

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WICOMICO COUNTY



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December 9, 2016

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Dear Wicomico County Public School System Family,

It is so hard to believe that almost five months have passed since I became your Superintendent of Schools. I can't begin to express to you how much I appreciate your good wishes and your support in my new role. I am honored to have been selected to lead this school system, and am especially happy to return to my roots on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, to Wicomico County.

The role of superintendent is an incredible responsibility, and one that I take very seriously. To that end, I have spent these last few months listening and learning from community members, students, parents, school and central office staff, and others about their perceptions and dreams for our school system. Over the course of this time and through these many conversations, I have now solidified, working in collaboration with the Board of Education, what I believe to be four vision points that describe our aspirations for Wicomico County Public Schools. They are as follows.

Wicomico County Public Schools - We aspire to be:

- *a public school system rooted in a culture of respect, transparency, and collegiality; where trust, the quality of relationships, and empowerment are clearly understood to be the foundation for success.*
- *a public school system committed to safe schools; created through a careful balance of clearly communicated and enforced expectations and an atmosphere where students know that teachers and administrators believe in them.*
- *a public school system dedicated to meeting the needs of each student from the most gifted to the most challenged; focusing on early literacy, student engagement in authentic problem solving, innovative instruction that encourages creativity, and preparing students with 21st century skills necessary to successfully enter college or the world of work.*
- *a public school system our community believes in - where teachers compete for jobs, employers compete for well-prepared graduates, families choose to live, and businesses aspire to relocate because of its reputation built upon the pursuit of excellence in providing an outstanding education for our community's students.*

These four vision points are the big ideas for which we strive; however, a vision must be translated into very concrete steps to accomplish our goals. We have been very busy identifying the specific objectives, strategies, and transparent measures that will move us forward toward our vision; and I look forward to continued communication with you about our plans.

One concrete step related to all of these vision points is gathering your feedback through a district-wide climate survey. We are sincere in our desire to have parents as our partners, and want your input on the learning environment in our schools. Therefore, if you have not already done so, please consider participating by going to our website (www.wcboe.org) and clicking on the blue climate survey button. The window for participation closes on December 16, 2016.

I am truly energized by the work that lies ahead, and I look forward to working with you for the benefit of the children in our community. Together, we can turn our aspirations into realities.

Sincerely,

Donna C. Hanlin
Superintendent of Schools