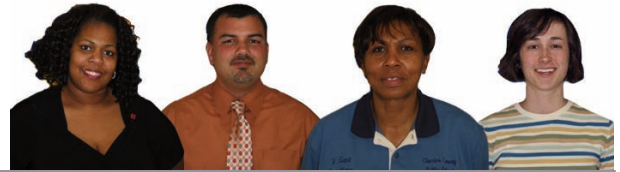


# School News



## Superintendent proposes \$300 million budget

Superintendent James E. Richmond's operating budget proposal to the Board of Education is \$300.5 million, a funding increase of \$18.4 million or 6.5 percent. The request is based on revenue estimates from the state of \$7.2 million and a county funding increase of \$10.4 million. These estimates are significantly lower than levels of funding provided to education in past years. This is due in part to the expiration of Bridge to Excellence funding and the impact of the economy on county tax revenues.

The county commissioners will hold a public budget hearing on May 14, 4:30 p.m. Speakers must sign up in person between 4 - 5 p.m.

ing on requests from all county agencies, including the Board of Education, at 4:30 p.m., May 14, at the County Government Building in La Plata. Speakers must sign up between 4-5 p.m. and will have three minutes to speak.

Richmond told the Board on April 28 that his budget submission is based on a March funding compromise with the county that he proposed after several meetings with Commissioners' President Wayne Cooper and his staff. Richmond said he is unable to confirm that

**See Budget, Page 2**

## Roberts is national winner

Steve Roberts, a mathematics teacher at Westlake High School, was recently named one of 99 national winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) for 2007 by the National Science Foundation. The award is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through grade 12 mathematics or science teacher can receive in the United States.

Roberts was chosen as an award recipient from selected mathematics and science teachers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

As a national recipient, Roberts received a \$10,000 grant to use over a three-year period. He also received an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C., to accept the award and participate in educational and celebratory events. He was honored in an awards ceremony hosted by Dr. Arden Bement, director of the National Science Foundation, on Friday, May 2.

## PBIS leaders honored

More than 35 Charles County Public Schools teachers and faculty members were recognized in a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program leadership recognition ceremony held April 21.

They were nominated by their principals for their support of the program, coordinating meetings and PBIS events for their schools, collecting program data and lesson plans, and for collaborating with parents to make the program successful.

## Leveillee is Maryland's National Distinguished Principal

Carol Leveillee makes Mary H. Matula Elementary School a great place to work and learn. That's what her students say -- and the teachers and even the parents of the students.



That message was repeated last week as students and staff honored their outgoing principal for her selection as Maryland's National Distinguished Principal. Leveillee was chosen by the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP)

Matula Principal Carol Leveillee, center, sits with Matula fifth graders, from left to right, Audrey Sales, Camden Cianciolo, Kristinee Tate (front row), Nazarena Senn, Allison Mohler, Baylen Caldwell (center row), David Vermilyea, Tiffany Cannon, Autumn Hennigan and Tykisha Thomas (back row) at a surprise announcement ceremony May 1 at the school.

Leveillee choked back tears as she entered Matula's media center filled with fifth-grade students, teachers, staff members, administrators, Board members and Debbie Drown, executive director of MAESP. It was there that Leveillee was surprised with the announcement that she was selected by the association to represent Maryland as its principal of the year.

from a pool of more than 900 possible candidates to represent Maryland at the national level.

"Mrs. Leveillee is an exceptional principal who is dedicated, hard working, caring and

**See Leveillee, Page 3**



## Notebook

### Summer office hours

Starting June 16, offices in centers and schools that do not have extended day or community services programs are being placed on a 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. schedule. The schedule continues until August 18, when returning teachers start.

The change is expected to generate anywhere from \$100,000 to \$150,000 in energy savings. The changes will occur in half of our buildings. A listing of schools and buildings affected by the change will be released later this month.

### Pension contribution raise

Contributions for eligible members of the Employees' and Teachers' Pension System will increase to 5 percent of eligible salary, beginning July 1. The contributions are automatically deducted from pay checks and those eligible for the increase currently contribute 4 percent. This does not apply to employees who are currently enrolled in the Wachovia retirement plan.

### Calendar survey

A survey on the 2009-10 school calendar will be posted on the CCPS web site later this month. The Board of Education approves the school calendar two years in advance and would like input on the calendar. A pdf of the draft calendar will also be posted on the school system web site for review.

### On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are Piccowaxen Middle School employees. Pictured, from left, are: Tiffiney Langston, language arts teacher; William Marchione, guidance counselor; Virgie Gant, building service worker; and Lauren Colfer, special education teacher.



