

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** June 14, 2005

**TO:** **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FROM:** Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** **PROPOSED RENAMING OF LIBRARY AT RELAY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**ORIGINATOR:** Dr. Richard Milbourne, Executive Director of Schools, Southwest Area

**RESOURCE**

**PERSON(S):** Paula Rees, Principal, Relay Elementary School

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education review and approve renaming the school library to *Dr. James F. Skarbek Memorial Library* in memory of Dr. Skarbek. This is the first reading.

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**Nature of the Issue:** The principal is requesting that the school library be renamed in memory of Dr. James Skarbek – principal of Relay Elementary from 1991-2004.

**History of the Issue:** Dr. Skarbek was Principal of Relay Elementary School for thirteen years. His role went far beyond being the Principal. He became an educational icon for the entire school community.

Dr. Skarbek devoted forty five years to the students of Baltimore County Public Schools. He will always be remembered for his love of children and his dedication to education. He was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the students of the Baltimore County Public School System by Governor Robert Ehrlich in December, 2003.

Dr. Skarbek always emphasized the importance of teaching children to read. He knew that reading was an essential key to academic success. As a teacher, he loved teaching students to read, as an administrator he made reading his number one priority. He never tired of going into classrooms and having students read to him. He stood at the entrance of Relay School each morning and greeted students as they arrived. He greeted them by name.

Dr. Skarbek believed that the school library was the heart of the school. His friendliness, compassion, warm and friendly manner coupled with his devotion to education and strong leadership skills, endeared him to the entire Relay School Community. Ms. Rees and the school community feel that they could pay tribute to Dr. Skarbek with the renaming of the library. They wish to honor his memory by having the Relay Elementary School Library renamed as *The Dr. James F. Skarbek Memorial Library*.