# Dr. Patterson's School Reorganization Plan

FIRST IN A SERIES

## Proposed decentralization to improve school system

By BLAINE TAYLOR
PART I

(Editor's Note: One week after Dr. Roland N. Patterson became school superintendent last fall he decided the city school system needed drastic reorganization.

Now, 10 months later, after a special task force offered him a number of options and after many citizens voiced their preferences, Dr. Patterson presented the Board of School Commissioners with a plan for thorough reorganization.

The AFRO begins today a special series on this proposed reorganization and what it means).

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"It would be fair to say that we have a school system that is predominately black. It's 63 per cent black now and will be 70 per cent in about two-three years time."

The speaker is Dr. Patterson, and his comments make it obvious that his proposed reorganization or decentralization plan (which he says are one and the same thing) will primarily affect the city's black community.

The school system's employee set-up also reflects a high degree of black participation. As of Sept., 1971, the figures were as follows:

* * *

Central Office (25th St.): 356 out of 799 total

Building Level Total: 6,593 out of 10,865 total

Elementary Level Total: 4,365 out of 6,430 total

Secondary Level Total: 2,228 out of 4,435 total

These figures were supplied to the AFRO by Dr. Patterson's office; none are yet available for 1972, it was added.

The completed implementation of Dr. Patterson's plan is earmarked for spring, 1974, depending on the size of his already-cut budget and certain opposition school commissioners.

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It would directly affect all Baltimore's 193,000 students in K-12 age groups, scattered throughout 212 city schools. Of these students, 129,993 are black children.

Decentralization's main thrust is to relocate as much of the "25th St. hierarchy" (as the top-heavy school bureaucracy is commonly-known) away from the large central office as possible.

Aim of the plan is to place the decision-making processes of the school system closer to the community it serves, thus giving teachers, parents and students a voice in how the school functions and affects them.

* * *

Dr. Patterson discusses what he hopes to accomplish by the reorganization: "I want to create quality in education for children. What we're stressing is not the cost but the quality that could result from that. I don't think we can put our children and their development alongside a particular perception of cost.

"I think when we do that we fail to recognize the value of persons making decisions who are immediately affected and who have all the facts, as opposed to the opposite way."

The Superintendent insisted that the hoped-for reorganization is not just concerned with moving people from one place to another.

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"This **isn't shifting**, but a placement of people to where they're better-suited to perform tasks more effectively," said Dr. Patterson. "We're not trying to get rid of people, or even shift them around, just make the system more effective."

The Baltimore City School System is the eighth largest in the nation. As it exists today, the system has the traditional, centralized organization with superintendent, three associate superintendents and a number of assistant superintendents and directors.

It is these personnel that Dr. Patterson hopes to relocate.

There has been no major restructuring of this bureaucracy in recent years except under Dr. Thomas D. Sheldon, one of Dr. Patterson's immediate predecessors.

* * *

The AFRO Honor Roll section of March 7, 1970 complimented Dr. Sheldon because he had "abolished the outmoded board of superintendents and gave Baltimore schools their first major reorganization in 67 years."

In the proposed reshuffling of the 25th St. positions, designed, it is estimated by Dr. Patterson, to save the taxpayer a reported $615,400 annually, several considerations were involved.

The nine regions each will have staff teams of Community and Student Affairs, Pupil Personnel, Instructional and Staff Development, Planning, Business and Personnel Services.

*Regional elementary and secondary schools.

* * *

If this decentralization process began now, it would continue "from the summer into the coming year," says Dr. Patterson.

"I'm optimistic that the public and those in decision-making positions will see the wisdom in moving toward decentralization now as opposed to later. The fear about the increased cost incurred in moving in this direction is mythical at best."

* * *

In addition, Dr. Patterson discussed with the AFRO some other aspects of what will and will not happen to the school system this fall.

"There will be no school closings and no half-day sessions, except in kindergartens. There are already seven schools scheduled for double shifts in the fall:

"Northern, Walbrook and Patterson Senior High Schools, Lemmel, Rock Glen Junior High and Northern Parkway Junior High Schools and the Canton Elementary and Junior High School."

