

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

February 1, 2008

R-286

Leveillee named principal of Mary B. Neal Elementary

Carol Leveillee, principal of Mary H. Matula Elementary School, was named principal of Mary B. Neal Elementary School.

Neal is Charles County Public School's 21st elementary school and opens its doors to students Aug. 25. The 88,000 square-foot, two-story school is located off Piney Church Road in Waldorf. A vice principal for Neal and a new principal for Matula will be chosen later this year.



Carol Leveillee

Schools 2007 Principal of the Year and a recipient of the *Washington Post's* Distinguished Educational Leadership award. She began her career in Charles County in 1983 as a teacher at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School. She became an instructional specialist in 1994 and in 1995 was named as a vice principal at Eva Turner Elementary School. She served as a vice principal at

Dr. James Craik and Matula elementary schools before being named as Matula's principal in 1999.

Her accomplishments at Matula during the last 10 years include a rise in test scores and numerous awards, including the National Promising Practice Award for three consecutive years, the Maryland Character Education award and the Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) Maryland Exemplar School designation in 2006 and 2007.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to open a new building. Opening a new building has always been a career goal and now I get to make it happen. I've been at Matula for 10 years and the students, staff and parents will always mean the world to me. I will finish the year out at Matula and do all that it takes to have Neal ready for the August opening," Leveillee said.

Leveillee was Charles County Public

Board of Education votes to change meeting times

The Board of Education of Charles County voted unanimously on Jan. 28 to change its monthly meeting time to begin at 1 p.m., starting with its March meeting.

The Board's regular business meetings will begin at 1 p.m. with the public portion of the meeting, including information items and reports. Executive session, which is closed to the public, will begin at noon. Recognition remains at 4:30 p.m. and Public Forum begins at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting, set for Tuesday, Feb. 19, will follow the previous meeting times, with the meeting starting at 4:30 p.m. with recognition, followed by the public meeting items and Public Forum at 6:30 p.m.

The February meeting is being held later

in the month because schools are closed Feb. 12 for Primary Election Day. The Board usually meets the second Tuesday of most months.

Dates for the remaining Board meetings this school year are: Feb. 19 (begins at 4:30 p.m.); March 11 (begins at the new time of 1 p.m.); April 8; May 13 and June 10. Meetings are held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata, unless otherwise noted.

Work sessions are held the fourth Monday of the month as needed. Work sessions begin at 6 p.m. with Public Forum. Agendas for all meetings are posted on the school system website at www.ccboe.com under the latest news section and through the BoardDocs link located on the bottom of the home page.

Link for EACC on CCPS site

A link to the Education Association of Charles County is now listed on the school system website, under the staff services section. The website address is www.eaccmsta.com. The EACC has also relocated its offices to La Plata. Their new address is 105 Centennial Street, Suite H, La Plata, MD 20646. Phone number is 301-392-0150. Fax number is 301-392-0151.

MRSPA seeking members

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association is seeking new members. Benefits of joining include financial planning services, car purchase and rental discounts, SECU credit union membership and long-term care, vision, hearing and dental plans. The Charles County contact is J. Cecelia Spinks, 301-645-3340. Offices are located at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113. Phone number is 410-551-1517. The web address is www.mrspa.org.

Channel 96 site enhanced

The website address for Channel 96, the school system's educational television station, has been changed. The address is www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/. The site features new sections that include viewing schedules and broadcast guides, and an archive of videos featured on the home page. A contact page has also been created that includes forms for schools to use to request video coverage of an event.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Feb. 6.

Notebook

MSA reports issued/mailed

MSA reports for all elementary schools have been sent to schools this week. The reports are distributed to all elementary students, faculty and staff.

MSA reports for all middle and high school students were mailed this week. Extra copies for faculty and staff were also sent to each middle and high school.

A memo has been attached to all reports that explains what the report states and how MSA progress is measured. Extra copies are available through the communications department. Call 301-934-7220 for information.

MHEC hosts workshop

The Maryland Higher Education Commission is hosting a College Goal workshop for college-bound students on Sunday, Feb. 10, from 2-4 p.m. at the College of Southern Maryland's La Plata campus.

