



Superintendent reschedules budget hearing

Superintendent James E. Richmond has delayed presentation of the fiscal year 2009 budget to the Board of Education until the county is able to provide more accurate revenue numbers. The Charles County Commissioners last week asked Richmond to hold off on his proposal until they are able to determine the full impact of the state's budget.

The budget presentation, as well as the public hearing on the budget, is scheduled for April 28, 6 p.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The county plans to hold its public budget hearing on May 14. Negotiations with the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) will begin once the Board receives final income amounts from the county.

"Today, we were scheduled to introduce our proposed budget to you, but we are holding the presentation for a couple of weeks until we have better numbers from both the county and state. One of the things we have done over the past 10 years is to work within the parameters that the county and state provide us, review all budget requests and cut until we are able to present a balanced budget. To me, that is fiscally responsible. While we often take criticism for doing our budget this way, because people feel we get everything we ask

for, the process works well. We do not negotiate raises with our unions that we cannot afford and we do not ask for pie-in-the-sky funding for programs we know will not be funded, but will cause contention if proposed and then cut," Richmond told the Board at its April 8 meeting.

The Superintendent said the school system faces financial challenges this coming school year, which includes the opening of Mary B. Neal Elementary School. He said staff is reviewing all budget items and looking at how and where the system spends its money and to ensure that the system maintains quality in classrooms and instructional programs.

"We are cognizant of the tough economic times ahead for the county, state and nation. We are doing all possible to control costs while not affecting the instructional program. We are also looking at the new high school, which has stalled at the state level. I have staff working with the architect of the new high school to delineate places where we can possibly cut space without compromising the instructional program and areas. We will look at design and construction changes, how much it costs to make the school green, as well as other add-ons requested by the county, such as the pool. Hopefully we will have something for the Board to look at and discuss at its April 28 work session," Richmond said.

Last day of school for students is June 10; teachers finish June 11

The last day of school for Charles County Public Schools students is Tuesday, June 10. June 5, 6, 9, and 10 are two-hour early dismissal days for students.

The last day of school for morning (a.m.) pre-kindergarten students is Monday, June 9. The last day of school for afternoon (p.m.) pre-kindergarten students is Tuesday, June 10. The last day for three-year-old students is Wednesday, June 4. The last day for teachers is

Wednesday, June 11.

The school system used one inclement weather day, leaving three to be deducted from the end of the school year. Four inclement weather days are built into the calendar each year.

The first day of the 2008-09 school year for students kindergarten through grade 12 is Monday, Aug. 25. The first day for returning teachers is Monday, Aug. 18.

Resignation deadline

The deadline for resignation requests from probationary non-tenured employees is May 1. The deadline for resignation requests for tenured employees is July 15.

All forms must be submitted to Human Resources by the listed dates. Human Resources considers second-year teachers that have been renewed for the 2008-09 school year and have received a satisfactory performance evaluation as tenured.

Resignations received after the deadlines could result in summer salary forfeiture and/or certificate suspension. Call Human Resources, 301-934-7255, for additional information.

Open enrollment next month

Open enrollment for Charles County Public Schools health/dental and vision plans will be held May 1-16 for school system employees. No changes will be made to any plans, and rates will be posted in the April 28 edition of *School News*. Contact Heather Huff, 301-934-7345, for additional information.

CCPS camp discount

Charles County Public Schools' summer youth camp at Henry E. Lackey High School is offering school system employees a 50 percent discount on enrollment costs for their children. Contact Robert Chamberlain, the aquatics coordinator at Henry E. Lackey High School, or your school principal for a brochure. To register your child, complete the registration form on the brochure and print "CCPS employee" above the parent/guardian line on the form.



Notebook

Davis dedication

The formal dedication of Theodore G. Davis Middle School is today, April 11. The ceremony begins at 6 p.m. in the school gymnasium and will feature band and choral performances from Davis students.

The ceremony is open to the public. Tours of the school will also be given after the end of the ceremony. The program will air on the school system's educational television station, Comcast Channel 96, later this month.

