



NEWS RELEASE

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BCPS school, central office leaders gather for annual Administrative & Supervisory Meeting *Superintendent Williams stressed accelerated learning, increased data literacy, enhanced social-emotional wellness, and a collective commitment to excellence*

Towson, MD – In an annual rite for the new school year, this morning Baltimore County Public Schools leaders gathered for the Administrative and Supervisory Meeting.

This year's meeting was held in two sessions at the Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena at UMBC to ensure adequate physical distancing. The first session welcomed principals and assistant principals from BCPS schools. The audience for the second session were administrators from BCPS central office.

Meeting highlights included a keynote address by BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams, recognition of new school system leaders and Superintendent's Award for Distinguished Leadership recipients, and a panel discussion on safety and wellness.

In his remarks, Supt. Williams introduced his "I am Team BCPS" theme, reminding leaders: "Not only are we collectively members of Team BCPS, but we are individually the embodiment of Team BCPS.... Every interaction is an opportunity for us to resolve a concern, remove a barrier, soften a struggle, and increase confidence in our system."

Referring to the past 18 months, Supt. Williams quoted the Harvard Business Review in describing this period of profound change as "perpetual, pervasive, and exponential."

Supt. Williams used the meeting as an opportunity to reiterate the school system's commitment to full-time, in-person learning. "We remain committed to coordinating with the scientific community as we implement a safe return to school," he said. "If evolving health and safety conditions warrant more stringent mitigation strategies, BCPS will continue to work with health partners to monitor health metrics and, if needed, implement a modified plan to address potential COVID related issues. Our goal is to preserve and protect in-person learning."

He added, "BCPS will not close school buildings and move to fully virtual instruction unless ordered to do so by state government officials. If the state orders reduced capacity in school buildings, we are developing a plan to provide in-person instruction on some days and virtual instruction on other days."

According to Supt. Williams, under his leadership, central office support for schools will be "responsive, differentiated, and inclusive" as it leads the BCPS community "through a process of healing, recovery, and rebuilding."

Addressing student achievement after all the disruptions of the past 18 months, Supt. Williams said the school system must "intentionally reimagine experiences for student in our schools." Strategies to be employed to achieve this, Supt. Williams said, include "developing a robust cross-divisional plan to implement accelerated learning to counteract the impact of unfinished learning." Supt. Williams explained that accelerated learning involves consistently providing students with grade-level materials, tasks, and assignments, along with appropriate support to make the work accessible.

Supt. Williams also highlighted that BCPS will:

- Focus on social-emotional learning opportunities for staff and students.
- Increase data literacy across Team BCPS to facilitate continuous improvement.
- Define and codify a standard of excellence for the school system.

Following Supt. Williams' presentation, Superintendent's Awards for Distinguished Leadership were presented to:

- Matthew Ames, principal, Catonsville High School
- Christina Arellano, coordinator, Performance Management and Assessment
- Maridonna "Missy" Beltran, principal, Ridge Ruxton School
- Jim Corns Jr., executive director, Department of Information Technology
- Natalie Crist, coordinator, Elementary Mathematics
- Andrea Derrien, principal, Chatsworth School

- Janine Holmes, principal, Loch Raven High School
- Virginia Melanie Kearns, principal, Holabird Middle School
- Kalisha Miller, principal, Pikesville Middle School
- Larissa Santos, principal, Dundalk High School
- Carla Simons, supervisor, Office of Certification
- Debbie Somerville, coordinator, Office of Health Services
- Dr. Kandice Taylor, principal, Deer Park Middle Magnet School
- Cathy Thomas, principal, Cromwell Valley Elementary Regional Magnet School

The meeting began with the National Anthem, sung by Samantha Highfield, a Loch Raven High School graduate; greetings from Makeda Scott, chair, and Cheryl Pasteur, member, of the Board of Education of Baltimore County; and Christian Thomas, student member of the Board and a senior at Eastern Technical High School; as well as a presentation of this year's "This is BCPS" video.

The meeting concluded with a panel discussion on "Safety and Wellness: The Critical Connection." The panel was comprised of Dr. Katherine A. Connor, Johns Hopkins Medicine pediatrician and a BCPS parent; Patricia Mustipher, coordinator of School Social Work Services and Multi-Tiered System of Supports; Debbie Somerville, coordinator, BCPS Office of Health Services; Dr. Michael Zarchin, chief, BCPS Division of School Climate and Safety; and Janice Zimmerman, specialist, BCPS Employee Assistance Program. The panel was moderated by Mildred Charley-Greene, BCPS acting chief of staff, and Dr. Myriam Yarbrough, BCPS chief of Organizational Effectiveness.

Door prize sponsors included The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools, First Financial Federal Credit Union, Northbay Education Inc., Greater Baltimore History Alliance, Babe Ruth Museum, Baltimore Museum of Industry, Brookfield Properties, The Avenue at White Marsh, Federal Reality Investment Trust, Padonia Park Club, and The Classic Catering People.

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