

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** July 14, 2009

**TO:** **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FROM:** Dr. Joe Hairston, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED NAMING OF PARKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL FIELD**

**ORIGINATOR:** Verletta White, Assistant Superintendent, Northeast Area

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Stephen Edgar, Principal, Parkville High School

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education reviews and approves the naming of Parkville High School's Football Field: Joseph Anthony Yates Sr. Field. This is the first reading.

Request to name the football field at Parkville High School the "Joseph Anthony Yates Sr. Field" in honor of Baltimore County Public Schools' first African American head football coach. The following stakeholders have given their approval for this request: Parkville High School's School Improvement Team, the Parkville High School PTSA, the Parkville High School Alumni Association, and the Parkville High School Athletic Boosters. Additional information about Coach Yates is as follows:

Joseph Anthony Yates, Sr. became the first African American football coach in Baltimore County Public Schools history when he was named head coach at Parkville Senior High School in 1971. "It was very important to us to encourage minority coaches to get head coaching jobs, and Joe Yates was both a pioneer and role model," said Dr. Robert Y. Dubel, former Baltimore County Public Schools superintendent.

"There were only four black physical education teachers in Baltimore County at the time, and I was the only one interested in football," Mr. Yates told the Parkville Reporter in a 1980 interview.

"Joe knew no color differentiation. He didn't want to be regarded as a black coach but rather as a person and human being," said Bob McCubbin, former assistant football coach at Parkville. "He never made color an issue and never discussed it. He was very well accepted at Parkville, and

there were never overt actions against him in classes or during games. He never ruthlessly promoted himself and was the consummate professional. He was knowledgeable, always prepared and left no stone unturned.” When his teams lost, Mr. Yates “never offered excuses, alibis, or looked for a way out. He was always content that his players did the best they could.”

Joseph A. Yates Sr., Parkville High School Head Football Coach, 1971-1981, passed away January 2006 at the age of 83.