County government day

The Charles County Government is sponsoring a countywide event, "Protecting Our Children, Protecting Our County," on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., rain or shine, at the county government building in La Plata.

More than 50 vendors, including Charles County Public Schools and the Charles County Sheriff's Office, will be hosting informational display booths at the event. Vendors from local restaurants will also provide refreshments, for cost, and the American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive. For more information, contact 301-638-2402.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Arthur Middleton Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Tara Moore, vice principal; Louis Cate, music teacher; Cynthia Bartolomeo, third-grade teacher; and Judith Jenifer, food service worker.

Nominate an outstanding vice principal at your school

Charles County Public Schools is looking for an outstanding vice principal. The school system is accepting nominations for its annual Outstanding Vice Principal Award to be presented to a vice principal who has exemplified excellence. Teachers, parents, students and administrators may submit nominations. Employees may not nominate themselves.

The winner will be awarded \$1,000 at a ceremony at the Board of Education meeting on June 10. They will also be registered as a member of the NASSP/NAESP and will be encouraged to participate in the McDonald's/NASSP/NAESP State and National Assistant Principal of the Year.

Nominees must be full-time Charles County Public Schools employees, who have worked as a CCPS vice principal for a

minimum of three years. Nominees must meet criteria establishing their educational leadership ability, their ability to resolve complex problems, their dedication to continued professional growth of themselves and others and their community service.

Nomination materials must include:

- a minimum of three statements of support (must be current);
- a brief career summary; and
- a description of contributions in each area of the nomination criteria.

Nomination packets should be forwarded to John Felicitas, personnel specialist, by May 2. A committee composed of administrative personnel will make the final selection.

For more information, contact the Human Resources Division, 301-934-7356.

Nominate a member of your support staff

Charles County Public Schools is accepting nominations for its annual Outstanding Support Personnel Awards. The awards recognize support personnel who exemplify excellence in their positions.

The awards include five categories: Outstanding Building Service Employee, Outstanding Food Service Employee, Outstanding Instructional Support Employee, Outstanding Maintenance Employee and Outstanding Secretary.

To be eligible, the employee must be a full-time support employee, employed by Charles County Public Schools for a minimum of three years and employed in the area for which they are nominated for a minimum of three years.

Nomination materials must include a minimum of three statements of support, a brief career summary and a description of contributions in each of the nomination cri-

teria. Nominees must be support personnel who: are resourceful in seeking and completing job responsibilities; seek new knowledge and skills; know and understand all aspects of the assigned job; utilize technology where appropriate; foster cooperative relationships with students, colleagues and the community; and demonstrate outstanding leadership.

All nomination materials should be submitted to John Felicitas, personnel specialist, by May 2. Teachers, students, colleagues, parents and administrators may make nominations.

The goals of the program are to recognize exemplary employees and to encourage support personnel to provide creative and quality services that support the schools and the school system.

Recipients will be announced and recognized by the Board of Education on June 10.

Charles County Retired School Personnel golf tournament set

The 17th annual Ken Grote Open golf tournament will be held Monday, June 16, at Hawthorne Country Club of Charles County in La Plata. The tournament benefits the Charles County Retired School Personnel Association, formerly the Charles County Retired Teachers Association.

Registration is from 7 – 7:45 a.m. and the tournament begins at 8 a.m. The fee is \$80 person and includes breakfast, greens

and cart fees, lunch and two mulligans. Contact Dale Cornette for registration forms at 301-934-9483 or idcornette@yahoo.com.

Prizes include first-, second- and third-place, longest drive, closest-to-pin and door prizes. All forms and registrations are due June 1. Mail forms and checks, payable to Ken Grote/CCRSPA, to Dale Cornette, 7410 Simms Landing Road, Port Tobacco, MD, 20677.

School system receives state grant for adult independence transition program

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) was recently awarded \$375,000 in grant awards from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as part of its Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative to benefit Maryland youth with disabilities.

