

School News



Compensation, new middle school top budget priorities

Superintendent James E. Richmond presented his proposed operating budget to the Board of Education on Jan. 9 citing employee compensation and the opening of the new middle school as top priorities.

Richmond's budget proposal for the 2007-08 school year is \$280 million, a \$26.8 million or 10.6 percent increase. The balanced budget, developed from December estimates provided by the state and the Charles County Commissioners, includes a \$10,716 per pupil operating cost. The proposal, Richmond said, is based on funding assumptions and could vary if state or local revenue forecasts change.

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the Superintendent's budget on Jan. 22, 6 p.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Following the hearing, the Board will hold a budget work session.

The school system's highest priority, Richmond said, is employee compensation and benefits that are subject to negotiations between the Education Association of Charles County (EACC), which represents teachers, and the American Federation of State, County

and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which represents support and technical employees. Richmond said he believes that the efforts of teachers, staff and administrators correlate with student test results. Richmond reminded the Board that all Charles County schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) this past year, SAT scores remained above state and national averages, the class of 2006 received more than \$40 million in scholarship offers and student enrollment in the AP program continued to increase. Additionally, he said, all Charles County Public Schools facilities are now wireless, the school system has been named as a national model of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program and CCPS received a perfect audit report.

The second major expense funds the opening of Theodore Davis Middle School in Waldorf. The budget allots \$5.8 million for 78 new positions as well as materials of instruction and technology. "The continuing cost of opening new schools remains a concern," Richmond said. He added that opening new

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Teachers earn certification

Two La Plata High School teachers, Denise F. Childers and Shelly J. Michael, have earned National Board Certification. This designation is granted by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and is reserved for teaching professionals who demonstrate superior teaching skills.

Childers, an English teacher, received certification in the area of English/Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood. Michael, a Spanish teacher, earned certification in the area of World Languages other than English/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood.

Certification is valid for 10 years. By achieving National Board Certification, Childers and Michael are eligible for a \$2,500 stipend added to their annual salary as well as an annual \$2,000 incentive from the Maryland State Department of Education as long as they remain in the classroom and maintain their National Board Certification.

There are more than 47,000 National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) in schools across America. The two Charles County teachers were among 161 Maryland teachers, who earned National Board Certification during the 2006 assessment cycle.

Teachers seeking National Board Certification must be recommended to the Maryland State Department of Education by Charles County Public Schools. Teachers must be eligible for the free incentive program, which pays the \$2,500 program entrance fee assessed by NBPTS. The 2007/2008 application cycle for National Board Certification will be announced in the spring.

Martin appointed as principal of Davis Middle School

Wendell O. Martin, vice principal at Thomas Stone High School, has been named by the Board of Education as principal of Theodore Davis Middle School for the 2007-08 school year.

Davis Middle School is under construction and will open on Aug. 27, 2007.

Martin began his teaching career in 1990 as a language arts teacher and later as a guidance counselor at Easton Middle School in Talbot County. He was promoted to vice principal of Easton Middle School in 1996 and served in that capacity until 1998 when he was hired by Charles County Public Schools as a vice principal at General Smallwood Middle School. He transferred as

a vice principal to Thomas Stone High School in 2002.

Martin earned his bachelor's degree in English Education from Grambling State University, LA and his masters in guidance and counseling from Bowie State University. He received his administration supervision certification in 2005 from McDaniel University.



Wendell O. Martin



Notebook

Board appoints coordinator

Rhayda Thomas, an instructional specialist, has been named as coordinator of Title I programs. Thomas, who received her bachelor's degree from Bowie State University and her masters from the New York Institute of Technology, has served as an elementary teacher and instructional assistant for Charles County Public Schools.

Ryon teacher receives grant

Jill Barnes, a fourth-grade teacher at J.P. Ryon Elementary School, is the recipient of a \$500 education grant from the *Washington Post*. The award is for her program, "Mrs. Barnes' Puppet Project," which allows children to design and create puppets using math, reading and art skills. At the end of the school year, the students will present a play that they have written using their puppets as the main characters.

Correction

The names of the Henry E. Lackey High School students pictured in the Jan. 5 *School News* were inadvertently omitted. Students involved in emergency medical rescue efforts at Lackey were: Bryan Chambers, junior; William Sanders, senior; and Amber Washington, senior.

Cover photos

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees honored Jan. 9 by the Board of Education. From left: Jill A. Locco, science teacher, John Hanson Middle School; Constance A. Frederick, elementary teacher, J. C. Parks Elementary School; Kelly J. Glossner, elementary teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; and Gearleen O. James, business education teacher; Henry E. Lackey High School.

