

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

September 28, 2007

R-277



Welcome new staff

Donna M. Robinson, left, an instructional assistant at William B. Wade Elementary School, and Amanda Hao, right, a teacher at Wade, attended the new staff reception held Sept. 26 at Middleton Hall in Waldorf. The new staff reception is hosted by Charles County Public Schools, the NAACP and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

State Board holds hearings; considers HSA alternatives

Members of the Maryland State Board of Education participated in a question-and-answer session this week with Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff about an alternative plan to help students having difficulty passing one or more of the four High School Assessments.

State Board members said they will review and take into account testimony from five recent public hearings on the HSAs before rendering a final decision on the direction of the HSA program. Charles County was the site of one of the hearings where nearly 200 people came to offer testimony or learn more about the HSAs and State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick's Bridge Plan for Academic Validation.

The Bridge Plan would involve a rigorous senior project individually designed for students to allow them to demonstrate mastery of subject content. The content of each project

must address the student needs, MSDE staff said, and should be designed to include the student's strengths and interests. A faculty member at the student's high school will be assigned the role of project monitor to work with the student throughout the duration of the project.

Speakers at the hearing, many of whom were parents of special education students, asked the State Board to find alternative ways for students with special needs to receive their diploma and to not place so much weight on one series of tests for graduation.

All students, starting with the class of 2009 or this year's juniors, are required to pass the HSA, which is composed of assessments in English II, biology, government and algebra I.

There were 28 speakers at the Sept. 18 hearing held at North Point High School, including county superintendents, teachers, parents and Board members.

Celebrate education

CCPS is celebrating American Education Week Nov. 11-17. The theme, Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility, reflects the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great.

Students earn top recognition

Thomas Stone High School senior William Le was recently named a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program Semi-finalist. Le is the first vice president of the Charles County Association of Student Councils and plans to attend either Duke University, the University of Pennsylvania, or Georgetown University. He was chosen as one of 15,000 semifinalists across the country from an estimated 1.4 million program entrants.

Two CCPS high school seniors, Ashin Shah of Thomas Stone High School, and Svetlozara Stoytcheva of La Plata High School, were named finalists in the Maryland Higher Education Commission's Distinguished Scholars Program. The scholarship program rewards finalists with a \$3,000 scholarship per year for four years if they attend a two-year or four-year Maryland college or university.

Teacher displays ceramics

Alice Yutzy, a ceramics teacher at La Plata High School, recently participated in a national juried exhibit in Louisiana and entered her "Support" sculpture. Yutzy also recently won a cash award for three additional ceramic pieces in the Maryland Art Education Association Juried Exhibit held in Ellicott City, Md.



Verizon donates bookbags

Verizon has presented the Foundation for Public School Children in Charles County a \$5,565 grant in support of its My Library books for children program. The grant from Verizon will purchase My Library bookbags to be distributed to approximately 1,700 first-grade students in June. The bags will contain books that are purchased through donations to the foundation's McGuffey's Club.

Last year, the Foundation gave public school children more than 39,000 books in 6,500 My Library bookbags. The program encourages children to practice personal reading at home. The children are allowed to keep the books.

Aflac open enrollment

Representatives from Aflac are holding open enrollment meetings at county schools and centers in October. For meeting dates and times, visit the following link: <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffservices.cfm>

Identification badges

Employees are required to wear school system identification badges at all times during the school day. Not only does the badge identify you as an employee, it also allows employees to enter school events free-of-charge.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Theodore G. Davis Middle School. From left are: Sharon Bautista, secretary; Victor Woodland, building service manager; Michele Petricoin, special education teacher; George Widener, secretary; and Delfone Prince, media instructional assistant.

Nominate an outstanding principal for award

The Washington Post is accepting nominations for its Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. The annual award honors exemplary principals.

Nominees must have a minimum of five years of experience as a principal and three of those years must have been in Charles County Public Schools.

Teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators or the general public may submit nominations. Principals may not nominate themselves. Nomination materials must include a minimum of two statements of support, one of which must be by a professional educator; a brief career summary; and a description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria.

