
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

April 21, 2009

As we move closer to the end of the school year, it seems that our pace accelerates.

On April 1, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan met with Governor O'Malley, State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, and other state officials and announced that the Recovery Act provides State Stabilization Funds to help boost the economy and includes more than \$100 billion for education from prekindergarten through college.

With this investment, four core focus areas were identified. One of these is improving teacher effectiveness and ensuring that all schools have highly qualified teachers.

I am proud to say that we are well on our way to meeting that goal. In fact, even prior to *No Child Left Behind*, I outlined in Goal 3 of our *Blueprint for Progress* that "All core academic classes will be taught by highly qualified teachers." In 2003-2004, in our school system, 83.5 percent of these teachers were highly qualified. Today, approximately 96 percent of BCPS core academic teachers are highly qualified, including more 99.4 percent of core academic teachers at the elementary level.

Secretary Duncan went on to say that when it comes to teacher quality, we need to know if schools and districts are successfully placing high-quality teachers in schools in low-income communities. This has been a focus of mine since my arrival. Tremendous progress has been made due to our focus on the task, strategies implemented, and the commitment of the Baltimore County Board of Education in supporting these efforts.

Baltimore County Public Schools was recently recognized at a State Board of Education meeting for being the most effective – among large Maryland school districts – in eliminating the highly qualified teacher gap between elementary schools in high- and low-poverty neighborhoods and having a gap of less than two percent at the secondary school level.

Our Department of Human Resources is to be commended for its successful implementation of *Blueprint for Progress* strategies to reach the goal of having highly qualified teachers in all schools.

Appreciation for the quality of our staff is echoed at the county level. Earlier this month, County Executive Jim Smith presented his FY 2010 budget to the Baltimore County Council. I am proud to share that in his remarks the County Executive highlighted the

success of our school system and extended his deep appreciation to our administrators, teachers, and staff.

Our employees are, indeed, invaluable in their service. That is why, together with the Board of Education of Baltimore County, we delivered a budget in February to County Executive Smith that proposed increasing our investment in our workforce.

The County Executive has demonstrated his support for our request by proposing to appropriate funds to ensure that all eligible BCPS employees receive longevity and step increases according to their salary scales and schedules and by providing funds for salary restructuring for all BCPS employees to take place midway through the fiscal year.

County Executive Smith also supported our request to expand AVID, launch our virtual learning environments program, and establish the administration for the new West Towson Elementary School.

It is important to note that the budget process continues, with final adoption of the FY 2010 budget by Baltimore County Council in mid May.

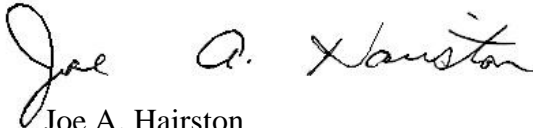
I am also pleased to share that, for the 13th consecutive year, we have received a prestigious Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and our continued receipt of it reflects the high quality of our business services operations.

Often at these meetings I speak about the recognitions we receive. I would like to mention just a few more. This month we hosted a visit from 10 teachers from the United Kingdom who toured four elementary schools – Featherbed Lane, Lansdowne, Sandy Plains, and Wellwood International – and met with principals and teachers to learn more about our approach to improving instructional planning, behavior management, and teaching strategies.

The visit went extremely well, and I want to share with you what one of the UK educators said. He said, “We had some truly inspirational contact with principals and came away with more than just ideas.” Speaking to some of our principals, he said, “What really stood out is how well you know your schools and how well you know each of your children. Every educational initiative is led, and led well, from the top.”

Finally, I am proud to announce that, beginning in mid-August, our teachers, administrators, and staff will have Internet access to our video-on-demand system, Safari Montage, from their homes. Safari Montage has been available in all schools since the 2006-2007 school year for both classroom instruction and professional development activities.

This is another demonstration of the ways that we continue to make strides in using technology to support learning.


Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 3/11-13 **Participated in Blackboard Executive Symposium, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, MD**
- 3/14 **Attended Carver Celebration 2009, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, Towson**
- 3/16 **Participated in meeting of Governor's Career and Technology Education Task Force, Lincoln Technical Institute, Columbia**
- 3/16 **Attended Optimist Club Oratorical Contest, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 3/17 **Participated in meeting of the Educational Coordinating Council for the Juvenile Services Education Program, Maryland State Department of Education Headquarters, Baltimore**
- 3/18 **Participated in meeting of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Blue Ribbon Committee, Archbishop Curley High School, Baltimore**
- 3/23 **Toured the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and met with UMBI leaders, Baltimore**
- 3/23 **Participated in ribbon cutting for new Perry Hall branch of Baltimore County Public Library, Perry Hall**
- 3/25 **Attended Baltimore County Tech Prep Career Pathways Business Dinner Meeting, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 3/27 **Participated in Microsoft Exchange Visit, Reston, VA**
- 3/27 **Participated in Board of Advisors meeting for the Stevenson University School of Business, Stevenson University Owings Mills campus**
- 3/29 **Participated in farewell celebration for Chinese students, Dulaney High School**
- 3/31 **Attended United Way Community Partnership Breakfast, Stevenson University**

- 4/1 **Offered greetings at Lansdowne High School's Annual Employer Appreciation Luncheon, Snyder's Willow Grove Restaurant**
- 4/1 **Hosted meeting of Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, Greenwood, Towson**
- 4/2 **Served as the Honors Convocation speaker at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center**
- 4/2 **Attended Thurgood Marshall Awards Dinner, Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, Baltimore**
- 4/3 **Participated in meeting of Public Schools Superintendents Association of Maryland, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 4/14 **Welcomed visiting teachers from the United Kingdom, ESS Building, Towson**
- 4/14 **Attended the County Executive's presentation of the FY 2010 budget to the Baltimore County Council, Council Chambers, Towson**
- 4/14 **Hosted Diversity Achievement Steering Committee meeting, Greenwood, Towson**
- 4/15 **Interviewed by Mark Galpern regarding Safari Montage**
- 4/15 **Presented "State of Southwest Area Schools" address to Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council, Chadwick Elementary School**
- 4/16 **Attended 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up Luncheon with County Executive James T. Smith, Jr., Oregon Ridge Park**
- 4/17 **Participated in library unveiling ceremony, Fort Garrison Elementary School**
- 4/20 **Met with Special Education Citizens' Advisory Council, ESS Building, Towson**

Upcoming

- 4/22 **To bring greetings to 1,000 Hour Volunteer Tea, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 4/23 **To participate in RMI Board of Directors meeting with County Executive, AAI Corporation, Timonium**

- 4/23 **To attend Dundalk Chamber of Commerce 2009 Teacher Recognition Banquet, Martin's East**
- 4/24 **To participate in meeting of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Blue Ribbon Committee, Archbishop Curley High School, Baltimore**
- 4/28 **To attend Educators for Innovation Dinner with BCPS Teacher of the Year John Billingslea, Candlelight Inn, Catonsville**
- 4/29 **To attend Tech Mania, sponsored by Ft. Meade Alliance, Towson University**
- 4/29 **To attend Maryland Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame award ceremony (honoring June Streckfus and the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education), Hyatt Regency, Baltimore**
- 4/30 **To attend Stevenson University reception honoring Steve Forbes, Stevenson University School of Business and Leadership, Owings Mills**
- 4/30 **To attend ribbon-cutting ceremony for Stevenson University School of Business and Leadership, Owings Mills**
- 4/30 **To attend PTA Council Recognition Awards, Loch Raven High School**
- 5/1 **To attend Hopkins Regional Advisory Board and National Advisory Council Meeting, Johns Hopkins University Education Building, Homewood Campus**
- 5/4 **To announce 2009 Baltimore County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, ESS Building**