

January 4, 2010

Dr. Joe Hairston  
Superintendent  
Dept. of Education  
6901 N. Charles Street  
Towson, Maryland 21204

Dear Dr. Hairston:

I am writing to you out of concern upon receiving many e-mails and other correspondence from our schoolteachers. The new AIM program being mandated has caused much controversy and deep concern on the part of the excellent teachers who are part of the BCPS and what this new policy will mean for them. As I see it, the policy will mean precious time taken away from teaching our children.

The plethora of correspondence I've received has been read very carefully. These are words being written by those who care deeply for the teaching profession. They see the new AIM program as a redundant measure in assessing the progress of their students. As I said, precious time from the actual teaching program.

If I may also comment on the financial aspect of the program; I see this as a costly tool that was not needed. Money that would be better spent on some other program. As for providing information for parents, there are several opportunities for them to gain access to the student's educational progress. It is there for those who want to avail themselves of the information. Not to mention the actual phone call or in-person meeting.

And to sum up my thoughts and opinions on this matter, I feel the teachers themselves were left out of the process. They should have had the opportunity to provide input. I'm afraid this has affected their morale.

Who better to know whether a program such as this would be of value and in the end help them to be a better educator?

I do not mean to second-guess those who certainly are the experts in educational programs. However, I must say that perhaps this program was too quickly adapted without much foresight of what it would mean to the day-to-day workload of our teachers.

Sincerely,

John Olszewski, Sr.  
County Council, 7<sup>th</sup> District