Nomination criteria:

Principals who:

- manage and administrate effectively; demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation;
- foster cooperation between the school and the community;

- maintain a continuing dialogue with students and parents as well as faculty and staff;

- keep abreast of developments in the field of education;

- encourage team spirit;

- demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment;

- continue to play an active role in the classroom; and

- maintain their position as principal throughout the 2007-08 school year.

The award seeks to recognize those principals who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their position to create an exceptional educational environment. A total of 20 awards will be presented — 19 representing the public school systems and one representing the private schools in the Washington metropolitan area.

Deadline for nomination materials is Oct. 5. Send materials to John Felicitas in the Human Resources Division at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Board of Education agenda - October 9, 2007

The Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 9, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Executive session, which is closed by state law, begins at 3:30 p.m.

The public portion of the meeting starts at 4:30 p.m. with recognition. Public Forum is at 6:30 p.m. The Board meeting airs live on Channel 96 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Executive session – 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Call to order – 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Maurice J. McDonough High School's JROTC Unit

Recognition

- Employees
 - Anita Scherer, kindergarten teacher, Gale-Bailey Elementary School;
 - Erica Watson, teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School;
 - John Lancaster, building service manager, Milton M. Somers Middle School; and
 - Sean Heyl, English teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School.

- Students
 - Christopher Hartline, Somers, academic achievement;
 - Sean Michael Tapscott, Gale-Bailey, academic achievement;

- Kolbi Sims, Matula, personal responsibility; and

- Kamal Baig, McDonough, career readiness.

- Resolutions

- American Education Week

- American Freedom Week

Superintendent's update

Approval of minutes

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Charles County Sheriff's Office update
- Testing update

Public Forum – 6:30 p.m.

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- CIP update
- Budget update

Action items

- Personnel
- FY2008 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Adjournment

All employees must follow Charles County Board of Education ethics regulations

The Charles County Board of Education Ethics Regulations apply to all CCPS employees. Any violations of the regulations by employees may result in discipline up to and including dismissal.

Complaints alleging violations may be filed with the Board of Education's Ethics Panel, a five-member panel consisting of individuals from the Charles County community. The panel reviews complaints and issues recommendations concerning violations to the Board of Education. In addition, questions concerning the applicability of the regulations to a particular situation may be addressed to the panel, which will issue a nonbinding advisory opinion concerning the matter.

Under the regulations, employees may not:

- Participate on behalf of the school system in any matter which would, to their knowledge, create a "conflict of interest," defined as a situation in which a person's impartiality or independence of judgment may be impaired, or any action that could have a direct financial impact, as distinguished from the public generally, or either:
 - (1) themselves or their spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child; or
 - (2) a business entity in which they have ownership; or hold an interest of at least either \$5,000 or 3 percent; or hold employment.
- Be employed by a business entity that has or is negotiating a contract of more than \$2,500 with the school system, unless:
 - (1) the employment is disclosed to a direct supervisor;
 - (2) the employee does not participate in any matter which could reasonably be expected to result in a conflict of interest, as defined above;
 - (3) the employee reports the employment to the Ethics Panel; and
 - (4) the Ethics Panel issues an advisory opinion concluding that the employment does not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

To submit ethics requests

To file a complaint, or to submit an advisory opinion request to the Ethics Panel, please contact:
Ethics Panel Chairman
Charles County Public Schools
P.O. Box 2770
La Plata, MD 20646

For a copy of the Regulations, please contact Katie O'Malley-Simpson, Coordinating Supervisor of Communications and Media Relations, at 301-934-7221.

Any questions about the Regulations may be addressed to Eric Schwartz, Staff Attorney, at 301-934-7356.

