

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: October 9, 2012

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: S. Dallas Dance, Ph.D., Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S FOCUS AREAS FOR 2012-2013**

ORIGINATOR: Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esq., Board President

RESOURCE PERSON (S):

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves its Focus Areas for the 2012-2013 school year.

Attachment I – Proposed Focus Areas



Board of Education Mission

The Board of Education of Baltimore County is committed to providing a quality education for all students in safe and orderly schools by developing and implementing policies reflective of global conditions and community values while also ensuring the efficient and effective use of fiscal and human resources.

Focus Areas 20124-20132

Every year, the Baltimore County Public Schools Board of Education identifies specific focus areas. This document highlights the Board’s focus areas for 20124-20132 and shows how they are aligned with the school system’s foundational *Blueprint for Progress*, Phi Delta Kappa curriculum audit, and ISO-9001:2008 Quality Management System.



Performance Goals from the Baltimore County Public Schools *Blueprint for Progress*

Performance Goal 1
By 2012, all students will reach high standards, as established by the Baltimore County Public Schools and state performance level standards, in English/reading/writing, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Performance Goal 2
By 2012, all English Language Learners will become proficient in English and reach high academic standards in English/reading/writing, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Performance Goal 5
All students will graduate from high school.

Performance Goal 3
All students will be taught by highly qualified teachers.

Board of Education Focus Areas for 20124-20132

Student Achievement

Through a quality curriculum, which includes increased rigor and data-driven decision-making, promote continued advancement of student achievement in Baltimore County Public Schools by:

1. Monitoring the success of programs through performance data.
2. Providing teachers with ongoing assessments of students’ learning needs.
3. Ensuring that all students are enrolled in rigorous courses preparing them to be college and workforce ready upon graduation.
4. Expanding participation in Advanced Placement and SAT programs.
5. Addressing performance standard levels in all courses including technology, art, music, and physical education.
6. Monitoring that resources are directed to schools where they are most needed.
7. Identifying outreach opportunities to support student achievement.
8. **STRIVING TO REDUCE ACHIEVEMENT DISPARITIES AMONG RACIAL GROUPS.**
9. Monitoring the transition of the curriculum to the Common Core State Standards.

Staffing

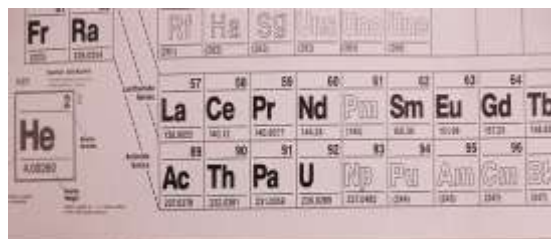
Continue to demonstrate to Baltimore County Public Schools’ employees that they are the school system’s most important resource by:

1. Striving to place the most qualified and effective leadership and staff into underperforming schools.
2. Ensuring that all students will be taught by highly qualified and highly effective teachers.
3. Providing effective professional development and resources to teachers and staff that support teachers to facilitate differentiated instruction.
4. Advocating for competitive employee salaries and benefits.

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Performance Goal 4

All students will be educated in school environments that are safe and conducive to learning.



Facilities

Build and maintain facilities in the Baltimore County Public Schools' system that are conducive to teaching and learning by:

1. Developing a long-range plan for **21 CENTURY FACILITIES FOR ALL SCHOOLS**.
2. **PROVIDING SHORT- AND LONG-TERM PLANS FOR AIR CONDITIONING ALL SCHOOLS**.
3. Increasing maintenance-related budgets and maintaining all buildings to specified standards.
3. Exploring alternatives for additional school sites.
4. **DEVELOPING INITIATIVES TO ENSURE A SAFE AND SECURE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**. ~~Supporting the Superintendent's budget request related to safe school initiatives.~~
5. Incorporating the latest trends in "green" design into future construction/renovation projects.

Performance Goal 6

Engage parents/guardians, business, and community members in the educational process.

Performance Goal 7

Involve principals, teachers, staff, stakeholders, and parents/guardians in the decision-making process.



Communications and Marketing

Promote Baltimore County Public Schools and enhance Board communications by:

1. Increasing effective Board communications (e.g., on-line public comment for Board of Education policies; reordering agenda to include public comment at the beginning of the meeting; **TELEVISIONING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF BOARD MEETINGS**).
2. Using all communication vehicles effectively to inform internal and external stakeholders about BCPS.
3. Developing a legislative **PLATFORM** agenda, and sharing it with Board advisory councils, stakeholder groups and elected officials.
4. Meeting with the County Executive and County Council.
5. **COMMUNICATING** ~~Lobbying more effectively~~ **WITH THE BALTIMORE COUNTY DELEGATION** ~~in Annapolis.~~
6. Exploring new ways of engaging families and communities to join with us in promoting student achievement.
7. Encouraging citizens to participate in the work of the Area Education Advisory Councils, which provide input to the Board.
8. Establishing uniformity and consistency for all written and electronic communication
9. **CREATING A MEDIA PORTAL FOR THE PUBLIC TO VIEW BOARD MEETINGS ON THE WEB SITE.**

Performance Goal 8

All students will receive a quality education through the efficient and effective use of resources and the delivery of business services.

Fiscal Management

Maintain BCPS status as a model of public sector fiscal management by:

1. Continuing initiatives to enrich Board knowledge in fiscal areas.
2. Setting Board priorities and fiscal decisions based on hard data.
3. Ensuring an effective Education Foundation to enhance corporate and community support.