## How did you get up there???

Pictured above is Meighan Hungerford, coordinator of elementary instruction for Charles County Public Schools, left, and Greg Miller, principal of Arthur Middleton Elementary School, right, as they stand on top of the school's roof and wave to Middleton students. Miller, along with Hungerford and Middleton's Vice Principal Tara Moore, promised the students that they would spend an afternoon on the roof if the students solved 250,000 or more mathematics problems as part of the school's second annual "Quarter million math challenge." The students surpassed that goal by solving more than 370,000 math problems. Miller and Moore sat on the roof in folding chairs during all Middleton recess periods and waved to students.

## Budget

From Page 1

his proposal is balanced because the county has not committed to a funding number, and has changed its estimate four times during the past year.

Although negotiations are not complete, Richmond reiterated that his highest priority is compensation for all employees. The budget includes a salary reserve as well as other mandatory cost increases including health insurance, utilities and bus transportation.

"As in past years, employee compensation remains my first priority, and while I would like to see that reserve larger, it is the most I can responsibly put forth at this time without implementing additional significant budget reductions," Richmond said.

A large portion of the budget is reserved to fund opening costs for the new Mary B. Neal Elementary School and the final phase of North Point High School. Many of the operating costs have been funded by reallocating money through position transfers and deferring partial pension funding of health insurance for retirees (referred to as

GASB 45 or OPEB funding.)

The budget does not advance any major new programs, but keeps current programs in place. Two new initiatives, gifted education identification and the state-mandated Bridge program for students struggling to pass the High School Assessment, are included in the budget. Savings generated in other instructional areas creates funding for these two programs.

Additionally, the superintendent's request includes a supplemental budget request totaling \$30 million if additional money becomes available. The Board is reviewing the budget proposal and supplemental budget and is expected to make a decision May 13 on what to add in their budget request to the Commissioners. However, the final funding decision rests with the Commissioners.

A complete copy of the Superintendent's budget proposal can be found at [www.ccboc.com/PDF/FY09-Superintendent-Board-Presentation.pdf](http://www.ccboc.com/PDF/FY09-Superintendent-Board-Presentation.pdf).

## Registration open for certificated staff development courses

The Office of Program Support is accepting registration for certified professional development (CPD) courses. Participants enrolled in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) courses can receive CPD credit(s). Additionally, CCPS has partnerships with local universities and colleges. Available courses are listed below.

To register for CPD courses, complete the registration forms located on the school system web site, under staff development, [www.cboe.com/staffdev/courses/index.cfm](http://www.cboe.com/staffdev/courses/index.cfm)

Contact the college or university directly to register for graduate courses. Contact Barbara Palko, 301-392-7501, for more information.

### McDaniel College

#### Graduate Courses/CPD Courses

**Course:** *Assessment for Reading Instruction*, RDG 523

**Dates:** May 27; June 3, 10, 17; July 1 (in classroom). May 30; June 6, 13, 20 (online).

**Time/Location:** 4:30 – 8:30 p.m., Thomas Stone High School

**Course:** *Reading in the Content Areas – Part I*, RDG 532

**Dates:** May 29; June 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 26; July 1

**Time/Location:** 5 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

**Course:** *Differentiation and Technology*, CUR 505

**Dates:** May 28; July 23 (in classroom). June 4, 11, 18, 25; July 2, 9, 16 (online).  
**Time/Location:** 5 – 9 p.m., Stone

**Course:** *Brain-based Ways We Think & Learn*, EDU 518

**Dates:** June 23, 24, 30; July 1, 7, 8  
**Time/Location:** 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Stone

**Course:** *Monitoring and Aligning Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*, CUR 509

**Dates:** May 27, 29; June 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26  
**Time/Location:** 5 – 9 p.m., Stone

**Course:** *School Law*, PSI 527

**Dates:** May 27, 28; June 3, 10, 11, 17, 18  
**Time/Location:** 4:30 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

**Course:** *Curriculum Analysis and Planning*, CUR 512

**Dates:** June 30; July 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23  
**Time/Location:** 4:30 – 9 p.m., Stone

**Course:** *Culture and Diversity*, SOC 508

**Dates:** July 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 23  
**Time/Location:** Tues. and Wed., 5 – 7:30 p.m., Stone; Sat., 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., John Hanson Middle School

**Course:** *Teaching Through Learning Channels*, EDU 517

**Dates:** June 23, 25, 27; July 7, 9, 11  
**Time/Location:** 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Stone

### Bowie State University

#### Graduate Courses

**Course:** *Career Counseling and Development*, GUCO 608.237

**Dates:** June 2 – July 9, Mon. and Wed.  
**Time/Location:** 5 – 9 p.m., Stone

**Course:** *Psychodiagnostics Psychopath*, PSYC 744.238

**Dates:** July 15 – Aug. 21, Tues. and Thurs.  
**Time/Location:** 5 – 9 p.m., Stone

### Gratz College/Regional Training Center

**Course:** *Brain-Based Teaching and Learning*

**Dates:** Aug. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8  
**Time/Location:** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. – Thurs., 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Fri., Hanson

