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STORY

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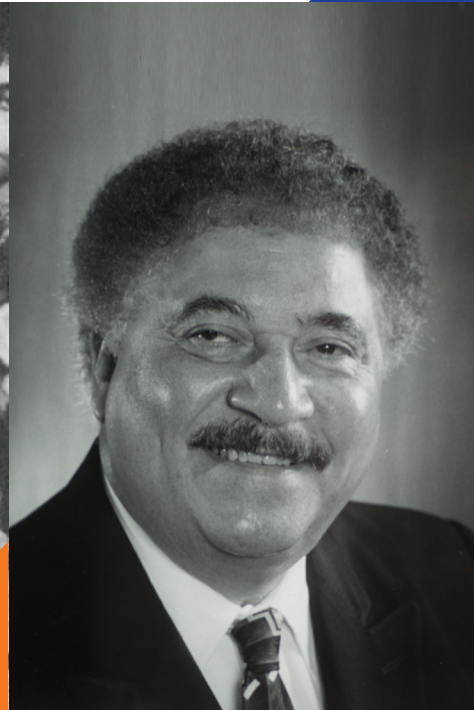
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The Superintendents of Our Schools

By William Offutt





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The Superintendents of Our Schools

By William Offutt

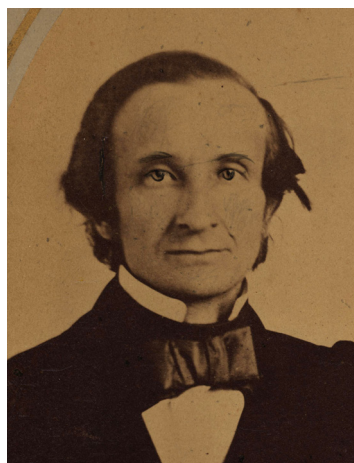
The superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools is the most powerful non-elected position in the County, responsible for spending more than 50% of the jurisdiction's budget, and for directing an educational system that is a reflection of vision of Montgomery County citizens and one of the most important, if not the most important, aspect of our quality of life. Nevertheless, in spite of the power and importance of the office, our understanding of the position and the history of the policies and the men who have created and directed them is relatively unknown. This study will help readers better appreciate the position and understand its critical historical role in our community.

The position of superintendent has been held by 22 men since the Montgomery County public school system was instituted in 1860. Throughout time, official titles of both the citizen school board and its professional manager have changed, and the superintendent continues to exercise a major role in the community.

Birth of a School System, 1860 - 1900

Pre-Civil War attempts to organize and operate local public schools had been short-lived, and in 1860 the Montgomery County system got off to a shaky start, with management assistance from Board of Education treasurers Robert W. Carter and Joshua Dorsey. Local schools were disabled, vandalized, and closed by the conflict. Depredations by Union and Confederate armies caused schools to close in 1862, and they did not re-open until 1864. The public school system of Montgomery County, and in much of Maryland for that matter, emerged from the chaos and long-lived aftermath of the Civil War.

The "Unionist" State Constitution of 1864, cobbled together while Jubal Early was threatening the Capital and narrowly adopted with the help of the soldier vote, ended slavery in the Old Line state but imposed a loyalty oath and was rejected by the voters of Montgomery County. However, it did create a "uniform, centralized system of tax-supported public schools" in Maryland and revived local education. Soon the state imposed a ten-cent-per-hundred-of-evaluation tax for public education, created the office of state superintendent, opened a normal school to train teachers, and in 1868 mandated one secondary school in each county plus as many primary schools as there were election districts.¹

