



## Harford County Public Schools

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **HCPS HYBRID BOARD IN PLACE**

*New president and vice president elected*

Seven Board of Education of Harford County members were sworn in yesterday, July 11, 2011, completing the hybrid board structure. Robert L. Frisch and Francis F. "Rick" Grambo, III, who have been serving as Board members in an appointed capacity since they were sworn in on December 13 and December 20, 2010, respectively, were re-sworn in as elected members. In addition, elected member Cassandra R. Beverley and newly appointed at-large members Nancy Reynolds, Joseph A. Hau, James D. Thornton and Ronald G. Browning were sworn in by Chief Deputy of the Circuit Court Diane Burk.



Mrs. Cassandra R. Beverley is a private practice lawyer in Bel Air. Previously, she served as staff attorney for the Baltimore City Department of Social Services. Mrs. Beverley earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law before being admitted to the State of Maryland Bar. Mrs. Beverley is a graduate of the Harford Leadership Academy and she has served in many capacities throughout her career. In 1999, she was appointed by Governor Parris Glendening to the Judicial Nominating Commission for Harford County; in 2000, she served as delegate to the Democratic National Convention; and in 2007, she was re-appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission for Harford County. In addition, she is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Mrs. Beverley and her husband, Alex, have three children and are residents of

Abingdon. She is a member of the Ames United Methodist Church.



Mrs. Nancy Reynolds, a long-time Harford County Public Schools employee, was appointed to the Board of Education of Harford County by Governor O'Malley, effective July 1, 2011. Prior to joining the Board of Education, Mrs. Reynolds was a principal mentor and service learning facilitator for HCPS. Previously, she served as principal of Bel Air Middle School from 1998 to 2008. Mrs. Reynolds also held assistant principal positions at Southampton and Edgewood middle schools. She began her career with HCPS as a reading specialist. Mrs. Reynolds served on numerous committees during her career and was the recipient of several awards, including National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and National Association of Staff Developers Award, to name just a few. Mrs. Reynolds earned her Bachelor of Science in English from Marietta College and her Master's degree in Reading from Towson University. In addition, she received certification in administration and supervision from Loyola College. Mrs. Reynolds has

two daughters who are graduates of HCPS and four grandchildren, two of whom currently attend HCPS. She is actively involved in CASA as a volunteer and member of its Board of Directors, and she also volunteers at Upper Chesapeake Hospital and with the Neighborhood Youth Panel.

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Joseph A. Hau is the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Chesapeake Environmental Management, Inc. (CEM), which he and his wife founded in Bel Air in 1993. He holds a M.S. degree in Geology from Kent State University and a B.A. degree in Geology from the University of Northern Iowa. As the CFO of CEM, Mr. Hau is responsible for planning, implementing, directing and evaluating the firm's fiscal functions and performance. He also serves as one of the firm's principal hydrogeologists, with more than 27 years of professional scientific experience. He is a certified professional geologist and environmental specialist and is a member of the National Association of Groundwater Scientists, the Soil Conservation Society, the Geologic Society of America and the Environmental Assessment Association. Joe is a graduate of the Harford Leadership Academy (Class of 2000), a Board Member for Home Partnership, Inc., and Committee Treasurer for Pack 809 of the Cub Scouts of

America. Joe and his wife, Stephanie, live in Jarrettsville with their two sons. Alex will be entering fourth grade at Jarrettsville Elementary, and Jack will be starting the GSIB magnet program at Edgewood High School.



James D. Thornton is the co-founder and principal of Thorwood Real Estate Group, LLC, based in Bel Air, Maryland. In this role, he is responsible for the development of strategy and the acquisition of properties for redevelopment as multi-family units in the Baltimore Region. Jim's previous experiences include several years in senior management positions with two major Fortune 100 companies. More specifically, he was Senior Executive Vice President of MBNA America Bank, N.A. (prior to being acquired by Bank of America). MBNA was the largest independent credit card lender. He was also Vice President and General Manager with the Sears Tire Group and Sears Automotive. Jim received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Talladega College in Economics. A native of Ashford, Alabama, Jim is the husband of Lorayne and the father of two sons, Anthony and Reginald. He is also the proud grandfather of Anthony, Jr.



Ronald G. Browning is a life-long resident of Maryland with experience in education and business. A retired teacher, he presently owns and operates a bed and breakfast in Havre de Grace. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Baltimore County Community College and a newspaper columnist. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and History from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and a second Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Geography from Towson University. Mr. Browning also serves as the chair of the Havre de Grace Historical Preservation Commission. Mr. Browning is a resident of Havre de Grace.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, the new nine-member Board held its first meeting and unanimously voted Dr. Leonard D. Wheeler as president and Mr. Grambo as vice president. Also during that meeting, a swearing-in was conducted for the new Student Representative to the Board, Anthony B. "Tony" Cofrancesco.



Anthony B. (Tony) Cofrancesco, a senior at Havre de Grace High School, was elected as the 24th Student Representative to the Board of Education of Harford County by the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils (HCRASC) in December of 2010. In addition to serving in this capacity, Tony participates in a variety of extracurricular and co-curricular activities. He is vice president of the National Honor Society and band president, and he is a member of the Student Government Association, Mock Trial, Speech and Debate, Peer Mentors, Envirothon, It's Academic, the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, varsity volleyball and varsity track and field. In his spare time, Tony is an avid cyclist competing in triathlons as well as both road and mountain bike racing for which he is currently ranked as the Maryland State Champion in his 17-18 year age class. Tony works at Chesapeake Tri Sport located in Bel Air, Maryland. He plans on attending the University of Vermont to study pre-medical or environmental science in the fall of 2012.

For more information on the Board, please visit <http://www.hcps.org/BOE/Default.aspx>.

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