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City Schools Announces Appointments to Senior Leadership Positions
New members join CEO’s cabinet as City Schools rolls out reorganization of the district office

(Baltimore, MD)—The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners approved tonight the recommendation of Baltimore City Public Schools CEO Gregory E. Thornton to appoint Karl E. Perry as the district’s Chief School Supports Officer. Currently principal of Edmondson-Westside High School, Perry will lead the district’s new School Supports Office, overseeing climate and safety, student engagement, and programs to meet the social and emotional needs of students.

“I am honored to take on this new role with City Schools,” said Perry. “As a principal, I know first-hand about the importance of the work that surrounds and supports teaching and learning. To be successful, students need a positive, productive climate for learning. I’m excited to lead a team dedicated to making sure that school is a place where kids want to be every day, and where school leaders and staff have the support they need to ensure students’ success.”

Perry first joined City Schools more than 20 years ago, beginning his career as an elementary and then middle school special education teacher. He went on to serve as an assistant principal and principal at both middle and high school levels. He holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from West Virginia University and a master’s degree in special education from Coppin State University.

At its June 9 meeting, the Board approved the appointment of Theresa Jones as Chief Achievement and Accountability Officer, a position she had held on an interim basis since February. Jones previously served as Director of Effectiveness and School Evaluation and Accountability, overseeing implementation of new evaluation tools for staff and schools and the use of data to inform professional development and school improvement. Before joining City Schools, she led teacher and principal evaluation work for Prince George’s County Public Schools. Jones is a graduate of the Broad Center for the Management of School Systems and holds an MBA from Duke University and a bachelor’s degree from American University.

These appointments coincide with the roll-out of a new organizational structure for the district office, built around the central position of students and schools and designed to ensure that offices are positioned to provide effective support for teaching and learning. The new organization also maximizes efficiency in the wake of the reduction in force necessary to close a projected budget shortfall in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

“Karl Perry is a great addition to my senior cabinet and the ideal person to lead this new office,” said Dr. Thornton. “He brings years of success as an inspirational principal and a wealth of knowledge about our students, families, schools, and city. And I’m delighted that Theresa Jones is now permanently positioned in the role she has executed so ably over these past several months. With these two appointments, my senior leadership team is complete, and we’re ready now to focus on the work of ensuring success for our students next year and in the years ahead.”