

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** March 9, 2004  
**TO:** **BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**FROM:** Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent  
**SUBJECT:** **RESOLUTION FOR MAGNET SCHOOLS**  
**ORIGINATOR:** Christine M. Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Phyllis Bailey, Executive Director of Secondary Programs, PreK-12

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education approve the Resolution for Magnet Schools

\* \* \* \* \*

Attachment I – Magnet School Assistance Program Resolution

RESOLUTION

March 9, 2004

- WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Baltimore County Public Schools (“BCPS”) believes that it is in the best interest of its students to promote diversity within its schools and to give all students the opportunity to learn in an environment that reflects our pluralistic society; and
- WHEREAS, Despite past efforts to reduce minority isolation in BCPS, there remain schools whose minority group enrollment approaches or exceeds 50%, thus constituting minority group isolation; and
- WHEREAS, The demographic and enrollment changes in BCPS have made it more challenging for BCPS to provide students with the educational benefits of attending schools with students from diverse backgrounds and to avoid the educational harms of minority and socio-economic isolation; and
- WHEREAS, BCPS began implementing magnet programs in the 1993-1994 school year as a strategy to provide students the opportunity to attend schools with diverse enrollment, to avoid the harms of minority and socio-economic isolation, and to improve academic achievement, and has continued to expand its magnet program offerings to achieve these goals; and
- WHEREAS, The Federal government, through the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (“MSAP”), has recognized that eliminating, reducing, and preventing minority group isolation in the public schools is a compelling governmental interest and has provided federal funding to school districts to address this and other compelling governmental interests; and
- WHEREAS, Pursuant to the attached choice plan, BCPS proposes to implement (1) new whole school magnet programs at three schools, Lansdowne Middle School, Deep Creek Middle School, and Chesapeake High School; and (2) a significantly revised whole school magnet program at Lansdowne High School, if BCPS receives MSAP grant funds from the Federal government; and
- WHEREAS, BCPS has developed a three-year MSAP grant application to request Federal funding to assist in providing the necessary resources to implement the proposed new and significantly revised whole school magnet programs at Lansdowne and Deep Creek Middle Schools and at Chesapeake and Lansdowne High Schools; and
- WHEREAS, BCPS plans to ensure that staff at the proposed magnet schools will have experience, knowledge, and training in fields related to the objectives of

the MSAP, including in curriculum development and strategies related to meeting the needs of students with diverse backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, As required by the MSAP regulations, BCPS has developed strategies to recruit students from diverse backgrounds and to assign students to the magnet schools by lottery; and

WHEREAS, BCPS plans effectively to inform parents whose children attend underperforming schools about choices that are available at the new and significantly revised whole school magnets at Lansdowne Middle School, Deep Creek Middle School, Chesapeake High School, and Lansdowne High School; and

WHEREAS, BCPS's grant application is consistent with the goals, definitions, and eligibility of the MSAP, including the goal of increasing school district capacity to provide choice by establishing magnet programs at underperforming schools; and

WHEREAS, BCPS intends to continue to operate its schools in compliance with the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Baltimore County Public Schools authorizes the Superintendent to submit a grant application under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program in the approximate amount of \$7.5 million, (\$2.5 M per year) to support a three-year effort to develop and implement new and significantly revised whole school magnet programs at Lansdowne Middle School, Deep Creek Middle School, Chesapeake High School, and Lansdowne High School; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Superintendent of Schools be directed to implement these new and significantly revised whole school magnet programs if BCPS is awarded funds under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program.

---

James R. Sasiadek, President

---

Joe A. Hairston, Secretary-Treasurer