

School News



School system receives perfect audit report

Employees should check status

Charles County Public Schools was given a clean financial report Oct. 10 during a presentation on the annual audit to the Board of Education.

Representatives from the accounting firm Clifton Gunderson LLP presented the fiscal year 2006 financial report during the Board's regular monthly meeting. The auditors said they were pleased to report that after an extensive review of the school system's financial operations, there were no findings to report.

The Clifton Gunderson auditors also presented an additional report on internal controls, which did not find any reportable matters or findings. Board of Education members gave the system staff a standing ovation for their efforts, and Superintendent James E. Richmond

acknowledged the finance division for its continued efforts in financial oversight and control.

Paul Balides, assistant superintendent of budget and finance, thanked the Board and said it takes a strong effort by all employees involved with managing and reporting on finances to achieve a perfect audit.

The audit was completed following an extensive two-year review by the Maryland State Department of Education to ensure the school system is in compliance with requirements of the Bridge to Excellence funding.

The fiscal year 2006 operating budget totaled \$225.5 million. A copy of the audit is available online, www.ccboe.com, on the Board of Education page.

Employees are reminded to monitor their retirement, life insurance, health insurance, AFLAC accounts and all other accounts that may need a change of status. Change of status includes address changes, marital status, family member changes and beneficiaries.

Most information can be checked on the employee self service portal located on the staff services page of the Charles County Public Schools web site, www.ccboe.com.

To change a beneficiary, call Human Resources, extension 7255.

Call Carefirst BlueCross/BlueShield for information on billing/claims or if new cards are needed. Insurance numbers to call are:

- Blue Choice HMO - 1-866-520-6099
- Carefirst PPN/Custom Comprehensive and Vision - 1-800-537-5963

Wal-Mart honors Henson educator as the Maryland Teacher of the Year

Georgianna Layton, a math teacher at Matthew Henson Middle School, was honored Sept. 29 as Wal-Mart's Maryland Teacher of the Year.

Students, staff, local officials, friends and family joined Wal-Mart and Phi Delta Kappa International representatives in honoring Layton as one of the top educators in the nation during a surprise assembly at the school.

"Mrs. Layton is a teacher who instills a passion for learning in students," Henson Principal Ronald Stup said during the program. Earlier in the year, Layton had been honored as the 2006 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher recipient and the Waldorf Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year.

Donna Shultz, Waldorf Wal-Mart Store Manager, presented Layton and Stup a \$10,000 educational grant for Matthew Henson in Layton's honor. Layton also received a personalized Teacher of the Year

leather tote, a crystal apple trophy, business cards, a Teacher of the Year certificate and a one-year membership to Phi Delta Kappa.

Phi Delta Kappa International chose Layton as the State Teacher of the Year from among teachers throughout the state for her contributions to education and the positive impact made on students.

Layton has been teaching all levels of mathematics at Henson for 29 years. During that time she has taught Algebra I Part I, pre-algebra, general math with inclusion and enrichment classes.

Layton has written curriculum guides as well as helped mentor both students and teachers. Layton is a community volunteer as well as an active participant in extracurricular activities at Henson.

"This award is a reflection of all educators like Georgianna Layton who are dedicated to their students and their profession," Shultz said.



Georgianna Layton, right, hands several of her awards to Matthew Henson Principal Ronald Stup during an assembly honoring her as the Wal-Mart Maryland Teacher of the Year.

