

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: October 3, 2006

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL**
(Staffing Update, Administrative Team Approach, Instructional Efforts, Efforts to Connect with the Staff and Students, Approaches to a Safe and Orderly Environment, SAT and HSA Results and Approaches to Improve Student Achievement, AP/GT Increased Rigor, and Next Steps)

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INFORMATION

This is the first of a regularly scheduled monthly report to the Board of Education on the campus efforts to improve student learning and student achievement at Woodlawn High School. This report reviews the following: Staffing Update, Administrative Team Approach, Instructional Efforts, Efforts to Connect with the Staff and Students, Approaches to a Safe and Orderly Environment, SAT and HSA Results and Approaches to Improve Student Achievement, and AP/GT Increased Rigor and Next Steps.

Woodlawn High School Board of Education Report October 3, 2006

Staffing Update:

A total of 192.4 Full-Time Equivalent positions (FTE's) are allocated to Woodlawn High School. As of September 19, 2006, 4 vacancies exist in the following areas:

- ROTC instructor
- Special Education Reading
- Geometry (2)

Administrative Team Approach:

The Administrative Team is comprised of the principal and five assistant principals. While the principal is responsible for the implementation of the instructional program, staffing, and budget for the entire campus, duties and responsibilities for other components of the school operation have been assigned to the assistant principals based on their expertise:

- Four of the assistant principals have an HSA content area and one grade level.
- One assistant principal works solely with all special education students and teachers.
- Various other instructional, operational, and management components assigned to each assistant principal

The administrative team meets a minimum of one day a week and the meeting time ranges from two to three hours. All meetings are held after school.

Instructional Efforts To Improve Student Learning:

The Principal and each Assistant Principal are in classrooms the majority of the school day. Department Chairs and Mentors are also involved with this process. The purpose of the visits is to monitor instruction, provide feedback to teachers, and for students to observe the administrative team's commitment to the instructional process.

Administrative Team's Efforts To Connect With Staff:

1. The level of trust has been elevated and a more positive environment created through high visibility and daily interaction with the teachers.
2. Teacher supplies, instructional materials, and other school-related needs have been identified and addressed. Duplicating machines, replacement furniture, and additional computers for teachers have been ordered. (*There were three operable duplicating machines in the school as of July 1).
3. The administrative team actively seeks information and feedback from the teachers and staff. Many of their ideas are incorporated into the day-to-day operations.
4. Professional development is based on campus need as determined by the staff.

Administrative Team's Efforts To Connect With Students:

1. The administrative team makes visibility a priority in the hallways, in the cafeteria, at sporting events, and in the classrooms.
2. Positive articulations with students occur on a frequent basis.
3. Consistency within the management of the facility is also a priority. Students are aware of the expectations and are beginning to move in a more positive direction.
4. All the ninth graders attending Orientation were provided with a Woodlawn backpack and school supplies.
5. Daily announcements are focused on recognizing positive student achievement.

Approaches To A Safe And An Orderly Environment:

1. A Student Behavior Handbook was created to set expectations for the students.
2. The expectations are based on the BCPS Handbook. Implementation is fair and consistent with these expectations.
3. The high visibility of the administrative team and teachers helps to prevent inappropriate behaviors.
4. The repair of cameras (*not yet complete) will assist with the order in the building.
5. The administrative team met with representatives from Safe Schools, Police Department, and Fire Department to identify areas of concern and possible solutions.
6. The administrative team meets regularly with the School Resource Officers (SRO) to discuss strategies for improvement related to effective monitoring to maintain a safe and orderly environment. .

SAT Strategies

The combined score for 05-06 was 797 (402-verbal, 395-math) with a 43% participation rate. Strategies for improvement in 06-07 include:

1. Increased use of the on-line SAT program.
2. Staff development for the use of the on-line program.
3. Increase the number of waivers for SAT testing.
4. Increased awareness of the SAT components in the classrooms.
5. Aggressive recruiting of juniors to take the test in their junior year.
6. After-school SAT program. (Summer Camp completed in July/August)
7. SAT Prep class.

HSA Now And For The Future:

2006 Results:

Algebra –	22.1% passing (12% in 2005)
Biology –	39.1% passing (33.8 in 2005)
Government -	55.9% passing (40.4% in 2005)
English -	51.6% passing (34.4% in 2005)

All areas showed improvement from the 2005 results.

1. A Focus Plan will be used by each of the four tested HSA to identify students that are “basic”.
2. Each content area will use short-cycle assessments to determine next steps. The data will be broken down by class, by teacher, number of students in each category, and overall summary. The Focus Plan will be updated to reflect this data. Benchmark assessments will be used to determine the level of success to that point in the curriculum. The data will be analyzed using a format similar to that used for the short-cycle assessment.
3. Best practices will be selected based on the data collected during each phase.
4. Coach Classes will be made available for all “basic” students.
5. A ½ credit course for Algebra, Government, and Biology will be available after school beginning in October. Transportation will be provided to students at the end of these classes.
6. Staff Development to be determined based on student achievement results, and teacher needs.

AP/GT And Increased Rigor:

1. The number of AP/GT Courses offered has increased from 12 to 16.
2. The Guidance Department will intensify efforts to identify and encourage students to participate in these courses.
3. Training opportunities for AP courses are being explored.
4. Three on-line AP Science courses have been added this year.
5. Professional development in the area of technology is a focus.