
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

April 24, 2007

Last week, I had the privilege of speaking at the Maryland Environmental Education Symposium, hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and other prominent organizations. In inviting me to speak, these organizations reaffirmed our school system's growing reputation as a leader in the field of environmental education. I want to thank our teachers in this field who continue to integrate environmental education with other core content areas.

I was pleased to share with the audience that environmental education is an integral part of our curriculum because through it we can involve our students in problem-based learning. At every grade level, our students use environmental issues or concerns as opportunities to put into practice the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom. By studying the environment – and taking action to improve the environment – our students use higher level thinking skills to investigate, analyze, predict, persuade, and evaluate.

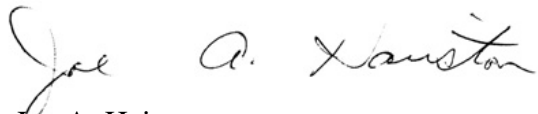
Environmental education also empowers our students. Through environmental education, they can see and experience in tangible ways their power as individuals to make a positive difference.

Also last week, we hosted another in our series of Principal Center workshops. This past Friday, Gary Marx, author of the renowned *Sixteen Trends*, spoke to more than 100 Baltimore County Public Schools principals and aspiring principals as part of the Principal Center professional development series.

Beginning just this school year, I initiated these Principal Center Workshops as a forum for principals and aspiring principals to share best practices and enhance their leadership. In addition to the Gary Marx event, sessions held this school year have addressed the challenges of the principalship, transferring school system priorities into the classroom, and sustainability and succession. The next workshop will be a roundtable discussion on engaging the total school community including parents, staff, and community members.

Related to involving the community in our schools, yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with Augie Chiasera, regional president of M&T Bank's Greater Baltimore Region. For the past 10 years, with generous support from M&T Bank, growing numbers of our elementary and middle school students have participated in the annual 24 Challenge[®] mathematics competition. The involvement of M&T Bank in our schools, along with countless other corporations and organizations, enriches learning experiences for our students and better enables us to prepare our students for the future.

We are continuing to move forward on behalf of our students and this community.



Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 3/28 **Human Resources Retreat, Sheppard Pratt Conference Center**
- 3/29 **Lansdowne High School Employer Appreciation Luncheon**
- 3/30 **Presented greetings at Future Educators Association Conference, University of Maryland Baltimore County**
- 3/30 **Offered remarks at Business Service Advance, Embassy Suites, Hunt Valley**
- 4/3 **Student Advisory Board Meeting**
- 4/4 **Baltimore County Health Department Press Conference announced contributions to high schools for after-prom parties**
- 4/4 **Board of Education Recognition Ceremony, Dulaney High School**
- 4/13-4/15 **National School Boards Association Annual Conference, San Francisco**
- 4/16 **Stakeholder meeting regarding the curriculum management audit**
- 4/17 **Made presentation at Maryland Environmental Education Symposium, Annapolis**
- 4/18 **Principals' Meeting, Holiday Inn Timonium**
- 4/18 **PTA Council Executive Board meeting regarding the curriculum management audit**
- 4/19 **Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Reception celebrated higher education**
- 4/20 **Teachers of Promise Institute, Sheraton North Towson**

- 4/20 **AIMMS/MSDE Excellence in Minority Achievement Ceremony, Martin's West**
- 4/23 **Special Education Citizens Advisory Council Meeting**
- Upcoming*
- 4/25 **Luncheon with Department of Research, Testing, and Accountability**
- 4/25 **Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee Meeting**
- 4/26 **Dundalk Village Tour with Ed Parker, Johnny Olszewski, and Chris McCullough**
- 4/26 **Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Teacher Appreciation Banquet, Martin's East**
- 4/27 **Meeting with Chinese exchange students and teacher at Dulaney High School**
- 4/30 **1000 Hour Volunteer Afternoon Tea Awards Ceremony, Holiday Inn - Timonium**
- 4/30 **Essex-Middle River-White Marsh Chamber Legislative Wrap-up Dinner, Martin's East**
- 5/2 **Career and Technology Recognition Dinner, Martin's West**
- 5/3 **Board of Education National Merit Finalists/Awards, New Town High School**
- 5/4 **Lansdowne High Academy of Finance Luncheon, Snyder's Willow Grove Restaurant**
- 5/5 **To present greetings at Early College Awareness Workshop, Loyola Graduate Center - Timonium**
- 5/7 **Baltimore County Public Schools Student Scholarship Award Ceremony, ESS, Room 114**
- 5/9 **Teacher of the Year Award Ceremony, ESS, Room 114**
- 5/9 **Superintendent's Student Advisory Board meeting**
- 5/10 **Workforce Development Council meeting, 1101 McCormick Road**
- 5/10 **To speak to new assistant principal group, Deer Park Middle Magnet School**

- 5/10 **TABCO Retirement and Recognition Dinner, Martin's East**
- 5/11 **PSSAM – State Superintendent's Meeting, Strathmore Music Center**
- 5/11 **PTA Council Recognition, Parkville Middle School**