Wade, Wise win Board chair, vice chair elections

The Board of Education of Charles County elected Donald M. Wade as chairman and Roberta S. Wise as vice chairman at its Jan. 9 meeting. The Board elects a chairman and vice chairman each January.



Donald M. Wade



Roberta S. Wise

The officers serve one-year terms.

Wade is a three-term Board member and was first elected in 1998. He is a lifetime resident of Charles County and has served as Thomas Stone High School SAC president and helped bring the JROTC programs to Charles County. Col. Wade spent 30 years on active duty and was a Professor of Aerospace Studies at three universities. He was a teacher, a department chairperson and a faculty advisor to 21 JROTC units in Prince George's County before retiring in 2006. He was a member of the Charles County Board of Zoning Appeals, and is a distinguished

graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park ROTC program and the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.

Wise is a first-term Board member, and was elected in November 2006. She

is a retired Charles County Public Schools teacher with 34 years of experience. A former Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, she also received the *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer award for outstanding teachers in 1991. For most of her career, she served as a mathematics teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School. She was a coordinator of the Educational Partnership Team and a math resource teacher before retiring in 1999. Wise has been a member of the Charles County Planning Commission for six years and served as the vice chairperson for the last three years.

Meal prices rise; adult entrees increase to \$2

Charles County Public Schools is increasing the price of school meals by 10 cents beginning Feb. 1.

Increased food and labor costs have made it necessary to increase prices mid-year, said Paul Balides, assistant superintendent of business, finance and technology.

Effective Feb. 1, elementary meal prices increase to 85 cents for breakfast and \$1.75 for lunch. Middle and high school breakfast prices increase to \$1 and lunch will be \$2. Adult entrees increase to \$2.

Milk prices will remain at 40 cents.

Fruit and vegetable prices remain at 50 cents. Prices for bottle beverages and packaged snacks from vending machines will also increase. Bottle beverages will be between 80 cents to \$1.30 and packaged snacks will range from 25 to 75 cents based on the item.

Free and reduced-priced meals are not affected by the increases. Student meal costs are partially supported by federal and state reimbursement. There is no subsidy for milk for students. Federal and state support is not allowed for adult meals.

Budget

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schools is impacting the school system's ability to fund new and adaptive instructional programs that help address ever-changing performance targets. Funding is also included for phase three of the opening of North Point High School as it continues to evolve from a combination middle/high school to a high school.

The budget includes adding full-day kindergarten at Berry, Dr. James Craik and William B. Wade elementary schools, bringing the school system in compliance with

state requirements. All elementary schools will have full-day kindergarten in the 2007-08 school year.

In addition to the balanced budget proposal, Richmond also submitted to the Board a list of new initiatives and instructional enhancements that he would like to see funded. While beyond the expected level of funding, the supplemental budget, Richmond said, reflects the true needs of the school system and would help accelerate the school system's progress.

Workshop to help parents and students fill out FAFSA

Charles County Public Schools is offering a Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) workshop for high school seniors and families on Saturday, Feb. 3, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at Thomas Stone High School in the cafeteria. The line-by-line workshop is designed to help answer frequently asked questions about correctly filing the FAFSA required by most colleges and universities to receive federal, state or institutional financial aid.

The free workshop, presented by SoMD CAN/College Access Network and sponsored by the College of Southern Maryland, will help prepare parents and students to confidently submit the FAFSA on the web. A continental breakfast will be available.

Workshop officials offer the following four guidelines to help parents and high school seniors prepare to apply for financial aid.

- Parents and students should both apply

for a personal identification number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov. This allows for an electronic signature of the FAFSA and speeds up the financial aid electronic process. It takes about three days to receive a PIN.

- Begin scholarship searches now. Students should contact the school guidance office for available scholarships and helpful web sites.

- Visit FAFSA on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students and parents must use 2006 tax information for the 2007-08 school year. The Maryland State deadline for filing the FAFSA is March 1.

- Look into various ways to fund a college education including federal, state, regional and institutional grants, scholarships loans and work study.

For more information, contact a high school guidance counselor, email info@somdcan.org or call 410-474-4144.

Stoddert teacher attends joint conference in China

Margaret Sherrod, a physical education teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, recently attended the 2006 United States-China Joint Education conference in Beijing, China. She was invited as part of the People-to-People Ambassador Program, which is an international professional and cultural program. The conference took place over six days in November.

As a member of the delegation Sherrod represented physical education teachers while advancing the ideals of People-to-People International, a nonpolitical private-sector organization dedicated to promoting international understanding. President Eisenhower founded it in 1956.

