

---

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

---

June 12, 2007

---

Seven years ago, Baltimore County Public Schools established the *Blueprint for Progress* as the foundational document for the school system. It calls on us to provide a high-quality education to all students in a dynamic world where expectations and accountability continue to rise.

It was in the spirit of the *Blueprint for Progress*, in the spirit of reaching beyond what some might say is attainable, that we contracted with Phi Delta Kappa to conduct a comprehensive curriculum management audit of our school system. Like other assessments our school system has conducted, the Phi Delta Kappa audit helped us identify areas that, when addressed strategically and with purpose, will yield the greatest advancement.

We have moved quickly in response to the recommendations for the Board and for the Superintendent from the Phi Delta Kappa audit. In addition to the Board's work to accelerate policy reviews, the school system has created a Chief Academic Officer position and hired veteran educator Dr. Sonia Diaz to fill that position. This evening Dr. Diaz will present our next benchmark in moving forward – the newly completed curriculum management plan. Perhaps one of the audit's strongest findings was the need for Baltimore County Public Schools to establish such a plan.

I think it is important to note that we see this plan as part of our ongoing process to improve an already good school system. Now that the plan has been developed, it is our duty to implement it consistently and effectively so that we can reach the next level of performance as a school system and prepare our children to reach higher and higher levels of academic achievement. It is our duty to implement the plan in concert with all of the other work of the school system – in an integrated and seamless way.

I was very pleased to see more than 40 staff members working on this plan, coming out of their departments and schools, and working across disciplines to do what is right for our students. This work was complemented by input from many teachers and principals through focus groups and feedback sessions. This teamwork is a model for the entire school system as we understand that we must be accountable to each other and the students and that we must collectively focus on performance and on our students.



Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

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

### *Past*

- 5/23 Collage presentation by Gifted and Talented art students from Riderwood Elementary School, Greenwood Administration lobby
- 5/23 Met with League of Women Voters, Greenwood
- 5/23 UMBC 2007 Honorary Degree Award Dinner, The Center Club
- 5/24 FY 08 Budget Adoption by County Council, Council Chambers, Towson
- 5/29 Woodlawn High School graduation, UMBC
- 5/30 Offered brief remarks at Ridge Ruxton School graduation
- 5/30 Mildred Murray Scholarship presentation, Greenwood Administration lobby
- 5/30 Offered brief remarks at Catonsville High School graduation
- 5/31 Groundbreaking for Villa Julie College School of Business, Villa Julie College Owings Mills Campus
- 5/31 Kenwood High School graduation, CCBC Essex, Field House
- 6/2 New Town High School graduation, Towson University
- 6/3 Offered brief remarks at Cedarmere Elementary School's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- 6/4 Presented special award at Children's Cancer Foundation Award Ceremony, Perry Hall Middle School
- 6/6 K-16 Leadership Council Meeting, Maryland State Department of Education
- 6/7 Greater Baltimore Committee Breakfast, Morton's Steakhouse
- 6/8 Interviewed by *Washington Post* reporter Daniel DeVise about BCPS successes with AP program and African American students
- 6/8 Special Olympics Opening Ceremony, Towson Center, Towson University

*Upcoming*

- 6/15            **Northrop Grumman Engineering Scholars Awards Dinner, Historical Electronics Museum, Linthicum**
- 6/21            **AESA Luncheon, Raffles Restaurant**
- 6/25-27        **Principals' Academy**
- 6/29-7/8       **Virginia Tech Educational Leadership Conference in China**