



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

WEB SITE: www.charlottesvilleschools.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9, 2009

Efficiency Report Cites City Schools Curriculum among Best in Nation

The efficiency review report, presented to the Charlottesville City School Board by MGT of America this evening, recognizes Charlottesville City School Division's curriculum program as among the best in Virginia and the nation. The report says, "The department of curriculum and instruction demonstrates many exemplary practices aimed to improve student achievement. These practices are some of the finest curriculum planning and management that MGT has seen in Virginia and throughout the nation."

The extensive report cites 54 commendations (the most that MGT has found in any Virginia school division) and 62 recommendations—of which 21 have fiscal implications. Many findings confirm the commitments of the community and where resources have been most heavily invested. For example, Charlottesville has traditionally supported small schools, small class sizes, and direct classroom and instructional support.

Besides curriculum and instruction, the study cites business practices that appear to be more efficient than those found elsewhere, including:

- The School Board's commitment to professional development;
- The Human Resources web site and personnel policies;
- Housekeeping services, utilization of our bus fleet; and
- Walker's CHOICE program that promotes healthy eating.

Among the recommendations in the report are suggestions to:

- Convert school board meeting documentation to a paperless system;
- Increase class sizes;
- Decrease staffing;
- Close one elementary school;
- Conduct a facilities suitability assessment to alleviate crowding in HR offices.

The Charlottesville City School division contracted with the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) to have an efficiency review conducted in the fall 2008. MGT of America, Inc. (the consulting group who assisted in the development of our current Strategic Plan) was hired by the DPB to conduct the review.

The cost to the school division for the review is \$30,000, which reflects 25% of the total cost. In exchange for the state subsidy of \$90,000, the DPB requires that a school division implement at least 50% of the recommendations in the final report. If the school division chooses not to implement the recommendations, it will pay an additional 25% of the cost. Details concerning

what constitutes adequate implementation are agreed upon between the school division and the DPB. There is a two-year time frame for implementation.

Superintendent Dr. Rosa Atkins says, “While the report will be useful in identifying savings for the coming year, the majority of the recommendations will need a longer period of study to be considered carefully. This is an opportunity to revisit our traditions and values and to consider what adjustments need to be made to sustain a school environment that fosters high quality learning and 21st century skills.”

The Board and the Superintendent will solicit input from teachers and all CCS employees, as well as parents and community members, in addressing the major recommendations of the report.

The entire report will be posted online at www.charlottesvilleschools.org at approximately 8 p.m. on January 8. The DPB web site is <http://www.dpb.virginia.gov/school/index.cfm>.

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The Charlottesville City Public Schools serves approximately 4400 students in nine schools in realizing its mission, **Personal and Academic Success for All**. Contact: Cass Cannon, Community Relations Specialist, (434) 245-2962 or Cass.Cannon@ccs.k12.va.us.