
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

March 13, 2007

This evening, Dr. Fenwick English, the leader of our audit team from Phi Delta Kappa Curriculum Management Services, Incorporated, will present the findings and recommendations from our audit.

Before we hear those results, I want to remind the Board, staff, and community that I initiated this audit with your support and involvement. To design an instructional program for the future, we decided to put ourselves under the microscope – to assess our own strengths, challenges, and effectiveness.

We did this because, while we have achieved consistent progress in raising Maryland School Assessment scores and Advanced Placement and SAT participation, our overall success reflects both centers of excellence and centers of challenge. It was the inconsistency of implementation from central office, as evidenced by the inconsistency of growth and success from school to school, which led me to pursue this objective audit.

What Phi Delta Kappa has provided us with is what our school system needs to move forward – an intense but objective assessment of the gaps between what we say and – in fact might believe we are doing – and our actual performance. Beyond mere data, PDK has provided us with vital and powerful information that we can and will use.

The Executive Summary of the PDK Curriculum Management Audit Report will be available online at www.bcps.org following tonight's Board meeting. The full report will be available online beginning on March 16.

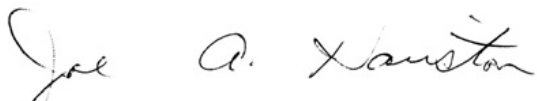
As I have described, our goal with the audit is to make our good school system even better. To close my report, I would like to list just a few of the recent honors that prove how good our system already is:

- At the end of last month, our school system was named one of the nation's 100 best communities for music.

- Five Baltimore County students placed first or second in the statewide High School Young Authors Contest, sponsored by the State of Maryland International Reading Association Council. We claimed more winners than any other school system entered in the contest.
- Andrew Sliwoski of Towson High School was being selected as **the** USA winner in the 2006/07 Unilever International Schools Art Project. Andrew’s photograph, “Stars Have Teeth” will represent the United States in an international exhibit to be shown at the Tate Modern in London. The 19 students who had their work selected from thousands of entries from schools all over the world in countries as diverse as Pakistan, China, Russia, and the USA will now travel to London to see their work exhibited at a special reception.
- The Eastern Tech Culinary Management Team won first place in the Maryland ProStart Student Invitational Culinary and Management Competition and is now headed to national competition to be held in April in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Two Eastern Tech CADD students earned first and second place at the recent Baltimore Chapter of the American Society of Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Engineers competition.
- Three Baltimore County students, from Patapsco, Perry Hall, and Pikesville high schools, were selected to perform, last weekend, in Connecticut, in the All-Eastern Honors Ensembles, which included approximately 600 musically-gifted students from 12 states, Germany, and Spain. Two BCPS students sang in the All-Eastern Honors Mixed Choir, and the third played double bass in the All-Eastern Honors Orchestra.

And the list goes on...growing every day.

We achieve these results because we are a community that cares for its children, and we are a school system dedicated to ensuring that all students reach their very highest academic potential. To continue moving forward, we must choose – every day – to take action to improve what we do for children.



Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 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**
- 3/8 **M&T Bank 24 Challenge preview at Woodholme Elementary School, with August Chiasera, president, M&T Bank, Greater Baltimore Region**
- 3/9 **PSSAM/State Superintendent's Meeting, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 3/9 **Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**
- 3/10 **Board Retreat, Greenwood Administration Building**
- 3/12 **Principals' Meeting, Holiday Inn**
- 3/12 **Maryland State Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Reception, The Governor Calvert House, Annapolis**

Upcoming

- 3/14 **Student Council General Assembly Meeting, Community College of Baltimore County, Essex**
- 3/15 **Baltimore County launch of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education's www.BeWhatIWantToBe.com web site, Dundalk High School**
- 3/15 **Tech Prep Executive Council Dinner, Timonium Holiday Inn**
- 3/22-24 **Panel participant, AVID/College Board National Conference, San Diego**
- 3/26 **Reading to students at Pot Spring Elementary School**
- 3/28 **Human Resources Retreat, Sheppard Pratt Conference Center**
- 3/29 **Lansdowne High School Employer Appreciation Luncheon**

3/30 **Presenting greetings at Future Educators Association Conference, University of Maryland Baltimore County**

3/30 **Offering remarks at Business Service Advance, Embassy Suites, Hunt Valley**