



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Verjeana M. Jacobs, Chair, Board of Education  
14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **AFTER MASSIVE PUBLIC INPUT EFFORT, BOARD OF EDUCATION DELIBERATES ON TOP TRAITS AND CHARACTERISTICS FOR A NEW SUPERINTENDENT**

After a massive public engagement effort that included community meetings across the county, the Prince George's County Board of Education will meet Thursday, February 19, to deliberate on the top traits and characteristics it will seek when hiring a new superintendent.

The Board will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday in the Board Room at the Sasscer Administration Building, 14201 School Lane in Upper Marlboro, to discuss the traits and characteristics the new superintendent should possess to be appointed to lead America's 18<sup>th</sup> largest school district. Anyone interested in speaking about the search for a new superintendent must register with the Board Office by 4:30 p.m. the day of the meeting by calling 301-952-6115.

"We have listened carefully to the community and they told us what type of person they would like to see lead the school district," said Board Chair Verjeana Jacobs. "The public input process was critically important to us. Our parents, community leaders, employees, and elected officials came forward and spoke their minds."

Community-wide, town hall-style meetings were held January 13-15, and conducted by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE). A series of meetings was also held to hear from invited teachers, administrators, staff members, elected officials and other community leaders about the traits and characteristics most desired in the new superintendent.

"We needed to hear from our constituents," Jacobs added. "All that was shared will inform our decision-making."

Former superintendent John Deasy stepped down in November 2008. On December 1, 2008, Dr. William R. Hite, Jr. was appointed Interim Superintendent and he is a candidate for the permanent job.

At the January sessions, a consistent message from the public and employees was that continuity is needed in the superintendent's office, and that the progress that has been made should continue. Consistently, community members and employees said they wanted a superintendent who is committed to Prince George's County and to serving our community for an extended period, not someone who will leave after a short time.

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**Prince George's County Board of Education**



On Thursday, the Board will report on the top traits and characteristics named by the public and by employees.

**The Board will discuss its expectations that the new superintendent will:**

- Advance the vision of the Board of Education and the long-term goals of the school district consistent with the Prince George's County Public Schools' Core Beliefs and Reform Policies.
- Maintain and accelerate what is working well in the district, and will make needed changes after careful assessment and consultation.
- Make a long-term commitment to Prince George's County Public Schools and the community.
- Maintain an honest and collaborative relationship with the Board of Education.

**The Board will discuss these competencies it will expect in a new superintendent:**

- Demonstrated ability to increase academic achievement of diverse student populations.
- Demonstrated track record in the development, efficient use, and monitoring of budgets, to include raising alternative revenue resources.
- Ability to support and promote the learning and growth of school system personnel.
- Provides instructional leadership and demonstrates ability to uphold and enforce standards of accountability.
- Strong communication skills with all facets of school and community.
- Politically astute – ability to communicate effectively with the media, political and social organizations.
- Values and encourages stakeholder engagement and satisfaction.

The Board will expect the new superintendent to have a doctoral level degree and the necessary credentials for superintendent certification in Maryland. The school district will continue its aggressive communications efforts on the issue, with automated telephone calls and emails scheduled to go to the public, employees and community leaders inviting them to attend Thursday's board meeting.

"We need and want the public there with us every step of the way as we make this vitally important decision," Jacobs said. "The community's input so far has helped enormously."