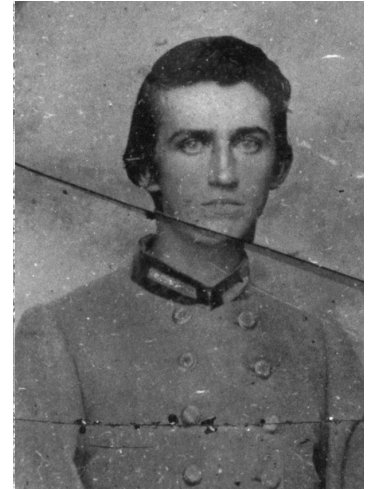


William H. Farquhar, Courtesy of Sandy Spring Museum

The first president of the court-appointed Board of Commissioners of Public Schools for Montgomery County, and therefore the first *de facto* Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) superintendent, was **William Henry Farquhar**. A Quaker, county surveyor, civil engineer, and Sandy Spring activist, Farquhar had experience as principal of the Fair Hill Academy in Mechanicsville (now Olney). Farquhar's first annual report in 1861 stated that the new county-wide school system served 1,074 pupils in some 30 schools at a cost of \$8.10 per student.²

Richard Mortimer Williams served as school superintendent from 1865 to 1868. An attorney in partnership with Richard Johns Bowie, Williams married into a Rockville family and lived at the corner of Commerce Lane and what is now Williams Street. During his time with the budding school system, the young man also held the position of Commissioner for Rockville 1867 to 1869.³

In 1867 Maryland voters approved a new constitution that is the legal framework still in effect today. The following year, the legislature created a system of free public schools for white students, to be operated in each county by an elected Board of Commissioners, one from each election district. Montgomery County's new five-man board chose former teacher, surveyor, and Confederate cavalry captain **James Anderson** of Rockville as secretary, treasurer, and "examiner" and therefore the school system's third superintendent.

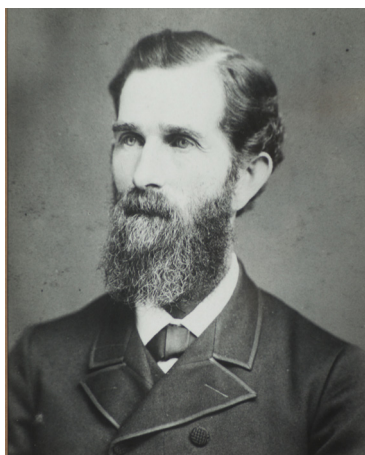


James Anderson, Courtesy of MCHS

James Anderson's father, James Wallace Anderson, had served as inspector of primary schools in Montgomery County in the 1820s. After attending the private Rockville Academy, young James taught there before being elected County Surveyor in 1857. During James Anderson's eleven years with the school board (1868-1879), the first textbooks were adopted and teachers' pay was increased, at least in those years when sufficient funds were appropriated; the school budget was then around \$43,000. He organized an institute for County teachers. In 1872, with state-allocated funds, a school for "colored" children was established in each election district. Under Anderson's leadership many new schoolhouses were built, including 14 new schools for black children and a three-room building for white students in Rockville.⁴

The local election of 1879 brought to power a new group of school commissioners who chose **Rev. Samuel R. White** as the next examiner. The *Sentinel* newspaper called him "well qualified for this responsible position" and noted his long experience as a teacher. But Anderson refused to give up his post or his office key, or to recognize the new school board. The matter went to court after Anderson asked for an injunction. His petition was refused, and the matter was argued in letters to the *Sentinel* for several months. Anderson later became clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court.⁵

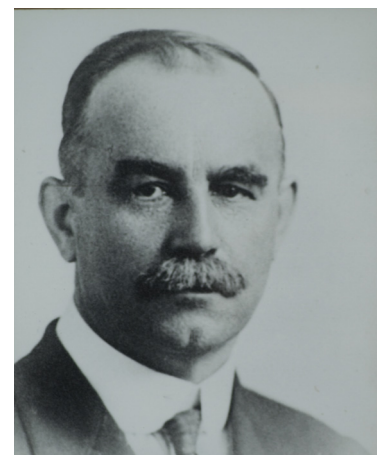
In 1882 the Maryland General Assembly authorized the issuance of school construction bonds and, at the same time, forbade the school board from going into debt. For 1888, the school system's financial report showed receipts of \$40,758 and disbursements of all but \$531, including \$4,111 for colored schools. Teachers' salaries totaled some \$28,000.⁶ That year the board chose as examiner a founder of the Farmers Bank and trustee of the Rockville Academy **John J. Higgins**, who served for eight years. A new board in 1896 selected **Cooke D. Luckett**, a Confederate veteran and head of the Rockville Academy. Two years later the school board replaced Luckett with **Willis Burdette**, who had been postmaster as well as a successful merchant. In 1900 a newly elected Board of Commissioners brought back Reverend White, and in 1904 changed his title to "superintendent." During this period enrollment in the public schools was around 6,000 students, and there were about a hundred teachers. Montgomery County was growing very slowly.



