



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

MSA testing

Students in grades three through eight will take the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in mathematics on Tuesday, March 5, and Wednesday, March 6. The MSA reading exam will be administered to students on Tuesday, March 12, and Wednesday, March 13. Students in fifth and seventh grades will take the reading MSA online between March 4 and March 22.

Spring forward

Daylight Saving Time is Sunday, March 10. Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour. The first day of spring is Wednesday, March 20.

SECAC to meet March 13

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) will meet on Wednesday, March 13, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call the Parent Center at 301-934-7456 for more information.

Youth Art Month

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) celebrates Youth Art Month in March. Student artists will be honored during a March 14 reception at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The reception starts at 5 p.m.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Thursday, March 14.

Third marking period

Charles County Public Schools third-quarter assessments will be administered to students on March 11-22. The third marking period ends on Thursday, March 28. The fourth marking period begins on Monday, April 8.



Staff honored for dedication to children

The Board of Education honored more than 60 Charles County Public Schools employees for their years of service to the school system in a special ceremony held Feb. 21. Included in the group honored were staff members who have worked for the school system for 40 years. Pictured are those staff members with 40 years of service who attended the ceremony, including back row from left: William Walter, Mary Anne Paesch, and Dorothy Swann-Cole, and front row from left, James Sullivan, Janis McGeehan, Bonnie Guthrie and Mary Ann Johnson. For more information on the staff pictured and a complete list of employees who were honored, see page 3.

Board moves forward in superintendent search

The Board of Education is moving forward in its search for a new superintendent of schools, and hopes to announce Charles County Public Schools' new top administrator on April 9.

The new superintendent is replacing long-time Superintendent James E. Richmond, who told the Board in April 2012 he would not be seeking renewal of his contract for another four-year term and would be leaving the school system at the end of the 2012-13 school year.

The Board has completed its review of applicants and one round of interviews. Members say they hope to name three finalists by March 12. Names of finalists will be released at the Board meeting on March 12

and during an orientation session for community and school system focus groups that will provide the Board feedback about the candidates.

Earlier this school year, the Board, through its hiring consultants with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), held a series of five open forums for employees and community members to provide characteristics they look for in a superintendent. The Board advertised nationally and locally for candidates.

Following a series of focus group sessions March 18-20, the Board hopes to select a candidate and then announce the final selection on April 9 during the monthly Board meeting.

See Superintendent update, page 2

Notebook

On the cover

Pictured at the front cover are employees from Malcolm Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Evelyn Kay, second-grade teacher; Mary Waldrop, second-grade teacher; and David Good, third-grade teacher.

Spring break

Spring break for students and teachers is March 29-April 5. Administrative offices are closed Friday, March 29, and Monday, April 1. Schools reopen on Monday, April 8.

Three pay dates this month

There are three pay dates this month. The only deductions taken from the third paycheck are taxes and retirement. Other deductions, such as health insurance, are not deducted from the third paycheck in months with three pay dates. Visit the staff services page of the school system website to view a list of additional pay dates for the 2012-13 year.

La Plata going to worlds

A team of students from La Plata High School will compete at the 2013 Vex Robotics High School World Championship next month after being named tournament champions at the 2013 College of Southern Maryland Robotics Challenge Vex League Championship held Feb. 16 at the La Plata campus.

During the event, the top 15 ranked teams from qualification matches picked alliance partners from other teams to compete with in elimination rounds. The winners of the elimination rounds were named tournament champions. The "Angle Warriors – 5977A" team from La Plata partnered with the "A-Team" from Calvert High School to earn the champion title. Both teams advance to the national event scheduled for April 17-20 in Anaheim, California.

Members of the La Plata team are David Beaton, sophomore; Jacob Brezina, freshman; Peter Calomeris, sophomore; Emma Dawson, freshman; Dedra Hammond, junior; Thomas Hancock, freshman; Blaine Hoffman, sophomore; John Hungerford, sophomore; Cody McGinnis, sophomore; and Rusheme Richards, sophomore. The team sponsor is Garrick Baker, a technology and engineering teacher at La Plata.



As part of the store's grand opening on Feb. 14, Bob's Discount Furniture in Waldorf donated more than \$10,000 to seven Charles County public schools. Westlake High School was one of the seven schools honored with a donation. Pictured above are Westlake freshman Justin Deniston, left, and senior Jaia Davis, second from left, as they accept the donation for their school from Bob Kaufman, president and founder of Bob's Discount Furniture, right, as Westlake Principal Chrystal Benson, center, looks on. Pictured in the background are staff members from Bob's.

