
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

February 27, 2007

These last few weeks have been a highly productive period for celebrating our academic progress, continuing to strengthen community partnerships, and working collaboratively to advance our students.

Our celebrations included honoring Hereford Middle School as one of Baltimore County's newest Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools. I joined State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Grasmick at Hereford for the celebration on February 16. This year, two of the seven schools named Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools were in Baltimore County – Hereford Middle School and Red House Run Elementary School. A celebration at Red House Run was held on January 11. Baltimore County now has a total of 14 Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools, and of those, eight have also been designated National *No Child Left Behind* Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence.

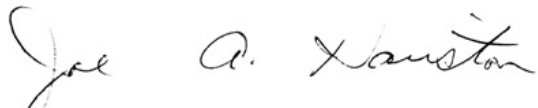
A week after the Hereford Middle School event, 200 principals, teachers, and parents gathered for a breakfast to recognize 63 schools for their outstanding performance on the 2006 Maryland School Assessment. Deputy State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Skipp Sanders was our special guest for this event, and we were pleased that Board members JoAnn Murphy, Meg O'Hare, and Joy Shillman could participate.

Following the breakfast, I was at Sparks Elementary School for a ceremony to honor Elizabeth "Pokey" Fair for being named Teacher of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. This is the second year in a row that a Baltimore County teacher received this award; last year's winner was Margaret Paul of Towson High School. These multiple wins for Baltimore County Public Schools reflect the value that we place on preparing our students to solve real-world problems. With the help of outstanding teachers like Ms. Fair and Ms. Paul, students are realizing their power to be successful in college and careers, but also to be responsible citizens of this world.

Part of helping our students connect to the world is ensuring that we as a school system are well connected. This means working continually to remain close to business leaders and the community at large. Over the last few weeks, I have made presentations to the Downtown Towson Rotary Club, the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council, had dinner with state legislators, and lunch with the Baltimore County Council.

The essential work of collaborating to advance student achievement also goes on in our Principals' Meetings, our Principal Center Workshops (which are helping us develop current and future school leaders) and, for example, through my work with local, state, and national groups like the College Board/AVID, the Governor's Compulsory Attendance Task Force, and the state's new steroid awareness campaign.

Through all of these activities, we are strengthening our already strong school system – inspiring higher student achievement and teacher excellence, encouraging greater community support for our schools, and creating additional learning opportunities for our students.



Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 2/15 **College Board Forum, Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore**
- 2/15 **Baltimore County Delegation Hearing on SB 79 / SB 82 / SB 99, James Senate Building, Annapolis**
- 2/16 **Maryland Blue Ribbon School celebration at Hereford Middle School with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick**
- 2/21 **Presentation to Downtown Towson Rotary, Café Troia**
- 2/21 **Presentation to Southwest Area Advisory Council, Lansdowne Elementary School**
- 2/22 **Compulsory Attendance Task Force Meeting, Loyola College, Columbia Campus**
- 2/22 **Board Dinner with county and state legislators, Harry Browne's Restaurant, Annapolis**
- 2/23 **Maryland School Assessment Awards Breakfast, Padonia Park Club, Cockeysville**
- 2/23 **Chesapeake Teacher of the Year Celebration for Elizabeth "Pokey" Fair, Sparks Elementary School**
- 2/26 **Maryland State Department of Education Steroid Awareness Kick-off, Towson High School, with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Grasmick and Congressman Elijah Cummings**

2/27 **Principal Center Workshop (for High School Principals), Loyola Graduate Center, Timonium**

2/27 **Lunch with County Council, Council Chambers, Towson**

Upcoming

2/28 – 3/6 **American Association of Secondary Administrators (AASA)/ - Education Research and Development Institute (ERDI) Conference, New Orleans**

3/3 **Horace Mann League Board of Directors Meeting and Luncheon, New Orleans**

3/7 **Student Advisory Board Meeting**

3/9 **PSSAM/State Superintendent's Meeting, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**

3/10 **Board Retreat, Greenwood Administration Building**

3/12 **Principals' Meeting, Holiday Inn**

3/12 **Maryland State Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Reception, Governor Calvert House, Annapolis**

3/15 **Tech Prep Executive Council Dinner, Timonium Holiday Inn**

3/22-24 **Panel participant, AVID/College Board National Conference, San Diego**