Rev. Samuel Richardson White



John J. Higgins



Willis B. Burdette

Montgomery County School Expansion, 1900 - 1916

At the beginning of the 20th century Montgomery County was still very rural, with a population just over 30,000, nearly twice what it had been in 1860, and one third of this number was African-American.⁷ As the down-County suburbs began to develop in the late 19th century, schools were built in Takoma Park, Chevy Chase, and Bethesda. When in 1897 a new salary schedule was adopted, white principal-teachers were still making less than \$400 a year and teachers about \$350. In 1892 Rockville High School opened, moving into a handsome new building on East Montgomery Avenue at Monroe Street in 1904 to accommodate grades 1 to 11; it was later renamed Richard Montgomery High School. Secondary schools in Gaithersburg, Poolesville, and Sherwood were in place by 1906.

In 1906 the state law was changed again, and Montgomery County then acquired a governor-appointed six-member Board of School Commissioners. After a petition from his fellow teachers, the new board chose 25-year-old **Earle B. Wood**, a Frederick native who had come to teach in Montgomery County two years earlier and was principal of the Rockville grammar school, as superintendent. He also became the secretary and treasurer of the board and was reappointed in 1908. During Wood's tenure, the number of high schools doubled from two to four, six additional elementary schools were built, and repairs to existing buildings were made. He attended law school after his career as superintendent, embarking on a second career as a lawyer.⁸

In September 1912 Superintendent Wood and the school system faced an unexpected crisis when the U.S. Congress passed a “non-resident” law that would exclude some 600 Montgomery County school children from enrolling in Washington, D.C. schools, which were known for their higher quality. Wood had neither the space nor the teachers to deal with this unexpected flood, but managed to cope. The bicentennial history, *A Grateful Remembrance*, suggests that local citizens first became really concerned about public education after this law made it harder and more expensive for County children to attend schools in town. A newspaper called the situation “fraught with tremendous importance” and labeled the job of school superintendent the “most important public office in the county.”⁹



Earle B. Wood

Edwin W. Broome: Challenging Start, Long Tenure, 1916 - 1953

In 1914 Willis Burdette assumed the superintendency again, but in 1916 the school board split over naming his assistant, **Edwin W. Broome**, or reappointing Burdette to the position. After some conflict with the state authorities they settled on Broome as assistant superintendent and kept Burdette for less than a year. There was a dispute over Broome's credentials and eligibility but, in the end, he got the job and kept it for 36 years.

The man the politically appointed school board selected was a graduate of the Andrew Small Academy in Darnestown where he was born, who had started teaching in 1904 at the age of 19. One of Broome's first and continuing jobs as superintendent was consolidation, combining one-room schools into multi-room operations. As the number of students increased, the number of schools steadily decreased. There were 108 schools in the County when he took the job, most of the one-room variety, and he reduced that number to 96 in 1932 and to 66 by 1949, when the population had grown to 150,000 and school enrollment over 22,000. When Broome took the job there were five high schools, all up-County. He built two secondary schools for Silver Spring and another pair in Bethesda and pushed high schools to add the 12th grade. In 1926 he instituted a kindergarten program. Soon Montgomery County schools were considered synonymous with educational excellence and favorably compared to Baltimore's in both quality and teacher pay.¹⁰

