

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT
DECISION ON ARMY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS
MAY 9, 2016

Background Information:

On April 11, 2016, the Susquehanna Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) provided the Harford County Board of Education an informational report on the Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program. The mission of the JROTC program is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community. JROTC accomplishes the mission by providing exceptional educational opportunities and lifelong skills to America's youth. The curriculum helps Cadets develop leadership and decision-making skills. These skills are exhibited on a daily basis, setting a model for the student body to emulate. The curriculum supports the school's mission and mandates by integrating technology, linking content to state standards, integrating reading and writing, and providing character and financial education.

Maryland currently has 23 active JROTC units. Although Aberdeen Proving Ground, a United States Army facility, is located in Harford County, Harford County Public Schools does not currently offer the JROTC program.

Discussion:

The JROTC program is a cooperative effort between the Army and a local high school to produce successful students and citizens, while fostering a more constructive and disciplined learning environment. Qualified retired Army personnel are employed by the school system to teach the JROTC curriculum. JROTC teacher qualifications are based on military experience, maturity, stability, and leadership acquired over 20 years of service to the nation.

The JROTC unit at a school is made up of 100 cadets in grades 9th – 12th grade organized into a chain of command. A retired officer and a non-commissioned officer teach a rigorous curriculum and supervise cadets in all of their activities. The curriculum addresses a number of national academic standards including leadership, civics, geography and global awareness, health, language arts, life skills, and History of the United States. The program also promotes development of core abilities in communication, responsibility, good citizenship, respectful treatment of others, and critical thinking techniques.

The JROTC program is a partnership between the Army and the school system. The Army is responsible for providing: instructor guides and lesson plans; uniforms for students; training equipment; and a portion of the instructors' pay. HCPS would be responsible for: a portion of the instructors' pay; facilities for the classroom instruction; equipment and

uniform storage location; drill area; and support normally provided other teachers and classes.

There are currently 1,731 JROTC units in all 50 states and several overseas locations. The Army has reached the funding limit for JROTC programs, however, further expansion will occur when funding becomes available. In order to be considered for a JROTC program, HCPS must submit an application to the 4th Brigade US Army Cadet Command in Fort Bragg, North Carolina for evaluation and consideration. The approval process could take several years.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the submission of the JROTC application to the 4th Brigade US Army Cadet Command in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.