Store gives back to community at grand opening

Several Charles County Public Schools were honored with donations from Bob's Discount Furniture, which opened for business in the Waldorf community, on Thursday, Feb. 14. A ceremony was held at the store and seven schools received donations to help support their instructional programs.

Three elementary schools received a \$1,000 donation. They are C. Paul Barnhart, Berry and William A. Diggs elementary schools. Two middle schools – Theodore G. Davis and John Hanson middle schools – received a \$1,000 donation. Additionally, two high schools – North Point and Westlake high schools – each received a \$1,000

donation. Westlake was also randomly selected among the honored schools by school system staff to receive an additional donation of \$5,000 from the store.

The schools were selected because they serve the Waldorf community. Representatives from all schools attended the ceremony to accept the donations, which are made possible by the company's Outreach program.

Each month, Bob's randomly selects schools in the communities near its store and grants a donation ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Visit www.mybobs.com for more information.

Superintendent update

Continued from page 1

"Mr. Richmond is leaving the school system in excellent condition. He is a leader in the state," Chairman Roberta Wise said at the start of the search process. "Through the public forums, we learned our stakeholders – our students, staff, parents, and community – want us to find someone who can implement strategies to promote continued academic growth. We are looking for a leader who will continue the tradition of personal leadership, a focus on children and pursuit of excellence," Wise said.

Richmond, who is a former Maryland

Superintendent of the Year, became Superintendent of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) in 1996 as interim Superintendent. He was appointed to his first four-year term as Superintendent in 1997, and he will complete his fourth and final term on June 30, 2013. Richmond first started with CCPS in 1966 as a social studies teacher at La Plata High School.

Maryland law requires Boards to award a four-year contract, and the new superintendent's term will begin July 1, 2013, and end June 30, 2017.

Charles County Public Schools employees recognized for years of service

More than 10 Charles County Public Schools employees were honored by the Board of Education for 40 years of service to the school system and children during a ceremony held Feb. 21 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. They are:

- Bonnie Guthrie, Reading Recovery Teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School;
- Mary Ann Johnson, fourth-grade teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School;
- Janis McGeehan, reading resource teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School;
- Penny Nye, principal, Craik;
- Mary Anne Paesch, media specialist, La Plata High School;
- James Sullivan, building service worker, Indian Head Elementary School;
- Dorothy Swann-Cole, school counselor, J.C. Parks Elementary School;
- Kay Thompson, mathematics teacher, Thomas Stone High School;
- William Walter, physical education teacher, Malcolm Elementary School; and
- Helen Welch, secretary to the principal, T. C. Martin Elementary School.

Additionally, the Board of Education honored 59 other employees with 35, 30 and 25 years of service. Each year, the Board honors employees for their service to children and the school system.

Employees who have completed 35 years of service

- Toni Bateman, physical education teacher, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School;
- Polly Callahan, social studies teacher, Stone;
- Cheryl Ervin, Reading Recovery teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School;
- Betty Fuller, secretary in supporting services, Radio Station Road Annex I;
- Charles Glaeser, physical education teacher, John Hanson Middle School;
- Joanne Good, computer programming analyst, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building;
- Janice Hall, food service manager, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School;
- Natalie Hart, specialist in early childhood education, Starkey;
- Jane Larivee, special education teacher, Stone;
- Charles Larkin, elementary science teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School;
- Marcellus Pailen, music teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School;
- Dennis Posey, truck driver, Board of Education warehouse;
- James Ressler, English teacher, Westlake High School;
- Joseph Troy, art teacher, La Plata; and
- Elaine Tubb, government resource teacher, Starkey.

Employees who have completed 30 years of service

- Jean Beierle, Spanish teacher, Stone;
- Richard Callahan, science teacher, Stone;
- Kathleen Jenkins, high school resource teacher, Stone;
- Adam Livers, general maintenance worker, Radio Station Annex;

- Janet Mathews, food service worker, Henson;
- Ken Montez, painter, Radio Station Annex;
- Bernard Montgomery, building service worker, Stone;
- Eileen Soderberg, mathematics teacher, La Plata; and
- Sue Wheeler, special education teacher, Gale-Bailey Elementary School.

