, ESS**
- 5/30            **Carver Center for Art and Technology graduation, Goucher College, Kraushaar Auditorium**
- 5/31            **Offering greetings at Ridge Ruxton graduation ceremony**
- 5/31            **Mildred Murray Scholarship Award, Greenwood**
- 5/31            **Franklin High School graduation, McDaniel College**
- 6/1             **Dulaney High School graduation, Towson University, Towson Center**
- 6/2             **Northrop Grumman Engineering Scholars Awards Dinner, Historical Electronics Museum**
- 6/3             **Liberty-Randallstown Community Fair, Milford Mill Academy**
- 6/7             **K-16 Leadership Council, University of Maryland**
- 6/7             **Dinner with National Board Certified Teachers**
- 6/8             **Recognition of *Newsweek's* Top 1,000 High Schools, County Executive's Office**
- 6/12            **County Executive's Educational Advisory Board at Villa Julie College**

### *Upcoming*

- 6/15            **Chamber of Commerce Employer Award Event, Hayfields Country Club**
- 6/20-21        **Principals' Academy**
- 6/30            **Dell TechKnow graduation, Lansdowne High School**
- 7/11            **Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Advisory Committee Meeting, Maryland State Department of Education**

- 7/12            **Offering greetings at Curriculum Workshop Breakfast, Towson High School**
- 7/18-22       **Education Research and Development Institute conference, Denver**