



PRESS RELEASE

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SCHOOL BOARD AND CEO DR. ANDRÉS ALONSO ANNOUNCE THREE MAJOR NEW APPOINTMENTS

CEO Also Names Two New Principals

Baltimore – At tonight’s Public Business meeting of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, CEO Dr. Andrés Alonso will recommend the appointment of Dr. Mary Minter as Chief Academic Officer; Roger Shaw as Executive Director of Secondary Schools; and Linda Eberhart as Director of Mathematics. All three are current employees of the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS).

“I firmly believe that there are great schools, great principals and great teachers in every district. My job is to find these people, recognize them, celebrate them, reward their achievement, and let them lead,” said Dr. Alonso. “I have tapped three talented BCPSS employees who will now share their best practices district wide.”

As Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Minter will be responsible for the leadership of instruction in the district. Ms. Minter has a long career demonstrating her ability to turn around low-performing schools. She started her career as a teacher at Thomas Johnson Elementary School teaching first, fifth, and sixth grades from 1973-1991. She then served as Assistant Principal at Thomas Johnson from September 1991-1993. She began her first principal assignment at Curtis Bay Elementary School and served from 1993-2000. In 2000, she became principal at William Paca Elementary School. From 2003-2006 Dr. Minter was named a Maryland Distinguished Principal in recognition of her effectiveness in raising achievement scores – one of four Distinguished Principals named in the State of Maryland. As a Distinguished Principal, she provided training for new principals throughout Maryland as part of the state’s Principals Academy. She also served as a mentor for over five years for new principals in the BCPSS. In 2006, Dr. Minter became Area Academic Officer for several restructuring implementation schools, schools that had failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind and state accountability measures for five consecutive years.

Dr. Minter remained principal at William Paca even as she welcomed new responsibilities. “District reform starts at the school level. In order for a school to get better, good leadership must be in the school. Dr. Minter understands and supports my philosophy,” said Dr. Alonso. Her colleagues at the school embraced the announcement. “I have worked closely with Dr. Minter for the last seven years. She is an incredibly dynamic leader who will bring innovative and out-of-the box strategies to raise the bar for all schools in her new role as Chief Academic

Officer,” said David Lewis, assistant principal at William Paca. “She knows how important it is to give principals and other professionals autonomy within a framework in order to make the best decisions at the school-level to help our students thrive. What she did for William Paca is what she will do for the entire system,” Lewis added.

Roger Shaw, presently the principal of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, will join Dr. Minter’s team as Executive Director of Secondary Schools. He will be responsible for helping create and lead the implementation of a coherent plan to support the needs of students in the high schools and middle schools. Shaw will also have responsibility for leading high school and middle school principals, as well as curriculum initiatives for students in those grades. “The announcement of Roger Shaw to take on this pivotal position is a testament to Dr. Alonso’s commitment to putting children first and to putting our school system back on track. I have never been more hopeful and committed to our ability to turn our secondary schools around than I am at this juncture,” said Karen Webber-Ndour, Principal, National Academy of Foundation (NAF) and former resident principal under Shaw’s leadership.

Since 2001, Shaw has been principal at Paul Laurence Dunbar, one of the district’s premier high schools. As principal, he is credited with greatly improving student math scores and bringing together diverse community partners, such as Johns Hopkins Hospital and CollegeBound, to support the needs of his students. “Roger Shaw has a proven track record as a highly effective school leader and this appointment to the CEO’s Leadership team will have an immediate impact on the system’s school reform efforts,” said Craig Spillman, Executive Director of the CollegeBound Foundation.

Linda Eberhart, the school district’s first and only Maryland Teacher of the Year, will join Dr. Minter’s staff as Director of Mathematics with the goal of improving mathematics education and outcomes for all students in the city. Ms. Eberhart has symbolized, in her work with teachers, the potential of professional learning communities to transform outcomes for students. “Ms. Eberhart’s work represents the type of professional development that needs to take place across the district in all content areas,” said Dr. Alonso. “She will share her expertise, her talent, and her love for mathematics with the entire district. I cannot be more pleased that after many overtures she has finally agreed to take a district leadership role, despite her love for the classroom.” Eberhart said, “I’ve worked closely with Dr. Minter in Area 9 and seen both her vision and ability—I know she gets it. I’m happy to be part of her academic team to move the entire system forward for students and teachers.”

In addition, Dr. Alonso is recommending to the School Board the appointment of William Bailey as principal of Booker T. Washington Middle School and Roxanne Forr as principal of Cecil Elementary School. These two principals were part of a new selection process where the community provided recommendations to the CEO.