
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

December 6, 2011

We have almost reached the midpoint of the 2011-2012 school year. This is a period when we compare our status with our objectives.

In Baltimore County Public Schools, this is all a part of our phase planning process. Phase planning provides us with a framework for continuous improvement. Just as our *Blueprint for Progress* unites us with a common vision and goals for quality, phase planning provides us with a process to keep moving toward success.

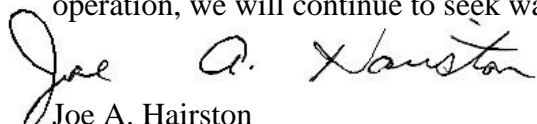
The cycle begins in August with organizational planning, then staff and program development activities are implemented, culminating with assessments of system productivity in December. In January, we cycle back to a planning period, based on the findings of the most recent assessments.

We have followed this process for the past 11.5 years, and our positive performance as a school system has been driven by this process. Our *Blueprint for Progress* and phase planning are primary tools that have contributed to the stability of this school system. Consistency and stability are our trademarks nationally and among our greatest strengths.

Because of our stability, we are better able to plan our course, prepare for the unexpected, and adapt when needed. This is how we remain ahead of the issues, such as taking action ahead of No Child Left Behind and the Common Core Curriculum. Our excellence in planning assures that we will be ready for a reauthorization of the federal education act – if and when that comes. It is a large part of the reason why we, unlike so many other organizations, have been able to avoid layoffs and furloughs.

In this era of the New Normal, with ongoing economic stresses and heightened expectations for public education, our dedication to planning will serve us well as we begin developing our next budget and continue preparing our students for the future.

I would also like to add a few comments about Baltimore County Public Schools and our increasingly important online presence. In the past year, we have expanded our online presence to Facebook and Twitter. We now have 732 followers on Twitter and 9,083 individuals who like us on Facebook. Our website remains one of our most critical tools for sharing information with our community. In November, public users visited the BCPS website almost half a million times viewing more than 1 million pages. Internally, staff made 1.8 million visits to our site. As we move forward, just as we do in all aspects of our operation, we will continue to seek ways to make our online presence even more effective.


Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 11/9 **Attended Maryland Business Roundtable for Education meeting, Center Club, Baltimore**
- 11/9 **Participated in County Executive's ceremony to honor Maryland's Teacher of the Year, Joshua Parker of BCPS, Historic Courthouse, Towson**
- 11/10 **Hosted breakfast with deans of education from local colleges/universities, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 11/10 **Made presentation to Joint Area Education Advisory Council, Greenwood**
- 11/14 **Visited Seven Oaks and Vincent Farm elementary schools**
- 11/15 **Attended Weinberg Foundation Annual Community Gathering, Beth El Congregation, Pikesville**
- 11/16 **Participated in Principals' Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Timonium**
- 11/17 **Visited Perry Hall and Lansdowne high schools**
- 11/17 **Made brief remarks at Teacher Appreciation Dinner hosted by Muslim Community Support Services, Martin's West**
- 11/22 **Participated in Thanksgiving luncheon, Catonsville Center for Alternative Studies**
- 12/1 **Made presentation to IAC for FY13 Capital Budget Request, Maryland State Department of Education Building**
- 12/2 **Participated in Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland/State Superintendent's meeting, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**
- 12/5 **Attended reception for Dean Dr. David Andrews, Johns Hopkins University School of Education, and panel discussion on "Shaping the Future: Examining Critical Issues in Education," Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus**

12/6 **Attended Title I award presentation to Sandalwood Elementary School, Maryland State Department of Education headquarters, Baltimore**

Upcoming

12/7 **Offer brief remarks at Human Resources Advance, Martin's Valley Mansion**

12/7 **Host meeting of Superintendent's Student Advisory Board**

12/8 **Participate in board meeting for Center for Technology in Education, Johns Hopkins University Columbia Center**

12/12 **Make annual presentation to Leadership Baltimore County, Hereford Middle School**

12/14 **Visit schools**

12/16 **Attend Secondary School Administrators' Association Breakfast, Greenwood Administration Building**

12/16 **Offer brief remarks at Office of Pupil Personnel staff meeting, Oregon Ridge**

12/19 **Visit schools**