
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

November 6, 2007

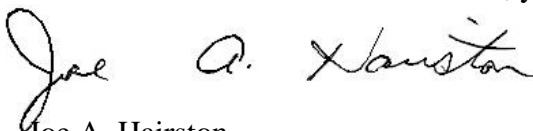
I want to begin my brief remarks this evening by sharing an update on recent State Board of Education decision. Last Wednesday, the Board voted eight to four to make passing the four High School Assessments a requirement for a Maryland high school diploma, beginning with the class of 2009. Students who do not pass all four tests will be able to earn their diplomas by achieving a combined score of 1,602, or, in some instances, by completing challenging academic projects.

This important decision for Maryland's students comes just before this year's American Education Week, November 12-16. During this week, I will visit several schools across the county – as I do throughout the school year.

When I make these visits, I am proud to see teachers giving students individual assistance and encouragement, students using their knowledge and skills to solve real-world problems, and administrators creating environments that foster greater academic rigor and wider opportunities for all students. I am also excited to see so many parents in our schools and at events supporting our students and teachers.

Later in this meeting, staff will present an update on state legislative activities as they relate to public education. These updates, which will continue throughout the legislative session, help us better understand the environment in which we work, and they support our ability to be more effective advocates for our students.

Although we are just a few months into the 2007-2008 school year, it is already time to develop our budget proposal for fiscal year 2009. This budget will need to be tightly crafted in consideration of state's fiscal climate, yet still responsive to the needs of our students.



Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 10/24-10/26 **State Superintendent's Retreat, Ocean City**
- 10/29 **Superintendent's lunch and informal dialogue with high school principals, Greenwood Administration Building**
- 10/30 **Presented comments regarding High School Assessments to the Maryland State Board of Education**
- 10/30 **Northrop Grumman Welcome Reception for Dr. Ronald Sugar, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and Wes Bush, President and Chief Operating Officer, Linthicum**
- 10/31 **Presented awards at Good Neighbor Week Kickoff**
- 11/1 **Education Industry Symposium, sponsored by the Governor's Workforce Investment Board, Anne Arundel County Community College**
- 11/5 **Maryland State Department of Education Stakeholder Group Meeting**

Upcoming

- 11/7 **Superintendent's Student Advisory Board Meeting**
- 11/8 **To speak at Johns Hopkins University's Emerging Technologies Symposium, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, Laurel**
- 11/8 **Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame Recognition Dinner, Valley Mansion by Martins**
- 11/9 **Dedication Ceremony for Dr. Clarence McWilliams Stadium, Franklin High School**
- 11/12, 14,
& 15 **American Education Week school visits**
- 11/12 **High School Honors Concert**
- 11/16 **Hereford Middle School National Blue Ribbon School Celebration**
- 11/19 **College Savings Plan Press Event with State Comptroller and State Treasurer**