
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

February 10, 2009

At its work session on January 29, our Board of Education demonstrated, through its thoughtful discussion, its appreciation of an important responsibility: advancing an operating budget.

At that same meeting, Board Vice President H. Edward Parker reminded us about the use of another critical resource: time. Mr. Parker reminded us that there are less than 90 days left in our 180-day school year – less than 90 days remaining during which we can accomplish our annual goals on behalf of children.

Mr. Parker's comment reflects that our Board understands and appreciates what our workforce knows as "Phase Planning." As our *Blueprint for Progress* prompts us to ask ourselves: "What do I need to do, based on my role and responsibilities, to achieve the characteristics described in the *Blueprint*?" Phase Planning reminds us to ask: "When do I need to do take various actions to impact teaching and learning in the most effective way?"

We continue to see evidence that both our fiscal resources and our time have been well spent. We see the dividends in our continued progress.

Last month *Education Week* proclaimed that Maryland has the best K-12 public education system in the nation. This month, in their *2009 AP Report to the Nation*, the College Board has announced that out of all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Maryland achieved the highest percentage (23.4) of public school students scoring at least a 3 on an AP Exam.

These achievements are significant because they make it clear that Baltimore County Public Schools is not just a strong school system, but a strong local school system within the nation's best statewide system. Our progress has contributed greatly to Maryland's overall standing.

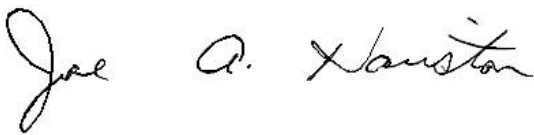
For example, since 2004, Baltimore County Public Schools has increased annual participation in Advanced Placement from 9.6 percent to 12.6 percent and maintained a pass rate of approximately 70 percent.

Here are just a few additional highlights that underscore our national prominence:

- Later this week, internationally renowned reading expert Dr. Richard Allington will spend a day providing professional development to our teachers and administrators.

- Later this week, I will also participate in a roundtable discussion on the impact of the economy on education. The roundtable is part of the 2009 College Board Middle States Regional Forum being held in Baltimore. The discussion will be moderated by College Board President Gaston Caperton.
- Last week, we learned that the George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology tied with a school in Texas as having the most finalists in the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts' youngARTS program. One of those finalists, Becca Goodman, a senior at Carver, has now been named one of only 20 Presidential Scholar in the Arts candidates in the USA.
- Earlier this month, I had the honor of representing our school system as the only superintendent on a prestigious national roundtable, assembled in Washington, D.C., by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the future of financial literacy.
- Last month, I represented our school system as a featured speaker at the College Board national initiative on school counseling and as a panel member on educational technology at the Pearson National Meeting at National Harbor.
- Last month I discussed our school system's progress District Leaders Podcast, which will be made available online soon by McGraw-Hill. Next month I will conduct a webinar on the same topic for Pearson Publishing.
- In December, I participated in a panel at the National Staff Development Council Conference, held just outside of Washington, D.C.

All of this attention reflects and affirms the hard work that our Board members, workforce, students, and stakeholders contribute every day, helping to fulfill our *Blueprint for Progress*. We continue to excel, and the nation continues to take notice.



Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 12/3 **Participated in legislative lunch with Senator Kelley**
- 12/3 **Hosted meeting of Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, Greenwood**
- 12/4 **Spoke at PTA Council Board Meeting, Greenwood**
- 12/9 **Participated in panel at National Staff Development Council Conference, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor**
- 12/10 **Participated in UMBC/National Science Foundation event, UMBC, University Center Ballroom**
- 12/12 **Participated in meeting of Public Schools Superintendents Association of Maryland, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 12/13 **Participated in Virtual Worlds for Education meeting, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab**
- 12/15 **Participated in legislative dinner with Senator Haines**
- 12/16 **Participated in meeting of Governor's Career and Technology Education Task Force, The Meeting House, Columbia**
- 12/17 **Participated in Principals' Meeting, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 12/17 **Hosted annual reunion dinner of Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, ESS Building**
- 12/18 **Participated in legislative breakfast with Senator Harris**
- 12/18 **Attended Blue Ribbon School Recognition Ceremony for Seventh District Elementary School at State Board Meeting**
- 12/19 **Participated in Secondary School Administrators Association (SSAA) Breakfast Meeting, Greenwood**
- 12/19 **Participated in legislative lunch with Senator Brochin**