Broome developed a close working relationship with E. Brooke Lee, the dominant political power broker of the time. “Lee and Dr. Broome worked together so smoothly,” remembered school historian Guy Jewell, “that it was hard to tell which was Lee’s idea and which was Broome’s,” and both were interested in better schools. When Broome became superintendent with an annual salary of \$1,800, the system’s cost per pupil was about \$27. By 1930 it had risen to \$96 and in 1949 to \$380, and by then the school system was costing more than eight-and-a-half million dollars a year and serving nearly 25,000 youngsters. Broome, a disciple of educational reformer John Dewey, continued his own education at both George Washington University and the University of Maryland, where he taught for many summers and was awarded a Doctor of Letters degree. One historian summarized, “Broome put into practice visionary ideas – junior high schools, a twelve-year system, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), a teachers’ retirement plan, employment of married women and, later, junior colleges.”¹¹



Dr. Edwin W. Broome

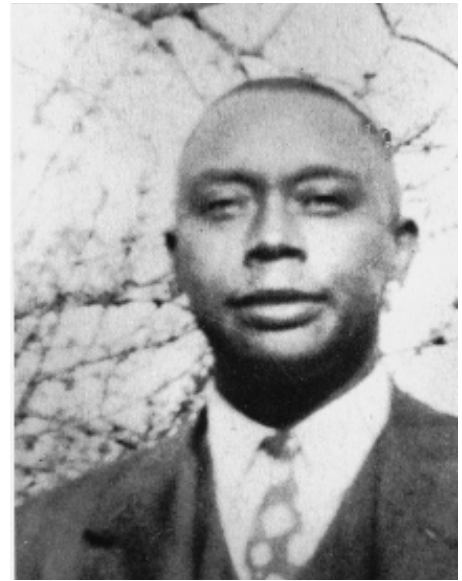
During his decades in the job, Broome faced numerous challenges and obstacles. In the mid-1930s the Fusionist Party, made up of local Republicans and anti-Brooke Lee Democrats, finally won control from the Lee machine of County government and of the delegation to Annapolis. Toward the end of his long-term service, rapid population growth became a major issue as many schools were over-crowded and some were forced into double sessions. Montgomery's World War II population doubled by 1950 and then doubled again by 1960, reaching almost 330,000.

In 1936-37 Broome was involved in the case of William B. Gibbs, Jr., principal-teacher at the Rockville Colored Elementary School who discovered that he was being paid a good deal less than white teachers in similar positions with equal education and experience. Gibbs petitioned and then sued in Circuit Court with the help of the newly formed Montgomery branch of the NAACP and its young attorney Thurgood Marshall. The issue was settled out of court, or this case rather than *Brown vs Board of Education* 18 years later might have ended “separate but equal.” The school board established a parity salary schedule for all County teachers beginning in August 1938, but Gibbs never worked in Maryland again.¹²

Leadership for African-American Schools, 1917 - 1960

At the same time that Broome was elected by the school board and approved by the State Superintendent of Schools, he recommended that **Andrew D. Owens** become the first supervisor of colored schools. Owens, one of two instructors at Sandy Spring Colored Industrial School, was approved by the school board in July 1917. Acknowledging the need for more attention to Negro education, the board agreed to pay \$75 to “employ the black supervisor during the summer of 1918 to direct gardening among the colored people of the county.” The following year A. D. Owens’ salary increased to \$85 a month, a fraction of Broome's, and he served until he became ill in 1923.¹³

Edward Ulysses Taylor finished the year as Owens' substitute and then was hired permanently as Supervisor of Negro Education in June of 1924. For the next 27 years, this Emory Grove native and Howard University graduate brought intellect and passion to the great advantage of Negro students, teachers, and facilities. Taylor demanded excellence, and fought for higher teacher salaries, summer training, and maternity leave. He maintained all-black athletic competitions and oratorical contests and obtained funds for janitorial services in black schools. He promoted creation of a high school for African-American students; after it opened in 1927, he became the teaching principal of Rockville Colored High School, where he championed a broader curriculum, more faculty, and free bus transportation. His wife, Maude Newman Taylor, recalled that he taught high school social studies in the morning and visited elementary schools in the afternoon.