The workshop is open to parents and students and will cover the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the form required by colleges and universities to qualify for scholarships, loans and grants. Students who plan to attend should bring their parent and guardians' 1040 tax form, W-2 form or any other 2007 income and benefits information.

For more information, contact Jeanette Kauffman at 301-934-7314.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from J.C. Parks Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Gwen Lilly, food service manager; Fanescia Watson, kindergarten instructional assistant; Jeanne Back, attendance secretary; and Vincent Taylor, assistant building service manager.



Breakfast of champions

The Matthew Henson Middle School administrative team of Principal Ronald Stup, left, and Vice Principals Robert Babiak, center, and Sonia Jones, right, hosted a "Strawberries and Cream" breakfast for staff members in December. They prepared and served the breakfast to thank staff for their hard work.

February 19 Board agenda

The Board of Education has released its tentative agenda for Feb. 19. The public portion of the meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. with recognition in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Executive Session – 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Call to order – 4:30 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance – Henry E. Lackey High School JROTC

Recognition

- Employees
 - Nancy A. Murphy, pre-k teacher, Berry Elementary School;
 - Joan M. Stup, reading recovery teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School;
 - Zarina Ameen, guidance counselor, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; and
 - Sharron M. Prairie, science teacher, La Plata High School.

- Students

- Julian Castrence, fifth grade, academic achievement, Berry;
- L'Nia Browne, fifth grade, personal responsibility, Turner;
- Thomas Jones, fifth grade, career readiness, Ryon; and
- Shijie Shen, senior, academic achieve-

ment, La Plata.

- Resolutions
 - Read Across Charles County;
 - Women's History Month; and
 - Fine and Performing Arts.

Superintendent's update to the Board Approval of minutes

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board updates
- Education Association update
- Student Board Member Update
- Budget update, FY 2009 presentation

Public hearing on 2008-09 budget

Public Forum – 6:30 p.m.

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Middle school programs
- CIP update
- Workers' compensation policy statement
- Legislative update

Action items

- Personnel

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Adjournment

School system appeals to Board of Public Works for high school approval

The new high school, kindergarten additions and renovations and a new boiler at John Hanson Middle School topped the list of requests Charles County Public Schools asked the state Board of Public Works to reconsider during a public hearing in Annapolis on Jan. 30.

Board Chairman Donald Wade asked the committee to approve planning for the new high school set to open in 2011 on Piney Church Road in Waldorf. "The high school would reduce severe overcrowding in our schools, and, if we opened the school tomorrow, it would already be filled," Wade told the committee. School officials annually appear before the Board of Public Works to appeal construction projects that have been previously passed over by the state.

Wade provided the committee with background on the proposed high school, which would house a digital classroom as well as be energy efficient. The school would use high efficiency, Energy Star equipment, centralized outside air ventilation units with heat recovery, a geothermal heat pump system, rain water harvesting for irrigation use and a total of 26 other energy efficient design considerations. The digital classroom contains a multi-use dome theater that will be used for all students in the county and enhances science, technology and other programs.

Other appeal requests include the balance of construction funding for Mary Burgess Neal Elementary School, which is under construction and opens in August, and a boiler replacement at John Hanson Middle School. Additionally, the school system is requesting funding for full-day kindergarten additions and renovations

at four elementary schools to provide permanent solutions for students in temporary spaces due to the implementation of the mandated program. Full-day kindergarten additions are requested for Dr. Gustavus Brown, Eva Turner, Indian Head and Arthur Middleton elementary schools.

Planning approval for the high school does not involve state funding this year; however, it requires a commitment for future construction funding. The funding appealed by Charles County Public Schools for Neal, Hanson and the full-day kindergarten additions totals \$19.5 million.

The decision on appeals is expected in May.

The Board of Public Works is a review committee composed of Governor Martin O'Malley, Comptroller Peter Franchot and Treasurer Nancy Kopp. The committee reviews significant state expenditures and approves capital projects, procurement contracts and the acquisition, use and transfer of state assets.