**Course:** *Styles of Teaching: Personality type in the Classroom*

**Dates:** July 21, 22, 23, 24, 25  
**Time/Location:** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. – Thurs., 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Fri., Hanson

**Course:** *Skills and Strategies for Inclusion and Disability Awareness*

**Dates:** June 23, 24, 25, 26, 27  
**Time/Location:** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. – Thurs., 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Fri., Hanson

## Leveillee

trustworthy,” fifth grader Brandon Battle told the crowd May 1. Leveillee says she is proud of the title.

“Everything I do each and every day is for students, and this award is for all of them. I am fortunate to have an awesome staff at Matula and the support of Superintendent James Richmond, Deputy Superintendent Ronald Cunningham and others at the Starkey building. In October, when I go to Washington, it will make all of my hard work over the years pay off. This national award is for Charles County, the place I’ve called my second home for the past 24 years,” she said.

Parent volunteer Norma Flores-Kret says Leveillee helps Matula shine. “She takes to heart each scraped knee, bruised spirit, and sad face and rejoices in each and every ‘kiss your brain’ moment and ‘knock your socks off’ accomplishment. She has more than enough praise and uplifting to go around for each and every student, staff member, and even us volunteers,” Flores-Kret said.

Drown, who made the announcement, told the students that

Leveillee was chosen because of her hard work and many accomplishments. “She makes students her main focus. She is outside everyday, no matter the weather, to greet and say goodbye to students. She is involved in community projects such as Jump Rope for Heart, Coins for Cancer, torch run, Shiver in the River for Special Olympics, adopt a needy family, silly string for soldiers, and she still has time to come to our (MAESP) meetings on Saturdays,” Drown said.

Kristin Josen, an instructional specialist at Matula, nominated Leveillee for the award. “Mrs. Leveillee is most deserving of this award. I have had the privilege to work with her for 10 years at Matula and I have witnessed first hand her dedication. The students and staff of Matula have always come first,” she said.

Leveillee will represent Maryland at a National Association of Elementary School Principals awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., in October. The program was established in 1984 to honor exemplary elementary and middle school principals.

## From Page 1

# Personnel

Apply for positions at [www.ccboe.com/hur](http://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

**Coordinator of Autism Services** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Experience and master's degree required. Apply by May 12.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** – Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 15.

**Building Service Worker** – Westlake High School, 12-month position. Apply by May 15.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant, Life Skills** – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 15.

**In-School Retention Instructional Assistant** – C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 19.

**Kindergarten Instructional Assistant** – Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 19.

**Food Service Worker** – Openings at county schools, three- and four-hour, 10-month positions available.

**Media Instructional Assistant** – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 19.

**Food Service Worker** – Thomas Stone High School and Mattawoman Middle School, four-hour positions available. Apply by May 19.

**IEP Facilitators** – Openings at all levels, 10-month positions.

**NJROTC instructor** – Westlake and La Plata high schools, 10-month position.

**ESOL teacher** – Openings at all levels, 10-month position.

**Special Education** – Openings at all levels, 10-month position.

**Drafting and Design** – North Point High School, 10-month position.

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

- Spanish, high-school level
- Math, middle- and high-school levels
- Science, middle- and high-school level
- Library and Media specialists, all levels
- Vocal and instrumental music, all levels

## Staff notes

### Insurance and enrollment rates

Open enrollment for health insurance is May 1-16. New biweekly rates are:

	Family	Individual
HMO	\$133.00	\$46.00
PPN	\$204.50	\$73.50
Comp	\$220.50	\$78.50

New rates are effective July 1 and will be reflected on the July 4 paycheck. Employees who want to enroll for hospitalization must log on to the Benelogic website at [www.ccboe.benelogic.com](http://www.ccboe.benelogic.com) to sign up for the plan they want. Only HMO and PPN plans are available for new enrollment. The comprehensive plan was closed to open enrollment in 2003. Comparison information on the two plans is available on the Benelogic site. Contact Heather Huff, [hhuff@ccboe.com](mailto:hhuff@ccboe.com), with questions.

## Tax Shelter Annuity plan update

The TSA committee and advisors are in the process of finalizing the selection of a 403(b) vendor based on the bid responses.

The contract and all documents should be completed mid-May. An announcement will be made shortly thereafter and conversion will start in June.

## Partial 2008-09 calendar available

A partial calendar for the 2008-09 school year is available on the home page of the CCPS web site.

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