Notebook

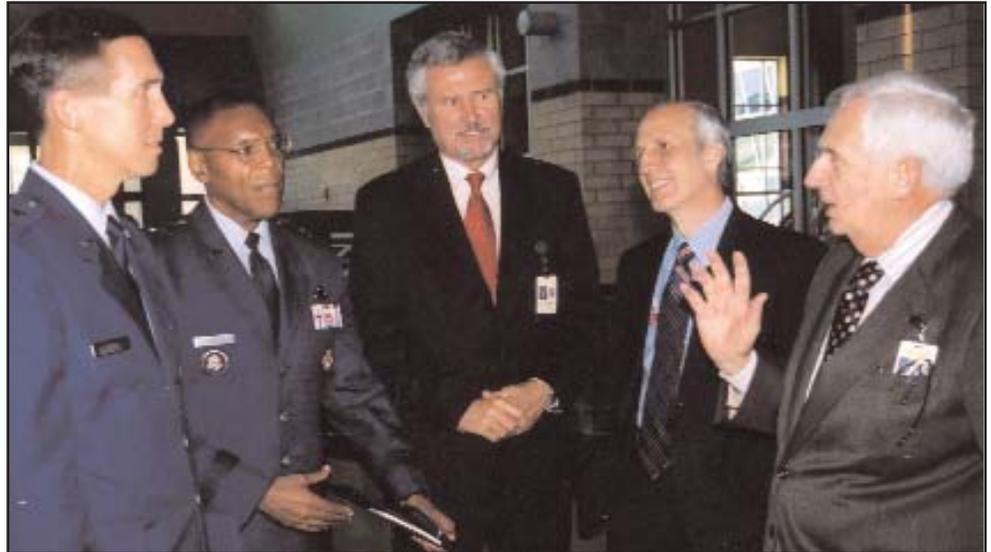
AFLAC open enrollment

AFLAC is holding open enrollment at the following schools and centers through Nov. 3.

- Oct. 16 - Craik, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Oct. 17 - Mudd, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Middleton, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Oct. 18 - Wade, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Barnhart, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Parks, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Oct. 19 - Stethem, 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m.; Turner, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Smallwood, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 23 - Berry, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Gale-Bailey, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Oct. 24 - Mattawoman, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Jenifer, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Oct. 25 - Hanson, 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Henson, 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 26 - Higdon, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Brown, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 27 - Piccowaxen, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Oct. 30 - Ryon, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Mt. Hope, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 31 - Maintenance, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.; Gwynn Center, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.; Starkey, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 1 - Starkey, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 2 - Diggs, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; T. C. Martin, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Nov. 3 - Stoddert, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Cover photos

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees honored Oct. 10 by the Board of Education. Front row, from left, are: Richard Conley, world language teacher, Westlake High School; Constance Sorzano, media instructional assistant, T.C. Martin Elementary School; and Elizabeth Chotkowski, special education instructional assistant, Indian Head Elementary School. From left, back row are: Betty Simms, building service worker, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School; and Beverly Rubain, mathematics teacher, General Smallwood Middle School.



Superintendent James E. Richmond, right, speaks with visiting Air Force Generals Major General Frank Faykes and Brigadier General Larry Spencer along with Assistant Superintendent of Supporting Services Charles Wineland and Board Chairman Collins Bailey.

JROTC students receive visit from Air Force Generals

JROTC students at North Point High School recently met with two Air Force Generals who spent time answering students' questions, visiting programs and talking about career options.

North Point JROTC instructor Maj. Etoya Hearon, who previously worked in Air Force Financial Management, invited Major General Frank Faykes and Brigadier General Larry Spencer to tour the school, meet with cadets and school officials and to learn more about their career paths. There are 135 students in the Air Force JROTC at North Point.

Major General Faykes is Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. He is responsible for planning and directing Air Force budget formulations

annually that total more than \$150 billion.

Brigadier General Spencer is Director of Budget Operations and Personnel, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He is responsible for planning, formulating and directing the execution of the Air Force Operations and maintenance, and military personnel annual budgets totaling more than \$50 billion.

Hearon said the students were pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with, ask questions of, and have lunch with the generals. "The General Officers left our students with a career perspective that few JROTC cadets receive. I also believe the cadets left the Generals with a positive view of today's youth that few General Officers receive," Hearon said.

Physical education teachers honored for excellence

Connie Harris of Westlake High School has been named the Maryland Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD) Teacher of the Year. She was selected for serving as a role model for personal health and fitness, using innovative teaching methodologies and conducting a balanced and sequential curriculum.

Jaime Wright of Indian Head Elementary School was selected by MAHPERD to receive the Simon A. McNeely Award for outstanding teaching and service in health, physical education, recreation or dance.

The teachers will be honored on Oct. 20 at the annual MAHPERD conference, which is being held in Edgewater.

Veteran teachers coach new teachers through mentoring program

School system pilots Teacher Colleague Program at the high school level

Together the six emeritus colleagues have more than 247 years of teaching experience, and although they've retired from the classroom, they're still passing on their knowledge to other teachers.

The emeritus colleagues are at the center of the Teacher Colleague Project, which is designed to mentor, support and retain new teachers.

Barbara Graves, who crafted the program's proposal, said when interviewing prospective teachers the top question is, "What kind of support system do you have for new teachers?" This program addresses their concerns and avoids the "sink or swim metaphor that should not define the beginning of a career in education," Graves wrote in her proposal.

The six emeritus colleagues, each assigned to a high school, work with teacher colleagues at their schools to act as a support system for content, best instructional practices and administrative procedures. Each teacher colleague works with one to four new teachers in his/her school.