Edward U. Taylor (dated 1947-48), Courtesy of Joan Taylor Kelly

By 1935, Taylor's salary, as black supervisor in the administration of Superintendent Broome, was \$1,300 annually, with a travel allowance of \$175 per year. In the 1930s, he led the effort to close small schools in favor of larger facilities. Two decades later, another consolidation was planned to replace almost all the one, two, and three-room schools with four new segregated elementary schools, one of which was named for him after his death in 1951. Succeeding Taylor as supervisor of black schools was Margaret Jones, principal of Rock Terrace Elementary School in Rockville. When, as an incremental step toward integration, Mrs. Jones was assigned to Bannockburn Elementary School in Bethesda in 1959, she became the first black principal to be assigned to an all-white school in the County. As Montgomery County completed desegregation of its schools in 1960-61, Edward U. Taylor Elementary School became the only formerly all-black school to become an integrated elementary school.¹⁴

A Growing and Changing School System, 1953 - 1964



Dr. Forbes H. Norris

As the many celebrations of Broome's accomplishments came to an end in 1953, the newly elected school board announced that it had hired 56-year-old **Forbes Norris**, then superintendent of the Winchester, Massachusetts, schools, for a four-year term at an annual salary of \$11,500. The Harvard graduate had spent a dozen years in the expanding Richmond, Virginia, schools so he knew the problems of rapid growth. In tandem with population booms in the Washington area following World War II, Montgomery's school numbers were growing at about 5,000 students each year.¹⁵

Norris handled such issues as questions about textbooks that ultra-conservative board members led by Wylie Barrow called "red" (read: Communist) as well as several problems with teacher transfers. After the Supreme Court's *Brown* decision in 1954, the superintendent's integration plan went relatively smoothly despite problems at Rollingwood Elementary in Chevy Chase and a short-lived boycott in Poolesville where Norris warned parents that they faced jail terms if they did not send their children to school. The superintendent was criticized for organizational and budget problems and stirred up some opposition when he suspended seven B-CC High School seniors for fraternity membership. When the board asked him to resign he refused, so they decided not to renew his contract. Norris was, most later agreed, a good man who did his job well and became a victim of the times.¹⁶

In 1957 the Board of Education hired **C. Taylor Whittier**, the 45-year-old assistant superintendent of Pinellas County, Florida. Whittier was inventive, determined, often abrasive, and always hard-working. In quick succession he dealt with overcrowding and building issues, proposed the highest pay scale in the Washington area, plus a merit pay plan he called “career recognition,” and then suggested a 12-month school year and French instruction for all elementary and junior high school students. These ideas were never implemented.



Dr. C. Taylor Whittier

In 1961, praising Whittier’s “leadership and integrity,” the school board signed him to a second four-year contract at \$21,500 per annum. During his first term the system had grown by 23,000 students, and he had added more than a thousand new teachers. With 85,000 students and a \$70 million budget, MCPS had become the largest system in the Washington suburbs.¹⁷

The 1962 election resulted in a school board and a County Council supported by zoning lawyers, speculators, and builders. The developers’ organization, called County Above Party (CAP) had endorsed 14 candidates in a widely circulated last-minute tabloid, and all 14 won. Four almost-completely unknown, back-to-basics challengers had been elected to the school board on a platform of promoting fundamentals, eliminating frills, and holding the line on costs. Whittier had been an issue in the campaign, and his job was seen by many as vulnerable despite the fact that he had recently been reappointed to a second term. “I’m sure these folks are interested in a good school system,” Whittier told a reporter. “We’ll see how things work out.” They did not work out. After a series of fractious board meetings, budget cuts and public disagreements, in 1964 when Philadelphia offered Whittier a position at \$32,500, he took it.¹⁸

School Growth, Declining Enrollment, and New Challenges, 1964 - 2016

The school board selected Whittier's deputy, **Homer O. Elseroad**, as acting superintendent and after some rancorous discussions offered him the job. The bow-tied Marylander became extremely popular. For a couple of years, Elseroad dealt with growth as had his predecessors, building schools rapidly as enrollment topped out around 126,000 in the mid-1970s. Then as the elementary population dropped precipitously, he led the board through the always trying process of closing schools.