- Hold any outside employment relationship that would impair or would appear to impair their impartiality or independence of judgment.
- Represent any party, for a contingent fee, before the school system. A list of vendors doing business with the Board of Education of Charles County in the amount of \$2,500 or more annually is available for review on the school system website.
- Within one year following termination of the school system service, act as a compensated representative of another in connection with any specific matter in which he or she participated substantially as an employee.
- Solicit any gift from any student, employee, or other person who is under the authority of the school system or any person or business entity who has or is negotiating a contract or doing or seeking to do business with the school system.
- Accept gifts or series of gifts of greater than \$50 in value from any student, employee, or other person who is under the authority of the school system or any person or business entity who has or is negotiating a contract or doing or seeking to do business with the school system, except that the fol-

- lowing gifts may be accepted:
- (1) ceremonial gifts or awards which have insignificant monetary value;
 - (2) meals and beverages, provided they are consumed in the presence of the donor;
 - (3) reasonable expenses for food, travel, or lodging at a conference, meeting, or other event at which the recipient is speaking or presenting;
 - (4) tickets or free admission to events generally provided to the individual in his or her official capacity;
 - (5) gifts received from the recipient's parent, spouse, sibling, or child; and
 - (6) as determined by the Ethics Panel, any other gift which was not

intended to create, did not create, and did not appear to create a conflict of interest.

- Knowingly use the prestige of their offices for their own benefit or that of another.
- Knowingly use confidential information acquired in their official school system position for their own benefit or that of another.
- Knowingly fail to report any violation of the Ethics Regulations to the Board of Education of Charles County Ethics Panel.

Ethics panel members

There are five members on the Board of Education's ethics panel. The current board was appointed in 2006 and serves a four-year term. Members are volunteers and appointed by the Board.

Members

**Randy Albright – Ethics Chairman
Zandra Heilmair
Jessie Morris
William F. Olmstead
Anthony Rainey**

Personnel

Apply for positions at www.cchoe.com/hur, or in writing to the personnel office. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Secretary – Communications Department, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; full-time position. Apply by Oct. 1.

Secretary – Mattawoman Middle School; 10.5 month position. Apply by Oct. 2.

Instructional Assistant, Adult Education – Lifelong Learning Center; part-time position. Open until filled.

Instructional Assistant – J.C. Parks Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 2.

Culinary Arts Instructional Assistant – North Point High School; 10-month position. Five years experience in food service required.

Food Service Workers – Openings at Theodore G. Davis and John Hanson middle schools and Thomas Stone and North Point high schools; three, four and five-hour positions are available. Apply by Sept. 28

for Stone; Oct. 1 for Hanson and Oct. 9 for Davis and North Point.

Food Service Assistant Manager – John Hanson Middle School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 1.

Food Service Driver – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. Position is open until filled.

Building Service Assistant Manager – John Hanson Middle School; full-time position. Apply by Sept. 28.

Building Service Worker – Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools; full-time positions. Apply by Oct. 8 for Stone; Oct. 9 for Westlake.

External Diploma Program Advisor/ Assessor – Adult Services/Stone Annex; temporary position. Bachelor's degree required.

RPG/JAVA Programmer Analyst – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; full-time position. Bachelor's degree required.

Title I Instructional Specialist for Early Childhood Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; bachelor's degree and five years experience required.

Teacher – STAY Program, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center; teacher works with emotionally and/or behaviorally challenged students at the elementary level.

Life Skills Teacher – Gale-Bailey Elementary School.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at all age levels.

NJROTC Instructor – North Point and Westlake high schools.

Charles County Public Schools is seek-

ing teacher candidates who meet the certification requirements established by the MSDE for the following subject areas:

- Mathematics
- Science
- Family and Consumer Science
- Computer Science/CISCO teacher
- Language Arts
- Special Education

Extra pay positions

Westlake High School has the following coaching positions available:

- Assistant varsity boys' basketball coach
- Junior varsity boys' basketball coach
- Head freshman boys' basketball coach
- Assistant varsity girls' basketball coach
- Junior varsity girls' basketball coach
- Head varsity softball coach
- Assistant varsity softball coach
- Head junior varsity softball coach
- Assistant varsity baseball coach
- Head tennis coach

Contact Principal Chrystal Benson, 301-753-1758, to apply.

Staff notes

Get paperwork completed

New teachers are reminded to complete all paperwork and to get it to the office of Teacher Services as soon as possible. Any employee needing assistance with any paperwork should call extension 7289.

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The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Keith Grier, Title IX Coordinator, or Patricia Vaira, Section 504 Coordinator (students), or Keith Hettel, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Maryland 20646. 301-932-6610/870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

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The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.