With graduation season around the corner and the end of another school year approaching, we begin looking back at another exciting school year for Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS). In this third quarter report, I will update you on the end of a busy winter and start of a very memorable spring as we continue to build PGCPS into a district of academic excellence and achievement. To be successful in this mission, our core focus must remain centered on our students. I will continue to keep you informed about our talented students and staff and how we can come together to achieve success.

Earlier this year we relaunched the Adopt-A-School program, which engages local businesses and community organizations in supporting our schools through in-kind or financial resources. The core objectives of the initiative include college and career exposure, financial support and volunteer service. I challenged the business community at the 2019 State of the Education System luncheon to adopt all of our schools by the start of the 2019-20 school year.

Our work this spring has also focused on our aging school buildings. As I have previously discussed, PGCPS facility upgrades are decades overdue. Thanks to a generous investment by county lawmakers, we are in the process of finalizing the Blueprint for PGCPS school construction project, our largest infrastructure investment in generations. We are taking an innovative approach to school construction financing with a collaborative public-private partnership to ensure adequate educational facilities to meet the needs of our 134,000 students and nearly 22,000 employees. Over the next decade, more than 30 schools will be renovated to improve conditions for learning and the communities they serve.

In the pages to follow, I will highlight some of our proudest moments within the PGCPS community, including College Signing Day for our scholars and the 2019 Teacher of the Year announcement. As we work together to turn around the PGCPS narrative, we will continue to celebrate the many accomplishments of our students and staff. Our students deserve nothing less than our absolute best.

I look forward to continuing to travel across the county, meeting with families and neighbors to make us all PGCPS proud.

Sincerely,

Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D.
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Prince George’s County Public Schools
In March, PGCPS relaunched the Adopt-A-School engagement initiative at the 2019 State of the Education System luncheon hosted by the Greater Prince George’s Business Roundtable. The Adopt-A-School program calls on businesses and community organizations to enhance local schools and provide students with ladders to success. Under my leadership, PGCPS is committed to strengthening our relationship with business, community and faith-based partners to better align school needs with desired outcomes.

Approximately 90 schools lack partnerships with business, nonprofit or faith-based organizations. There are 134,000 students in our school system and every one of them can benefit from partnerships. This is why I encourage adopting multiple schools to maximize the impact. My goal: Find a partner for every school — from elementary to high school — by the start of next school year. I want our students to know that our community cares about them. Let’s come together and see the difference we can make in the lives of our students and the entire county.

The initiative requests three specific commitments:

- **College and Career Exposure**: Showcasing college or career pathways through field trips, career days or mentorship sessions.
- **Financial Support**: Contribute at least $5,000 through direct or in-kind services based on areas of expertise.
- **Volunteer Service**: Participate in at least one service activity.
MORNINGS WITH MONICA

We have followed through on the promise of consistent dialogue with members of the Prince George’s County community as central to our mission. PGCPS established the community engagement series Mornings with Monica in March as an opportunity to take questions, solve problems or talk through issues in conversations around the county. Engagement opportunities like these allow me to hear from you directly about what is happening on the ground. From school transportation issues to sharing the incredible impact of the 20,000 Meals Program, these gatherings help me to lead with transparency and accountability. Stay connected to PGCPS through our social media channels and website for upcoming dates and locations.
BUILDING A NEW PGCPS

As our infrastructure ages, our facilities have fallen further behind in repairs, forcing our students to learn in less than optimal conditions. We are thinking creatively about how to make every dollar count. Our Blueprint for PGCPS initiative is an innovative approach to school construction financing with a collaborative public-private partnership (P3) that will save money and reduce the liability for the school system. PGCPS will invest $25 million to $30 million annually for the next 30 years in school construction funds through this investment — our largest infrastructure investment in generations.

PGCPS held an Industry Day in April for those interested in learning more about the P3 school construction process. As part of the event, we answered questions and listened to feedback and suggestions to inform the bidding process moving forward. This project is the result of months working with County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks and the County Council to secure funding. Along with local funding, I joined other county leaders in Annapolis to advocate for state funding, which would have allowed us to impact even more school communities. While these efforts were ultimately unsuccessful, I am excited about starting this important project and building a new PGCPS.