Employees who have completed 25 years of service

- Robert Babiak, principal, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School;
- Connie Bannister, secretary, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Paula Batzer, environmental education resource teacher, Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center;
- Donald Browder, social studies teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- Stanley Capper, English teacher, Lackey;
- Pamela Chapman, secretary to the principal, Brown;
- Joeann Cooper, building service assistant manager, Westlake;
- Duania Darby, social studies teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School;
- Donna Dillon, speech therapist, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy;
- Diane Fisher, science teacher, Hanson;
- Linda Foshee, food service manager, Middleton;
- Antoinette Gross, instructional assistant, La Plata;
- Sharon Hedrick, elementary science teacher, Mary B. Neal Elementary School;
- Amy Hollstein, principal, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School;
- John Holmes, science teacher, La Plata;
- Patrice Howard, language arts teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School;
- Sheryl Howell, art teacher, Stone;
- Meighan Hungerford, elementary reading content specialist, Starkey;
- Amy James, school counselor, Westlake;
- Kristin Joson, instructional specialist, Diggs;
- Don King, language arts teacher, Davis;
- Kenneth Lane, physical education teacher, North Point High School;
- Celeste Law, special education teacher, Hanson;
- Ramona Millar, special education instructional assistant, Craik;
- Karen Oliver, Reading Recovery teacher, Malcolm Elementary School;
- Ruth Peed, transportation system operator, Starkey;
- Charlotte Sampson, guidance secretary, Piccowaxen Middle School;
- Rosemary Shamdani, French teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School;
- Anita Shepard, instructional specialist, Matula;
- Catherine Sokol, first-grade teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School;
- Kathryn Stapleson, gifted education resource teacher, Martin;
- Diana Warfield, trainer/data processing, Starkey;
- Cynthia Wells, physical education teacher, Piccowaxen;
- Phyllis Whalen, building service manager, Wade; and
- Clifton Whitford, instrumental music teacher, Wade.

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Board of Education announces March 12 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, March 12, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building on Radio Station Road in La Plata. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m. and student and staff recognition starts at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 and is re-broadcast throughout the week. The meeting is also streamed live on the Charles County Public Schools website. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/> to watch the meeting.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Henry E. Lackey High School's JROTC unit

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Student Services update
- CIP update
- Telepresence
- Policy #6000
- Sadlier Grammar Workshop and SpringBoard

reading and mathematics

- School year 2014-15 calendar
- Legislative update
- Revision of student transfer rule #5126

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees – Sarah Milman, kindergarten teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School; Alexis Howell, third-grade teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; Van Connor, pupil personnel worker, General Smallwood Middle School; and Cynthia Harrison, pupil personnel worker, Thomas Stone High School
- Resolutions: *Month of the Young Child* and *National Student Leadership Week*

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel

Adjournment



Personnel

Job Openings

Building Service Worker – Henry E. Lackey High School, 12-month position. Apply by March 8.

Technology Facilitator – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by March 8.

School Psychologist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10.5-month position. Apply by March 11.

HVAC Teacher – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position.

Family and Consumer Science Teacher – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

Library Media Specialist – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science required.

Earth/Space Science Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month position.

Math Teachers – Henry E. Lackey High School and Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month positions.

Spanish Teacher – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

School Counselor – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, part-time position.

School Psychology Internship – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, one-year position.

Contract Administrator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Five years of experience as a contract administrator or senior buyer and a CPPO, CPPB, CPM or CACM certification required.

Staff Notes

Employee assistance

Charles County Public Schools offers employees the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The program provides confidential, professional counseling services for employees with personal problems that are affecting their abilities to function effectively at work or at home. The program is available to staff members who work 20 or more hours per

week and to their immediate family members. Call 866-443-3277 to make an appointment or for more information. A link about EAP can be found on the staff services page of the school system website.

Retirement session

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association and the Division of Human Resources are hosting a retirement planning session on Wednesday, March 20, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in the Staff Development room at North Point High School. The session will concentrate on the retirement forms required for employees who are considering retirement at the end of this school year.

The meeting will include guest speakers and handouts. Light refreshments will also be available. An RSVP is required as space is limited. RSVP to Janice Spatz, 301-934-2146 or jspatz@comcast.net. Call human resources at 301-934-7255 with additional questions.