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

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June 10, 2008

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I want to use my report this evening to share some brief highlights of the past few weeks and to look ahead through the remainder of June.

In addition to participating in a number of graduation ceremonies, last week, I also participated in a celebration of our College Gateway Partnership with the Community College of Baltimore County. I was joined at this celebration by State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Community College of Baltimore County President Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, Golden Ring Middle School Principal George Roberts, and students and staff from his school. Through the groundbreaking College Gateway Partnership initiative, this school year more than 2,000 eighth-grade students from nine middle schools had the opportunity to experience a day on campus as a college student.

This event came on the same day that *Education Week* released a report identifying Baltimore County Public Schools, once again, as having the fourth highest graduation rate in the nation among large school districts. Just one week before, *Newsweek* and *Washington Post*, once again, placed 40% of our high schools – 10 schools – on the list of the top 5 percent of high schools in the nation. We will recognize these schools at tonight's meeting.

Having strong schools that engage students in rigorous coursework and programs like College Gateway Partnership, AVID, and the College Board partnership all contribute to the creation of a college-ready culture in our schools and to our notable graduation rate.

Another factor in this equation is our strong partnerships with the business community. For example, on Friday, I had the opportunity to participate in the annual Northrop Grumman Scholarship Dinner. Each year, Northrop Grumman honors one student from each school district in Maryland with a \$10,000 scholarship. This year, the winner from Baltimore County is 2008 Catonsville High School graduate William C. Fawcett. In addition to offering prestigious scholarships, Northrop Grumman supports our schools through its involvement with the development of Chesapeake High School into the county's first schoolwide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) academy, working in partnership with Deep Creek Middle School on a robotics club, linking BCPS educators with mentor engineers through the Teachers and Engineers for Academic Achievement Program, and offering teachers the opportunity to experience zero-gravity flight.

Our school system also benefits greatly from its dedicated staff and volunteers. Tonight we will honor Joe Kaminski on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. A school system employee for the last 28 years, Joe joined our work force after retiring from a business career. He sets an example for all of us with his dedication to his work and his service to our school system.

I also want to recognize Ella White Campbell, who has been a tireless advocate on behalf of our students and schools. Recently, the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, of which she was a key leader, was redeveloped into the Diversity and Achievement Steering Committee. I want to thank her for her contributions to the Minority Achievement Advisory Group and for the work I know she will continue to do.

Finally, I want to offer just a few examples of the high profile Baltimore County Public Schools has on the national level. Last week, I was honored to participate in the Network of Networks Roundtable organized by the Benjamin Banneker Institute for Science and Technology. This event, which was held at the U.S. Capitol, is part of the Institute's multi-year effort to increase minority involvement in the sciences. The science and education leaders present were impressed by our development of Chesapeake High School into a STEM academy and by our other initiatives to broaden student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Congressman James Clyburn, majority whip of the House of Representatives served as keynote speaker. The Roundtable was convened by Dr. John Slaughter, president and CEO of NACME (National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering), former President of Occidental College, former Chancellor of University of Maryland, and former Director of the National Science Foundation.

Later this month, I will participate in the summer Board of Directors meeting of the Horace Mann League. The League is comprised of 1,000 renowned educators who share the belief that public schools are the cornerstone of democracy in America, and I am honored to represent our school system as I sit on its 12-member Board of Directors.

We continue to make progress as a school system, and our achievements continue to attract attention and recognition.

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*

- 5/21 **Spoke at Principals' Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Timonium**
- 5/21 **Offered congratulatory remarks at Patapsco High School PTSA Scholastic/Service Banquet, Martin's East**
- 5/22 **Attended County Council budget adoption, Council Chambers, Towson**
- 5/27 **Attended Owings Mills High School graduation, McDaniel College**
- 5/28 **Offered greetings at the CollegeBoard SpringBoard training, Loyola Conference Center**
- 5/28 **Participated in Children's Cancer Foundation Award Ceremony, Perry Hall Middle School**
- 5/28 **Presented Mildred Murray Scholarship Awards, Greenwood**
- 5/29 **Offered greetings for second day of CollegeBoard SpringBoard training, Loyola Conference Center**
- 5/29 **Attended Lansdowne High School graduation, UMBC**
- 5/30 **Attended Ridge Ruxton School graduation**
- 5/30 **Hosted AVID Coordinators luncheon**
- 5/31 **Attended Milford Mill High School graduation, Towson University**
- 6/3 **Participated in The Benjamin Banneker Institute for Science and Technology's Network of Networks Roundtable, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.**
- 6/4 **Spoke at closing celebration of College Gateway Partnership with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick and Community College of Baltimore County President Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, CCBC - Essex**
- 6/6 **Participated in the Northrop Grumman Engineering Scholars Awards Dinner, Historical Electronics Museum, Linthicum**

6/8 **Attended Delegate Impallaria's and Delegate McDonough's Scholarship Award Reception, Community College of Baltimore County - Essex Student Center**

*Upcoming*

6/13 **To participate in Timonium Complex Annual Picnic**

6/14 **To participate in Diversity and Achievement Steering Committee Retreat**

6/16 **To host Superintendent's Retreat, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Timonium**

6/16 **To attend Joe Kaminski Birthday Celebration, 9610 Pulaski Park Drive, Suite 216**

6/17-19 **To speak at Principals' Academy, Rocky Gap Conference Center**

6/21-23 **To participate in Horace Mann League Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago**

6/25 **To participate in Reading First Leadership Breakfast with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, BWI Marriott Hotel**

6/28 **To offer keynote address at Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation Annual George L. Russell, Jr., Charities and Awards Brunch, Morgan State University New Student Union**