During his time as superintendent Elseroad suffered through a week-long teacher strike, helped create a student rights policy, and dealt with growing problems of racial imbalance. At \$48,000 when he retired, he was the County’s best-paid employee. Asked about his most important accomplishment, Elseroad stated it was some 11,000 high school graduates during his eleven years in the position.¹⁹



Dr. Homer O. Elseroad

In 1975, after naming Elseroad's deputy **Donald Miedema** as acting superintendent, the school board instituted a search for a new leader while Miedema dealt with anti-war protests, racial busing in the down-county area, D.C.'s "back-to-basics" Amidon plan, and the transfer of a homosexual teacher during his three months in the job.²⁰

It is hard to say why **Charles M. Bernardo**, who was appointed late in 1975, did not work out, for despite the continuing support of the fairly liberal school board, he made few friends and many enemies who were happy to see him depart. Dr. Bernardo, with his bespoke three-piece suits, flamboyant vocabulary, and "systems approach" became political issues. The outgoing board attempted to reappoint him before his contract expired but a new, more conservative school board sued to rescind that order and dismissed him peremptorily in 1979.²¹

A by-product of Bernardo's contentious tenure was the emergence of Marian Greenblatt and her "Green Machine" that took over the school board. The Greenblatt board ended busing for racial reasons, halted a Black Studies program, insisted that students be given homework, tried to close some majority-black schools, and made deep budget cuts.

After months of searching and considering some 80 candidates, in 1980, with enrollment below 100,000, the school board gave the \$70,000 position to **J. Edward Andrews**, the head of the personnel department who had been acting superintendent and who insisted he did not want the position.²² The superintendency had become, as *The Washington Post* noted, an increasingly difficult and high-pressure job. Several men who were offered the position had declined after a local visit. Part of the problem was the school board itself, which met almost 100 times a year and whose meetings often ran more than eight hours; the record in 1975 was 26 hours. Andrews was quoted as saying "I resent the job-is-your-life syndrome. If I had four more hours a day, two more days a week, I might be able to do the job."²³

As the school system continued to shrink and more schools were closed, often despite loud pleas and teary protests, Andrews and the school board argued mainly over racial policies and actions, and he retired almost as quietly as he had been appointed. More than a hundred men and women applied for the position.



Dr. Donald Miedema



Dr. Charles M. Bernardo



Dr. J. Edward Andrews

In spring 1983 the Board offered the position to Birmingham, Alabama's superintendent, **Wilmer S. Cody**. It seemed a good choice, but many, including Dr. Cody, were disappointed. He arrived with a solid background of successful integration and made minority performance his top goal. Enrollment was still declining and a few more down-County schools were closed, but the upper County needed more classrooms. Cody decided not to seek another term and was replaced by his long-time deputy, 57-year-old **Harry Pitt**, in 1987 as enrollment bottomed out.²⁴

Like Andrews, Pitt was an insider who knew the system well. His wife, a high school librarian, was thought by many to be a better choice for the job. It was during his tenure as superintendent that more townhouses and shopping centers replaced cows and corn in the upper County. MCPS began to reopen some of the schools that had been closed, and Pitt asked for 21 new buildings to meet the record demand. The local birth rate continued to rise, as did the housing boom. Enrollment was back over 100,000 by 1990. When Pitt retired the following year, he was replaced by his long-time associate and deputy superintendent **Paul L. Vance**, the County's first African-American superintendent.²⁵

When Dr. Vance became superintendent in 1991, there were 107,000 students in the system's 174 schools. In 1999 when he left, MCPS had grown to 129,000 kids in 185 schools. Most of the newer students were African-American and Latino, and much of the growth had been in upper County and Takoma Park-Silver Spring areas. It was a time of constricted budgets and County deficits, but Vance generally managed to address equity and the needs of the less-achieving segments of the school population. "Diversity," the outgoing superintendent concluded in 1999, was the challenge. Later he served as the head of Washington, D.C.'s school system for a couple of years.