The teacher colleagues meet regularly with assigned teachers, maintain a log of meeting topics and model effective teaching practices for new staff.

Because the teacher colleagues are there to help in a non-evaluative role, the new teachers do not feel threatened by them, said Linda Ross, Thomas Stone High School's emeritus colleague.

"We want them to feel that they can come to us," said Margaret Marshall, La Plata High School's emeritus colleague.

Teacher colleagues offer a wealth of knowledge and advice to new teachers including tips to deal with disruptive students, time-



Linda Ross, emeritus colleague at Thomas Stone High School, and Jim Stine, emeritus colleague at Maurice J. McDonough High School, listen as fellow colleague Margaret Marshall (not pictured) discusses ways to help new teachers with classroom management.

saving classroom techniques, how to select student group leaders, and how to develop graphic organizational charts, activities and strategies for effective lesson plans.

To become a teacher colleague, a teacher must apply, be tenured and have received positive evaluations during the past three years. Teacher colleagues receive a stipend based on the number of colleagues they mentor. The emeritus colleagues work about 15 hours a week and are paid a contract or hourly wage.

Jim Stine, Maurice J.

McDonough High School's emeritus colleague, said the support system has always been there, but now it's become formalized. After spending time as a rookie teacher about 30 years ago soliciting advice from veteran teachers, Stine saw the program as "an opportunity to share and give back."

Charles County Public Schools is piloting the Teacher Colleague Project this year in an effort to increase teacher retention rates by providing a high level of support to new teachers.

Research from the Harvard Graduate School of Education confirms that new teachers make their decision to stay in teaching based on the level of support and acceptance they receive at the building level.

Teacher retention is both a national and statewide problem. According to statistics on the Maryland State Teachers Association's web site, more than 50 percent of teacher education program graduates never enter the teaching profession. Additionally, more than 50 percent of new teachers leave the profession in the first five years.

Did you know?

- The following were named as emeritus colleagues for the 2006-07 school year: Cecila Spinks, Henry E. Lackey High School; Margaret Marshall, La Plata High School; Jim Stine, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Thomas Datcher, Jr., North Point High School; Linda Ross, Thomas Stone High School; and Barbara Forbes, Westlake High School.
- More than 50 percent of teacher education graduates never enter the teaching profession. More than 50 percent of new teachers leave the profession in the first five years.
- The goal of the Teacher Colleague Program is to retain teachers by supporting and mentoring them.

Personnel

Apply online at www.ccboe.com

Job openings

Program Analyst/Project Manager – Department of planning and construction; Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position; four-year college degree in business, contractual planning or technical school program in construction technologies, engineering, architecture, business contracting/planning or related field required. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Oct. 16.

Food Service Worker – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, four-hour, 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Oct. 19.

Food Service Worker – C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School; six-hour, 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Oct. 13.

Food Service Worker – La Plata High School; six-hour, 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Oct. 19.

Instructional Assistant – Mattawoman Middle School; in-school retention; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Oct. 19.

Secretary – Staff development department; Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply in writing to the

support personnel office or online by Oct. 19.
Food Service Assistant Manager – Robert Stethem Educational Center; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Oct. 19.

Food Service Worker – C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School; three-hour position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Oct. 20.

Secretary – Reports to director of instructional programs; Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Oct. 18.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – William Diggs Elementary; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Oct. 23.

Locksmith/Carpenter – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online. Position open until filled.

Extra pay positions

Thomas Stone High School has the following openings:

- Head boys' and girls' indoor track coach
 - Head boys' and girls' outdoor track coach
- Call Principal L.C. Martin, 301-753-1756, to apply.

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following opening:

- Head junior varsity girls' basketball coach

Call Principal Curry Werkheiser, 301-753-1753, to apply.

In memoriam - Richard J. Abela

Richard J. Abela, physical education teacher and coach at North Point High School for Science, Technology and Industry, passed away Oct. 7, 2006.

Mr. Abela started at North Point in August 2005 when the school opened. He began his teaching career in 2001 in Queens, New York. Additionally, he taught physical education at both a middle and high school in Prince George's County between 2003 and 2005.

Mr. Abela served as an assistant foot-

ball and assistant baseball coach at North Point. He received a bachelor of science in physical education from State University of New York at Cortland in 2000.

Mr. Abela was a resident of Chesapeake Beach. Visitation is today from 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Lee Funeral Home in Owings. Funeral services are tomorrow, Oct. 14, at 10 a.m.



Richard Abela

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Charles County Public Schools
301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

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