Appeal Priorities

1. New High School 2011
2. Mary Burgess Neal Construction Funding
3. John Hanson Boiler Replacement
4. Full-day Kindergarten Additions/Renovations

County honors Stoddert teachers for innovative work in technology

Two Benjamin Stoddert Middle School teachers, Dana Sturdivant and Aparna Joshi, have been awarded by the state as outstanding for their use of technology. The awards, sponsored by MICCA, an association for educators using technology, recognize employees for their use of technology in teaching and for implementation of technology.

Sturdivant, a sixth-grade math teacher, has been recognized as Charles County's Outstanding Educator Using Technology. The award recognizes outstanding prekindergarten through grade 12 classroom teachers who have made exemplary contributions to instructional computing practices in Maryland schools.

Sturdivant is credited with engaging her students in learning through regular use of technology such as CPS (clickers) response pads and Inter Write pads, which increase class participation and measure student progress. She uses technology to create CPS-based tests and quizzes, class assignments and review activities. Beyond the classroom, Sturdivant uses a website to provide homework assignment updates, informational materials and math resources for easy access by students and parents at home. She has an email list for each of her classes, and monthly class news is sent out. She provides math activities and tips for parents, and she

spearheaded Math Night at Stoddert, which features a technology component as a station where parents and students learn about math websites to use at home. Sturdivant also uses technology to monitor student progress and to collect and analyze data.

Joshi, a gifted education teacher, was honored as the Charles County Outstanding Technology Leader in Education. This award recognizes an educator outside the classroom who has made exemplary contributions to the implementation of technology.

In a nomination statement, staff at Stoddert said Joshi helps students and teachers by working with them to plan lessons using technology and designed to meet the needs of gifted education students. She supports using technology for advanced curriculum and is actively involved with students. She offers technological support for lessons and provides professional support for teachers. She works with student

data and helps present it to teachers in a way that makes it easy for them to incorporate it in their instructional decisions. Joshi, her nominators said, promotes and trains other teachers to use cutting-edge technology like the clickers, whiteboards and interactive wireless tablets to engage techno-savvy middle schoolers.



Dana Sturdivant, left, and Aparna Joshi

Personnel

Apply for positions at www.ccboe.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

Principals – Screening for all levels; eligible for Maryland Department of Education Professional certificate with Administrator II endorsement; five years successful school experience with three in classroom teaching.

Vice Principals – Screening for all levels; 11- or 12-month positions; master's degree and Advanced Professional Certificate by the Maryland State Department of Education. Must be eligible for the MSDE Administrator I Certificate and have three years of successful teaching experience.

Building Service Worker – North Point and Henry E. Lackey high schools; 12-month positions available. Apply by Feb. 1.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – La Plata High School; 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 5.

Human Resources Assistant, Certificated – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Bachelor's degree in human resources or related field required. Apply by Feb. 6.

Guidance Secretary – General Smallwood Middle School; 12-month

position. Apply by Feb. 11.

Career and Technology Technical Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Experience in career education and associate's degree preferred. Apply by Feb. 12.

Mathematics Teacher – Mattawoman and John Hanson middle schools; 10-month positions.

Spanish Teacher – Westlake High School; 10-month position.

Science Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher – Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position.

Fifth-grade Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Gifted Education Resource Teacher – Openings at all middle schools; 10-month positions.

Music Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 10-month position.

Family and Consumer Science/Childcare Teacher – North Point High School; 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher for Science – La Plata High School; 10-month position.

Art Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Music Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Library and Media Specialist – Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at all age levels; 10-month positions.

IEP Facilitator – Openings at all age levels; 11-month positions.

AFJROTC Instructor – North Point High School; 10-month position.

ESOL teachers – Openings at all schools. 10-month positions.

Charles County Public Schools is seeking teacher candidates who meet the certification requirements established by the MSDE for the following subject areas:

- Spanish, for future openings
- Mathematics, high school level

Staff Notes

Declaration of intent forms distribution

The Human Resources department will be sending declaration of intent forms to all schools and centers the week of Feb. 4. All forms should be returned no later than Feb. 15. Check with your school or building administrator for additional information.

W-2 information available

All employees should have received their W-2 information. Additional or replacement copies can be requested through the payroll department, via email, at payroll@ccboe.com. Be sure to include your name and employee identification number. Processing may take up to a week.

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