


Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

March 15, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence—2012–2013 Revision Process

The purpose of this memorandum is to update you on plans for revising the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) strategic plan, *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence*.

In past years, the superintendent of schools has brought changes to the strategic plan for Board of Education (Board) approval at a June Board business meeting. The strategic plan has provided a clear pathway for MCPS, which was recognized for performance excellence through receipt of the 2010 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

I have taken a number of steps to focus the district's efforts on three strategic priorities: professional development, response to intervention, and strengthening family and community engagement. The foundation of *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence* supports these three priorities, but I believe we can streamline the overall document to better reflect our strategic priorities, making the plan easier to understand and more accessible to staff and the public.

I have asked staff to develop a year-long timeline to begin the process to review and revise the strategic plan. The review and revision process will include involvement from a broad base of stakeholders, as well as experts in the strategic planning field. I am hopeful that the Board's annual fall Community Forums might provide a source of meaningful input for the strategic plan. The Board has a significant role in reviewing and revising the MCPS core values, academic priorities, and governance policies as well.

Mr. Adrian B. Talley, associate superintendent, Office of Shared Accountability and Mrs. Kathleen C. Lazor, director, Department of Materials Management, will co-chair a multistakeholder work group to begin the process. Members of the work group, along with Mr. Larry A. Bowers, chief operating officer, and additional staff, will review a draft plan and timeline with the Board's Strategic Planning Committee on March 21, 2012. I want to focus on streamlining the strategic plan; therefore, we are proposing that our current edition of the strategic plan continue to be our guide for Fiscal Year 2013. I anticipate the pillars of *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence*, its five goals and associated strategic initiatives will continue to provide the foundation for the streamlined strategic plan.

I will provide the Board with updates as we initiate a “renovation” of *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence*. We will report our progress to the Board’s Strategic Planning Committee throughout the 2012–2013 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Talley at 301-279-3553.

JPS:sjl

Copy to:

Executive Staff

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