

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

**ON**

**NOVEMBER 2014 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CONFERENCE**

**OCTOBER 27, 2014**

**Background Information**

Professional development is a critical component in promoting effective teaching and high levels of student performance for the staff and students of Harford County Public Schools. Three teacher professional development days are identified in the 2014-15 school calendar on November 24-26, 2014. The Professional Learning Conference will occur as a system-wide event on November 24 and 25.

**Discussion**

Key to the 2014 Professional Learning Conference is the element of teacher choice. Teachers will have an opportunity to tailor their own professional learning to meet their distinct needs in varied ways. Multiple sessions are planned which will highlight specific content knowledge, teaching pedagogy, infusion of instructional technology, differentiation and specialized instruction, closing achievement gaps, and wellness. Eight sites across the county will serve as host sites. A graduate fair showcasing local colleges and universities will be hosted at two of the sites, allowing teachers to speak directly to university staff about furthering their own professional learning at the graduate level. Additionally, several off-site learning venues are available for teachers' selection.

The 2014 Professional Learning Conference is an opportunity for many offices in the organization to collaborate to provide a high quality professional conference. School-based administrators are participating with content supervisors to host, facilitate, and support learning sessions in each of the eight sites. Central Office instructional and support staff are collaborating to provide sessions, provide support in the assignment of technology technicians, and providing safety and security resources.

Along with HCPS teachers, the Professional Learning Conference includes a very specialized learning opportunity for paraprofessionals, inclusion helpers, swim technicians, and media technicians.

**Superintendent's Recommendation**

The Superintendent requests the Board accepts this presentation.