The grant award will provide \$75,000 annually for five years to CCPS for its involvement in the project. The funds will be used to help county students with disabilities transition from high school to adult service programs, such as the school system's Adult Independence Program, and into the workforce. The grant will also help other local agencies provide uninterrupted and collaborative career services that begin in a student's high school education, continue after graduation and into the first few months of permanent employment.

A program kick-off breakfast was held Wednesday, April 9, at North Point High School. Parents of students in the Adult Independence program were invited to speak about the program's successes. Parent Doris Fluharty said her son, Charles, has benefited from the program and the services available to him have eased some of her anxieties.

"This program has relieved a lot of anxieties for my husband and I. The program has helped my son become more independent



Doris Fluharty, left, a CCPS employee and parent of a student in the Adult Independence program, attends the kickoff breakfast for the Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative program with Amy Blandford, right, of the Division of Rehabilitative Services, held April 9 at North Point High School.

and we are excited about the progress he has made through the program," Fluharty said. She also said her son was invited to the kick-off breakfast but did not want to come because it would require him to take off from one of his two part-time jobs. "The program helped prepare Charles for the workforce," she said.

MSDE received a \$2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to create the transition program. Maryland is one of six states across the country that the program is being piloted in. Charles County was chosen as the pilot site in Maryland because of the network connections and partnerships the school system and county has with community agencies that benefit the Adult Independence program.

The lead agency of the transition program is the Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services. Other partners include the Governor's Interagency Council for Youth with Disabilities, TransCen, Inc. of Rockville, the College of Southern Maryland, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, the ARC of Southern Maryland and the Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living.

During the next five years, seven additional school systems will be awarded sub-grants to participate in the project.



Eighth-grade students at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School help collect plastic bottles and newspaper for recycling on Wednesday, April 9, as part of the school system's "Going Green" program. Pictured, from left, are Kyle Upchurch, Dion Taylor, Daniel Ringenberg, Steven Day, Anthony Cheaves, Fatimah Thomas and Victoria Woodland. Stoddert has collected more than 1,000 plastic bottles for recycling purposes.

School system launches "Going Green" recycling program

Charles County Public Schools recently launched a "Going Green" single stream recycling program in all schools and centers.

Products acceptable for recycling include cardboard, newspaper, office paper, junk mail, envelopes, coated and glossy paper, colored paper, phone books, kraft paper, bags, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass bottles, narrow neck plastic used on soda cans and plastic bottles.

Products not acceptable for recycling include plastic film, plate glass, plastic tubs and trays, kitchen waste including paper towels and napkins, and chemical bottles.

Schools call Waste Management to have their recycling dumpster emptied. The materials are transported to a single stream recycling center and are separated and shipped to recycling markets.

Sue Delacruz, principal at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, said the program is off to a good start and her students are taking an interest in recycling.

Contact Glenn Belmore, 301-934-7275, for additional program information.

Personnel

Apply for positions at www.cbocoe.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

Food Service Worker – North Point High School, three-hour position. Apply by April 17.

Career and Technology Technical Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Experience in career and technology education and associates degree preferred. Apply by April 17.

Human Resources Summer Intern – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; three-month position. Applicants should be near completion of a bachelors or masters degree in business administration or human resources. Apply by April 30.

Food Service Worker – Mary B. Neal Elementary School; three-hour and five-hour positions available. Apply by April 18.

Food Service Manager – Mary H. Matula Elementary School; six-hour position. Apply by April 18.

Career Center Coordinator – La Plata High School, 10-month position. Two years of college preferred. Apply by April 22.

Summer Math and Reading Academy Program Coordinator – High school level; masters degree or Advanced Professional Certificate required. Apply by April 23.

Summer Math and Reading Academy Program Coordinator – Elementary and middle school site coordinators; masters degree or Advanced Professional Certificate required. Apply by April 18.

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

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.

ESOL Teacher – Openings at all age levels.

Music teacher – Opening at all elementary 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

Extra pay positions

North Point High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity field hockey coach
- Assistant field hockey coach

Call Principal Kim Hill, 301-885-2012, to apply.

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