
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

October 3, 2006

At the last Board of Education meeting, Dulaney High School Principal Lyle Patzkowsky reported on the launch of Chinese language instruction and shared information about Baltimore County Public Schools' growing partnership with educators in China. This evening I want to start my report by placing that information in the context of our larger systemwide initiative to build international relationships.

Through relationships with other nations, we are working to ensure that Baltimore County students are internationally aware and competitive. In addition to China, the school system is establishing vital relationships with the United Kingdom, Israel, Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. In addition to the newly offered Mandarin Chinese, we offer language instruction in French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish.

Courses in Mandarin Chinese, which have begun at Dulaney, will be made available at other schools. We have just applied for a College Board grant to secure a teacher from China. This past summer the College Board sponsored our World Languages Coordinator Susan Spinnato on a trip to China. In addition, the Office of World Languages is applying to hold a curriculum workshop in summer 2007 to develop Chinese language curriculum for our secondary schools.

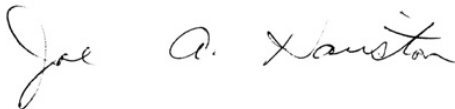
Looking at Italian language instruction, Baltimore County Public Schools serves as a leader among area jurisdictions. Last September, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Maryland State Department of Education and the Italian Embassy was signed at Patapsco High School. This memorandum increases opportunities for learning and cultural exchange between students in Maryland and students in Italy. Our school was selected as the site for this signing because it serves as a model of how this type of partnership can work successfully. We have our own partnership with the Embassy, and the school has an outstanding Italian language program that offers upper-level courses. It is also an arts and technology magnet school so students gain a greater understanding of the integration of coursework and real-life applications. For instance, students studying opera also study Italian.

Among the activities taking place between our school system and the United Kingdom is an international art exhibition called My Project. In January, representatives from Oxfordshire will visit Baltimore County to finalize project details. The activity will involve students from the Carver Center for Arts and Technology, Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts, and several elementary schools creating art and sending digital images of their work to be displayed at Modern Art Oxford in September 2008. This international exhibition will also include artwork from students in the United Kingdom, Uganda, Hong Kong, Bali, Tokyo, and Beijing.

A few more notes I would like to share:

- My meetings with small groups of principals have proven to be extremely productive. The principals are sharing best practices with each other, and I am able to provide better support and guidance with these opportunities to hear more about their successes, concerns, and needs.
- We have signed a contract so that Phi Delta Kappa can conduct a curriculum audit. This valuable assessment will facilitate our continued progress in increasing academic rigor and expanding opportunities for all students.
- We met on September 20th with representatives of Morgan State University and Towson University to propose collaborating on a joint secondary science fair. The meeting was positive, and discussions are continuing.

My last note is to thank, once again, the students and staff at Chesapeake High School for an outstanding visit. I was at the school two weeks ago to observe a *Language!* model lesson. What I saw at that school, and what I continue to see as I visit schools around the county, are dedicated teachers, hardworking students, and visionary administrators.



Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 9/20 **K-16 Leadership Council Meeting, Maryland State Department of Education**
- 9/20 **Principals Meeting, Timonium Holiday Inn**
- 9/20 **Science Meeting with Towson University and Morgan State University**
- 9/20 **Board Work Session on FY 2008 Capital Budget**
- 9/21 **Educational Advisory Board Meeting**
- 9/21 ***Language!* Model Lesson at Chesapeake High School**
- 9/21 **Lunch with Elementary School Principals**
- 9/21 **Bowl-A-Thon Kickoff**
- 9/25 **Meeting with SAT Coordinators**
- 9/25 **Interview with Wylie Wong of *EdTech Magazine***
- 9/26 **Opening Remarks at Safe Schools Conference, Timonium Holiday Inn**
- 9/26 **Presentation at Hunt Valley Rotary Meeting**
- 9/27 **Opening Remarks at Safe Schools Conference, Timonium Holiday Inn**
- 9/27 **Meeting with Elementary School Principals**
- 9/27 **Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council Pre-Budget Meeting, Eastern Technical High School**
- 9/28-29 **Scholastic Superintendents' Leadership Summit in New York**
- 9/29 **Greetings at the Baltimore County Student Councils Leadership Workshop, Camp Ramblewood**

Upcoming

- 10/4-6 **Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) Conference, Ocean City**

- 10/6 **Maryland State Department of Education Teacher of the Year Celebration, Martin's West**
- 10/7-9 **National Federation of Urban-Suburban School Districts (NFUSSD) Conference, Greenville, North Carolina**
- 10/9 **Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council Pre-Budget Meeting, Sollers Point High School**
- 10/11 **Meeting with Elementary School Principals**
- 10/11 **“The State of Education in Baltimore County” presentation at the annual Education Committee Luncheon of the Essex-Middle River-White Marsh Chamber of Commerce, Red Brick Station, The Avenue at White Marsh**
- 10/11 **Student Advisory Board Meeting**
- 10/12 **Georgia Chamber of Commerce Conference, Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor, Baltimore**
- 10/13-14 **Superintendents College Board/AVID Panel, Colorado Springs, Colorado**
- 10/16 **Windsor Mill Middle School Formal Dedication**
- 10/16 **Lunch with Elementary School Principals**
- 10/17 **Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council Pre-Budget Meeting, Owings Mills High School**
- 10/18 **Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities Awards Program, Timonium Holiday Inn**
- 10/18 **Principals Meeting, Timonium Holiday Inn**
- 10/18 **Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council Pre-Budget Meeting, Woodlawn High School**
- 10/24 **Offering greetings at the AVID Leadership Training Conference, Pikesville Hilton**