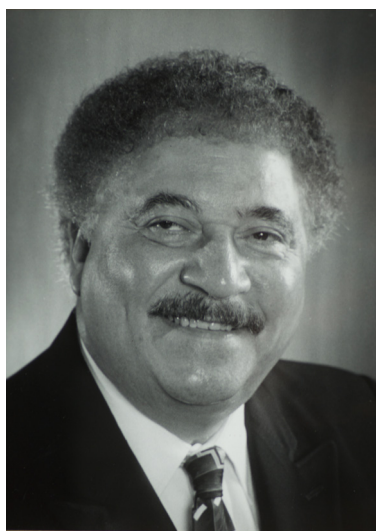
The school board was fortunate to hire **Jerry D. Weast**, a superintendent who had served in several jurisdictions including North Carolina's largest. Offered a pay package amounting to about \$300,000, he stayed for 12 turbulent years, earning nearly a half-million dollars per year at the end. His accomplishments were many and his failures, such as the new computer system, few.



Dr. Wilmer S. Cody



Dr. Harry Pitt



Dr. Paul L. Vance



Dr. Jerry D. Weast

Weast divided the County into red (needy) and green (affluent) zones and then, agreeing that everyone was not being treated equally, spent about \$2,000 more per pupil in the red zone. He succeeded in producing rising test scores in a population becoming increasingly diverse. He promoted full-day kindergarten classes, more advanced placement and accelerated math programs, and then set about reforming the middle schools. He also convinced teachers to police their own ranks and help their struggling peers. Despite a growing diversity, SAT scores rose as did high school graduation rates, and enrollment passed 150,000. Weast's motto was "raise the bar and close the gap."²⁷

After 12 years, in 2011 the school board chose **Joshua Starr** to replace Weast. It was not long before he was looking afield for another position. In public, Starr's failure to address the achievement gap between rich and poor, white and non-white students seemed to be the issue, as did conflict over school-start times. The board bought out the remaining months of his four-year contract and allowed him to leave early, in February 2015.²⁸

To serve as interim superintendent from 2015 to 2016 the Board selected **Larry Bowers**, long-time chief operating officer, with 37 years of experience in the school system. Bowers had started as the board's staff assistant and then assistant to the deputy superintendent in the 1970s and 1980s and later headed the Department of Management, Budget and Planning before becoming the chief financial officer for 16 years.



Dr. Joshua P. Starr



Larry A. Bowers



Dr. Jack Smith

After a year-long screening of some 70 candidates, the board agreed to a four-year, \$275,000 contract with **Jack Smith** of Calvert County, Maryland, a former teacher, principal, and Calvert County administrator who also served as the acting state superintendent.²⁹ When in the summer of 2016 he became the 21st individual to hold the position of School Superintendent in Montgomery County, Dr. Smith took on a multi-faceted task that has tried the patience and intelligence of many men before him. His success or failure depends on a multitude of factors, events, and circumstances far beyond his control.

The County's growing diversity, political pressures, college demands, parental expectations, and budget constraints all play roles in determining how well or poorly he will do the job and meet his own expectations as well as the demands of the Board of Education. There are few enterprises more difficult or demanding than supervising 202 schools, 154,000 students, and 12,000 teachers in Montgomery County, Maryland, and we wish him well.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, 1860-2016

Name	Tenure
William H. Farquhar	1860 - 1865
Richard M. Williams	1865 - 1868
James Anderson	1868 - 1879
Samuel R. White	1880 - 1888
John J. Higgins	1888 - 1896
Cooke D. Lockett	1896 - 1898
Willis B. Burdette	1898 - 1900
Samuel R. White	1900 - 1906
Earle B. Wood	1906 - 1913
Dr. Edwin W. Broome	1914 - 5/5/1914
Willis B. Burdette	5/14/1914 - 1916
Dr. Edwin W. Broome	1916 - 1953
Dr. Forbes H. Norris	1953 - 1957
Dr. C. Taylor Whittier	1957 - 1964
Dr. Homer O. Elseroad	1964 - 1975
Dr. Donald Miedema	7/1975 - 10/1975
Dr. Charles M. Bernardo	10/1/1975 - 5/10/1979
Dr. J. Edward Andrews	5/10/1979 - 6/30/1983
Dr. Wilmer S. Cody	July 1983 - 6/30/1987
Dr. Harry Pitt	July 1987 - 6/30/1991
Dr. Paul L. Vance	July 1991 - 6/30/1999
Dr. Jerry D. Weast	August 1999 - 6/30/2011
Dr. Joshua P. Starr	7/1/2011 - 2/16/2015
Larry A. Bowers	2/16/2015 - 6/30/2016
Dr. Jack Smith	7/1/2016 -

Based upon chart from MCPS Public Information Office.