- 1/5 **Spoke as a panel member on educational technology, Pearson National Meeting, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor**
- 1/5 **Participated in legislative dinner with Senator Kasemeyer**
- 1/6 **Participated in meeting of Governor's Career and Technology Education Task Force, Stevenson University, Owings Mills Campus**
- 1/7 **Attended External Evaluation of Bridge to Excellence Meeting, Annapolis High School**
- 1/8 **Spoke at Lockheed Martin Partnership Luncheon, Chesapeake High School**
- 1/8 **Hosted Diversity Achievement Steering Committee meeting, Greenwood**
- 1/9 **Offered greetings at Department of Technology Retreat, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 1/9 **Participated in meeting of Public Schools Superintendents Association of Maryland, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 1/9 **Participated in Essex Middle River White Marsh Chamber Annual Awards and Installation Dinner, Martin's Eastwind**
- 1/10 **Attended TABCO/BACE Legislative Breakfast, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 1/12 **Served as featured speaker in "fireside chat" at College Board Urban School Counselor Initiative Group Meeting, Washington, D.C.**
- 1/14 **Hosted lunch with high school principals, Greenwood**
- 1/16 **Offered greetings and presented awards at Martin Luther King event, Faith Christian Fellowship Church, Randallstown**
- 1/16 **Interviewed by reporter from Johns Hopkins University's magazine, regarding learning through virtual environments**
- 1/21 **Presented testimony to the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Annapolis**
- 1/22 **Interviewed by McGraw Hill Vice President Carolyn Pearson for a District Leaders Podcast**

- 1/23 **Participated in Superintendents' Roundtable Discussion for morning news at WMAR-TV**
- 1/23 **Hosted lunch with middle school principals, Greenwood**
- 1/28 **Participated in Board of Public Works Appeals Hearing, State House, Annapolis**
- 1/29 **Participated in Legislative Audit Hearing, House Office Building, Annapolis**
- 1/30 **Hosted lunch with elementary school principals, Greenwood**
- 2/2 **Hosted lunch with elementary school principals, Greenwood**
- 2/2 **Participated in U.S. Chamber of Commerce Roundtable Dinner Discussion on Financial Literacy Education, Washington, D.C.**
- 2/3 **Spoke at Blue Ribbon Award celebration at Seventh District Elementary School, with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick**
- 2/5 **Participated in discussion regarding testing with the Baltimore County Delegation to the Maryland State Legislature, James Senate Building, Annapolis**
- 2/6 **Participated in meeting of Public Schools Superintendents Association of Maryland, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 2/7 **Presented awards at annual county-wide Black Saga Competition, Randallstown High School**
- 2/9 **Hosted lunch with elementary school principals, Greenwood**
- 2/10 **Presented awards to three Perry Hall students participating in College Ed panel at 2009 College Board Middle States Regional Forum, Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore**
- 2/10 **Participated on panel to discuss college readiness, at the request of Sen. Ulysses Currie, Annapolis**

Upcoming

- 2/11 **To attend meeting of Governor's Career and Technology Education Task Force, Anne Arundel Community College, Cade Building**

- 2/12 **To participate in invitation-only roundtable with College Board President Gaston Caperton at the 2009 College Board Middle States Regional Forum, Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore**
- 2/12 **To participate in Diversity Achievement Steering Committee meeting, Greenwood**
- 2/13 **To introduce renowned reading expert Dr. Richard Allington at a workshop for Baltimore County Public Schools administrators, Sheppard Pratt Conference Center**
- 2/14 **To participate in Baltimore County 350th Anniversary Celebration of African American Firsts, Banneker Museum, Catonsville**
- 2/16-2/21 **To participate in American Association of School Administrators conference, San Francisco**
- 2/16-2/19 **To participate in Education Research and Development Institute conference, San Francisco**
- 2/23 **To host lunch with elementary school principals, Greenwood**
- 2/24 **To bring greetings to Character Education Conference for Administrators, Sheppard Pratt Conference Center**
- 2/24 **To participate in Maryland State Board of Education recognition ceremony for Willard Hackerman, State Board Room**
- 2/26 **To host lunch with elementary school principals, Greenwood**
- 2/27 **To address the Baltimore County Delegation to the Maryland State Legislature, along with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, James Senate Building, Annapolis**
- 2/28 **To attend Coppin State University Vision Awards (ceremony will include presentation of alumni award to Dr. Warren Hayman), Hyatt Regency on the Harbor**
- 3/2 **To visit schools**
- 3/3 **To participate in webinar for Pearson Publishing**
- 3/4 **To meet with Superintendent's Student Advisory Board**

- 3/5 **To speak at Baltimore County PTA Council Board meeting, ESS Building**
- 3/6 **To participate in meeting of Public Schools Superintendents Association of Maryland, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 3/9 **To participate in Blue Ribbon Schools Honors Dinner, along with Board President JoAnn C. Murphy, Governor Calvert House in Annapolis**