The conference is designed to allow delegations to meet face-to-face to discuss common problems, compare recent findings and evaluate areas for further collaboration.

Participants share their knowledge and successful techniques and strategies. Individualized working sessions focused specifically on exploring the educational system in China as it pertains to physical education, with special emphasis on the differences in health and wellness between the United States and China. The delegation discussed topics such as China's educational system, elementary physical education, Olympic sports and venues, technology use in physical education and sports and integration of alternative medicine into Western medicine.



Margaret Sherrod

Students meet with governor

Six Charles County Public Schools students attended a youth inaugural with Gov. Martin O'Malley on Jan. 15. The program was a town hall type event, where students had the chance to ask questions of the Governor Elect and the Lt. Governor Elect. Pictured with Gov. O'Malley, center, are from left, back row, Andrew Merki, Ian Ray and Bradford Jackson, and front row, from left, Kristen McDaniel, Brittney McCrae and Jessica Mundi.



Payroll announces changes, services

Mileage rates, the Social Security wage base and exempt status all vary with the calendar year. Payroll has released the following updates for employees.

- The mileage rate changes from 44.5 cents per mile to 48.5 cents per mile.

- Employees who have put in tax forms requesting exemption from federal and Maryland taxes must put in new tax forms to keep the exempt status for 2007. Employees who file that they are exempt cannot also claim exemptions.

- Employees are encouraged to sign up for direct deposit for paychecks. Direct deposit ensures an employee's pay will be in the bank on payday despite bad weather, holidays or days off.

- All employees are eligible to contribute to a tax sheltered annuity (TSA) or 457 plans. TSA vendors available for use by Charles County Public Schools employees are listed on the school system web site on the forms page.

- TSA maximum yearly pretax contribution for 2007 is \$15,500. Employees over 50 years old may contribute an additional \$5,000.

- The social security maximum wage base is \$97,500.

Board plans budget hearing

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on Superintendent James E. Richmond's proposed fiscal year 2008 budget on January 22, 6 p.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Agenda items are:

- Call to order - 6 p.m.
- Public Forum
- Public hearing on the budget
- Budget work session
- Board procedures work session
- New business
 - Approval of Mary Burgess Neal Elementary School bid
- Adjournment - 8 p.m.

Personnel

Positions listed are openings posted since Jan. 1. For a complete listing or to apply for positions visit www.cchoe.com/hur. All positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted.

Job openings

Principals – Screening for all levels; eligible for Maryland State Department of Education Professional certificate with Administrator II endorsement; five years successful school experience with a minimum of three in classroom teaching. Apply by March 9.

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. Apply by March 9.

Special Education Teacher – Dr. James Craik Elementary School; 10-month position.

Secretary to the Principal – Theodore Davis Middle School; 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 24.

Publications/Project Developer – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; Communications Department; 12-month position; bachelor's degree in journalism or communications required. Apply by Jan. 31.

Building Service Manager – Theodore Davis Middle School; 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 19.

Building Service Assistant Manager – Theodore Davis Middle School; 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 19.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – Dr. James Craik Elementary School; Life Skills; 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 22.

Food Service Assistant Manager – North Point High School; 11-month position. Apply by Jan. 30.

Secretary – North Point High School; 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 30.

Food Service Assistant Manager – Maurice J. McDonough High School; 11-month position. Apply by Jan. 30.

Food Service Worker – Milton M. Somers Middle School; three-hour, 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 30.

Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Financial Secretary – Henry E. Lackey High School; 11-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Building Service Worker – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Building Service Worker – Mattawoman Middle School; 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Elementary Reading Instructional Assistant – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 30.

Instructional Assistants – Two positions available; adult education; Lifelong Learning Center; part-time positions. Apply by Jan. 31.

Food Service Manager – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Food Service Assistant Manager – Theodore Davis Middle School; 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 7.

IEP Facilitator – Gale-Bailey Elementary School; 11-month position. Apply by Feb. 1.

Occupational Therapists – All age levels; 10-month positions.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at the elementary level; 10-month positions.

Extra pay positions

Westlake High School openings:

- Head golf coach
- Assistant freshman football coach
- Assistant junior varsity football coach
- Assistant varsity football coach

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

North Point High School openings:

- Head varsity football coach
- Head varsity girls' soccer coach
- Head varsity boys' soccer coach
- Head varsity volleyball coach
- Head varsity cheerleading coach
- Head varsity girls' field hockey coach

Call Principal Peter Cevenini, 301-885-2012, to apply.

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