In addition, I joined Prince George’s County Board of Education Chair Dr. Alvin Thornton and other leaders at the March for Our Schools in Annapolis. Overall, our collective efforts as a community helped to secure an additional $53 million in funding through the newly implemented Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, a product of the Kirwan Commission. I am thankful for our local and state lawmakers who came together to pass this important legislation and adequately fund PGCPS for the first time in decades. This investment is a clear demonstration that our children matter and we share responsibility for their collective success.
As a former high school mathematics teacher, I understand the tremendous care and dedication it takes to be an educator. The days are long and you never have enough time for students who need you the most. During Teacher Appreciation Week, we honored those who guide our future generations to success. Bowie High School choral director Angelica Brooks is our new Teacher of the Year. In addition to this prestigious recognition, she will receive a three-year lease on the car of her choice, thanks to our partners at Pohanka Honda. Congratulations, Angelica, and thanks to all of our educators for going above and beyond every day.
Graduation season in PGCPS began with College Signing Day on May 1, a celebration of students’ commitment to higher education, and the inaugural CTE Career Signing Day on May 2 for students entering private industry, apprenticeships and military service.

Excellence is our standard for every student, from the first day of school to graduation day. We are proud to celebrate our young achievers for charting a course beyond high school that will prepare them for a bright future. Through a commitment to academic excellence, our graduates have earned their success and our admiration.

PGCPS College Signing Day aims to inspire more students to pursue higher education as part of the national College Signing Day/Reach Higher initiative led by former first lady Michelle Obama. Several schools hosted Signing Day events, where students announced their future plans.
PGCPS PRIDE

Every day, our students, staff, families and community members find new ways to instill PGCPS Pride. Over the past quarter, the PGCPS community has grown stronger thanks to our collective ambition to achieve excellence both inside and outside the classroom.

Future Engineer Robotics Grants
Central and High Point high schools are two of 100 schools nationwide to receive $10,000 Amazon Future Engineer Robotics Grants. The grants provide funding for schools in underserved communities to introduce robotics programs and expand computer science education opportunities.

Facilities Administration Building Renaming
Our Facilities Administration Building was renamed in honor of Louis Wilson, the first African American director of plant operations. Mr. Wilson began his career with PGCPS as a janitor almost immediately after graduating from Frederick Douglass High School. Seventeen years later, he became the first African American to run a department in the district.

Charles H. Flowers High School
Charles H. Flowers High School capped the 2018-19 season by winning its first-ever Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) 4A girls basketball state championship with a victory over Old Mill High School (Millersville).

Eleanor Roosevelt High School bested Broadneck High School (Annapolis) to be capture the boys 4A state trophy
My day-to-day responsibilities do not always offer an opportunity to speak at length about topics both important and personal to me. I recently authored two pieces, one for The Washington Post on the importance of adequate school funding and another for the American School Board Journal about my journey as a woman in education leadership. Here are a few excerpts from each piece:


"We are products of our environments. Where we live, work, play and learn shapes our connections to people and communities... I want every child growing up in my community to have the same opportunities for success. Maryland has two critical opportunities to make a comprehensive investment in education, from the resources available inside and outside of the classroom to the school buildings that house our students."

“As the second-largest school system in Maryland, Prince George’s County serves more than 130,000 students who deserve the best education we can provide throughout our 207 public schools. We have more than 10,000 teachers who give tirelessly of themselves and for decades have been asked to do more with less. We need the resources to pay our teachers a competitive salary here at home so we stop losing our best and brightest to surrounding jurisdictions."

“Labor leaders, elected officials, parents and even students have all voiced their support for this important legislation as an investment in our youth, families and communities. I have not seen an effort like this in more than 20 years. This represents a collective commitment to ending the cycle of underrepresentation and underfunding of Prince George’s County Public Schools. Every dollar that Prince George’s County students deserve should come their way."

**American School Board Journal – Women in Leadership (April 2019)**

There weren’t many women to advise me as I moved up the ladder. I was often met with a wry smile from other women, followed by a “I don’t know how you do it.”

For more women to achieve the top job, more of us must be candid about how we do it. We must discuss the challenges and the rewards. We must build networks of support for each other in what can be a lonely job. We must help shift the mindset of school boards and search firms about what women leaders represent and can do.

Over the 110-year history of my school system, there have been a total of 18 superintendents. Only two women hold spots on the list. The first woman was appointed in 1999. Twenty years passed before the next one — me.