Notes

1. Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland: A Middle Temperament 1634-1980* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press and MD Historical Society, 1988), 307.
2. E. Guy Jewell, *From One Room to Open Space* (Rockville: Montgomery County Public Schools, 1976), 30-33. In 1967, Montgomery County's first middle school was named for William H. Farquhar.
3. Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS), research files on Montgomery County Early Lawyers; *One Room*, 53.
4. *One Room*, 53, 64-65.
5. *Montgomery County Sentinel*, January 9, 1880.
6. *One Room*, 80-95, 102, 120-1.
7. See census reports in *Grateful Remembrance*, 114, and charts in *One Room* appendices.
8. www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/woodms/about/
9. *Grateful Remembrance*, 278-79; *The Washington Post*, September 15, 1912.
10. "Montgomery Boasts Showcase School System," Jeanne Rogers, *Washington Post*, Apr. 26, 1953; *Washington Post*, May 6, 1953.
11. *Grateful Remembrance*, 279-80; Eileen S. McGuckian, *Rockville: Portrait of a City* (Franklin, TN: Hillsboro Press, 2001), 113.
12. Nina H. Clarke and Lillian B. Brown, *History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland 1872-1961* (New York: Vantage Press, 1978), 50, 53-55.
13. *Black Public Schools*, 30, 35, 48-9, 136.
14. *Black Public Schools*, 57, 72-5, 124, 129, 142-3. Warrick S. Hill, *Before Us Lies the Timber* (Silver Spring, MD: Bartleby Press, 2003), 39-45.
15. *Washington Post*, April 26 and May 6, 1953.
16. *Washington Post*, April 7, 1957; *Grateful Remembrance*, 346.
17. *Washington Post*, May 10, 1961.
18. *Washington Post*, May 10, 1961; *The Evening Star*, November 8, 1962.
19. *Washington Post*, June 28, 1964, and March 25, 1975.
20. *Washington Post*, May 29, 1975.
21. *Sentinel*, June 15, 1978; *Washington Post*, June 21, 1978, and June 5, 1982.
22. *Washington Post*, December 27, 1978, and April 24, 1982.
23. Neil Henry, "Top Montgomery School Job: Pressure Turns Off Candidates," *Washington Post*, September 23, 1979.
24. *Education Week*, March 27, 1988.
25. *Washington Post*, July 9, 1987, and April 3, 1991; *Sentinel*, July 16, 1987.
26. *Washington Post*, July 7, 1999.
27. *Washington Post* August 24, 2010; *Bethesda Magazine*, March-April 2011; *Sentinel* August 26, 2010.
28. *Washington Post* February 3, 2015; *Education Week*, February 24, 2016; *Bethesda Magazine*, January-February 2015.
29. *Washington Post*, March 9, 2016.

About the Author

William Offutt is a retired Montgomery County history and English teacher, member of the Montgomery County Historical Society Speakers Bureau, and author of *Bethesda: A Social History* and previous *Story* articles. He and his wife of 63 years live in Bethesda. He thanks Montgomery History librarians Jane C. Sween and Patricia Andersen, long-time MCPS photographer Bill Mills, and Felicia M. Yorro of the MCPS Public Information Office for assistance with this article.



MONTGOMERY
HISTORY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Montgomery County Historical Society
111 W. Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850

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Jane C. Sween Research Library

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N. Adams St., Rockville, MD 20850
301-340-2970

Wednesday thru Friday, 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, 12:00 till 4:00 p.m.

Montgomery County Archives

8540 Anniversary Circle, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301-926-5002

Tuesday & Thursday, 12:00 till 4:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Beall-Dawson House and Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine

103 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850
301-340-2825

Wednesday thru Sunday, 12:00 till 4:00 p.m.