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

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February 26, 2008

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This evening, I want to highlight recent activities that exemplify our focus on preparing students for the future.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to spend the morning with some of the young people who will become our next generation of innovators. This was a group of 16 students from Old Court Middle School who spent the day at the Community College of Baltimore County – Catonsville as part of our ongoing College Gateway Partnership. This initiative enables every eighth-grade student from nine designated middle schools (a total of 2,000 students during the 2007-2008 school year) to spend a day on a college campus. During this day, students participate in classes taught by faculty from both Baltimore County Public Schools and the Community College of Baltimore County.

It was my pleasure to watch these young people become increasingly excited about the prospect of going to college and building careers. During their day on campus, they met with admissions counselors, learned about the process of creating a course schedule, discussed career choices, and enjoyed a campus tour that included opportunities to learn about flight training, computer-aided design and drafting, automated manufacturing, and nursing.

It was also my great pleasure to witness the maturity, intelligence, and demeanor of these students. They were excellent examples of the quality of young people in community-based schools countywide – from north to south, east to west.

I will return to the community college tomorrow with a group of students from Loch Raven Middle visiting the Community College of Baltimore County – Essex.

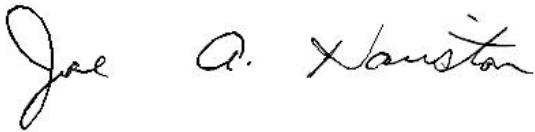
For our students, it has also been my vision for some time that our school system explore the use of virtual environments as learning tools and that we develop programs to prepare young people for careers in these growing industries.

Baltimore County Public Schools has a unique opportunity to achieve these goals because our county has one of the largest clusters of gaming, modeling, and simulation producers on the East Coast.

A few weeks ago, I convened an enthusiastic meeting to begin developing and moving this initiative forward. This meeting brought gaming, modeling, and simulation producers together with education leaders, including State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick and Johns Hopkins University administrators and advisory board members. I look forward to providing you with updates as this initiative takes shape.

I also want to share with the Board that I met with Congressman Elijah Cummings to discuss Woodlawn High School and its community.

Finally, systemwide, quality curriculum and quality implementation of that curriculum are urgent priorities for us. We are looking forward to an update from Curriculum and Instruction and to making appropriate plans in accordance with that update.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe A. Hairston". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

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

### *Past*

- 2/13 **Sollers Point Tour with Board Vice President Ed Parker**
- 2/14-19 **American Association of School Administrators  
Conference/Education Research and Development Institute, Tampa,  
Florida**
- 2/15 **Horace Mann League Board of Directors Meeting, Tampa, Florida**
- 2/16 **Horace Mann League Annual Luncheon and Meeting, Tampa,  
Florida**
- 2/21 **Children's Cancer Foundation Meeting**
- 2/25 **Dulaney High School PTSA Meeting**

### *Upcoming*

- 2/27 **College Gateway Partnership with students from Loch Raven Middle  
School, CCBC Essex**
- 2/28 **School visits**
- 2/28 **Authors' Tea with students at Westchester Elementary School**
- 3/5 **Meeting with League of Women Voters**
- 3/7 **Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, Anne  
Arundel County Board of Education**
- 3/10 **Grand Opening Reception and Brunch for the Maryland's  
Tomorrow/AdvancePath Academy, Chesapeake High School.**
- 3/12 **Student Council General Assembly, Community College of Baltimore  
County - Essex**
- 3/13 **Future Educators Association Conference, with State Superintendent  
of Schools Dr. Nancy Grasmick, College of Notre Dame of Maryland**