



Harford County Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD REACHES MOU WITH THREE EMPLOYEE UNITS REGARDING COUNTY EXECUTIVE ONE-TIME PAYMENT

The Board of Education of Harford County and three of the five employee associations reached a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the disbursement of the County Executive's proposed \$1,250 stipend for all county employees.

On Tuesday, November 1, 2011, the County Executive presented legislation to the County Council that would potentially authorize the payment of a stipend for all county employees. The funding is pending the County Council approval, which is slated to occur at their meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

Per the Collective Bargaining Agreements, the Board of Education entered into discussions with the five employee bargaining units to potentially amend the existing contracts to allow for the distribution of the stipends, if approved by the County Council in December.

The three units that signed the MOU to accept the distribution of the funds are the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the Association of Public School Administrators and Supervisors of Harford County (APSASHC) and the Association of Harford County Administrative, Technical and Supervisory Professionals (AHCATSP). The employees represented by these three units will most likely receive the first payment of \$625 before the holidays in December.

Two other employee units have yet to sign an MOU with the Board of Education regarding the distribution of the funds. The Harford County Educational Services Council (HCESC), which represents more than 900 instructional support, nurses and clerical professionals in the county, has chosen not to enter an agreement at this time, however they are willing to sign once funding has been approved by the County Council.

At this time, the Harford County Education Association (HCEA), which represents approximately 3,200 Harford County Public Schools employees, including teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists, media specialists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech and hearing clinicians, has elected not to respond to the offer regarding the \$1,250 disbursement.

"We are grateful to the County Executive for providing funding for a stipend for our employees," said Superintendent Robert M. Tomback. "We are hopeful that we will reach an agreement quickly with the remaining two associations in order to allow all employees to receive the first payment before the holidays."

Copies of the MOUs may be found on the Board of Education's Collective Bargaining webpage, which can be found on the school system website at www.hcps.org by clicking on the 'Board' tab.

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