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## CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Marcus J. Newsome, Ed.D., Superintendent

October 14, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

This week the School Board was asked to consider and, ultimately, to adopt a revised policy manual. The revised manual is the result of more than a year's worth of work that followed the 2008 curriculum management audit conducted by Phi Delta Kappa. While the proposed manual has grown from approximately 140 policies to more than 200, **the good news is that the vast majority of proposed revisions reflect current practice.** This means that while many policies are completely revised or new most requirements contained in the policies are not.

Policies provide the foundation and governance for a school division's operations. As we learned during the review and revision process, many of our existing policies

- Had not been revised for many years (many are from 1988);
- Were unclear or lacked proper guidance; and/or
- Were inconsistent with current division practice.

The Superintendent's Advisory Policy Review Committee – a committee representing various groups including teachers, administrators, parents and the community at large – spearheaded the policy review and revision process. Among other things, the Policy Review Committee sought to capture current practice in policy as often as possible, and make the School Board's policies more comprehensive and usable than they currently are.

Information about the proposal policies can be found on the school division's web site. In addition, employees and community members are encouraged to submit suggestions, questions and concerns about the proposed revisions to [policy@ccpsnet.net](mailto:policy@ccpsnet.net). Finally, multiple informational meetings for employees have been scheduled to answer questions about the policy proposals. These meetings are scheduled for

- Oct. 20 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Thomas Dale High commons areas.
- Oct. 26 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Bailey Bridge Middle auditorium.
- Oct. 28 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Midlothian Middle auditorium.
- Nov. 18 from 2-4 p.m. in the Cosby High forum or auditorium.

The School Board is expected to take action on all of the proposed new policies at its meeting on Dec. 8. Adopted policies are scheduled to go into effect Jan. 26, 2010.

I encourage you to review these proposed new policies, and to seek clarification as needed. I believe that they represent a great step forward for our division, and appreciate the effort of the hundreds of people who helped us get to this point.

Sincerely,

Marcus J. Newsome, Ed.D.

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