Continuing, Dr. Patterson said, "The Magnet School Program will continue, although we're disappointed in that we will not be able to further develop it.

"The Adult Education Program will also continue, as it's a vital part of our school system. Due to budget cuts, the extent of the program might be curtailed, however."

Turning to another area, Dr. Patterson mentioned that "Both the community schools and the unwed mother's school will be open."

Personnel constitutes Dr. Patterson's biggest headache. Because of budget cuts and an additional, unexpected deficit of $1.8 million (announced July 27th), he regrets that "I see a decrease in personnel, the loss of personnel."

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"I don't see it in terms of layoffs as such, because administrative personnel are derived from the classroom, and certainly can return to the classroom."

The Baltimore Teachers Union (BTU) has taken issue with this statement, and now demands Dr. Patterson supply it with an exact list of those people it feels that he plans definitely to lay off. This he has thus far refused to do, claiming that no such list now exists, but is being considered.

"All of our assistant principals are former teachers," remarks Dr. Patterson. "This is an option that we're weighing."

* * *

The overall problem of money (the budget), reorganization/decentralization and teacher-hiring and teacher-layoff seems to be completely linked.

Dr. Patterson considers his difficult task. "Eighty per cent of our budget is in salaries. When the budget is cut, irrespective of what you do, you're going to lose some positions.

"Hopefully that will be decreased because people leave the school system for various reasons each year, and hopefully we'd be in a position of just not replacing some people as they left."

Dr. Patterson states that he has not yet determined the number of new hirings and firings, and the main reason for this is he didn't receive his budget from the City Council until what he considers the late date of June 30th. Normally it takes "two or three months" to do what he is being asked to do in much less time, he says.

Another future delay is the uncertain status of federal "revenue sharing" funds coming from Washington to Baltimore, or even if those funds will in any way affect Dr. Patterson's budget.

"I'll get contradictory statements on it," he claims. "Some city councilmen say that it won't at all, and the mayor says all of it will be affected. I'm preparing for the worst."

SUPPLEMENTARY

## Registration Locations —

The Board of Supervisors of Elections has announced the creation of a number of supplementary voter registration locations effective September 7 through October 5. Registration at these locations start from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Meanwhile, qualified citizens can still register at the main office of the Board on Fayette and Gay Sts. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

October 10 is the deadline for citizens to register to vote in the Nov. 7 General Elections. New residents need not wait for 6 months or a year to register, they can do so after 30 days residence.

* * *

Locations released by the Board are:

Hollins-Payson Branch, 31 S. Payson Street at Hollins;

Light Street Branch, 1251 Light Street at Cordner;

Broadway Branch, 301 N. Broadway at Orleans;

Walbrook Branch, 3203 W. North Avenue at Hilton;

Waverly Branch, 400 East 33rd Street at Barclay;

Northwood Branch, 4420 Loch Raven Blvd. at Coldspring;

Patterson Park Branch, 158 N. Linwood;

Forest Park Branch, 3023 Garrison Blvd. at Callaway;

Clifton Branch, 2001 N. Wolfe;

Fells Point Branch, 606 S. Ann Street at Fleet;

Hamilton Branch, 5910 Harford Road at Glenmore;

Pimlico Road Branch 5001 Park Heights Ave. at Garrison;

Govans Branch, 5714 Bellona Avenue near York Rd.;

Pennsylvania Ave. Branch, 1531 W. North Avenue at Pennsylvania Ave.;

Brooklyn Branch, 300 E. Patapsco Avenue at Third St.;

Roland Park Branch, 5200 Roland Ave.;

Gardenville Branch, 5427 Belair Road at LaSalle Ave.;

Edmondson Avenue Branch, 4330 Edmondson Avenue at Woodridge Rd.;

Herring Run Branch, 3801 Erdman Ave. at Elmore Ave.;

Dundalk Branch, 912 Dundalk Ave. at Bushey St.;

Reisterstown Road Branch, 6310 Reisterstown Rd. at Kenshaw Ave.;

Cherry Hill Branch, 2700 Spellman Ave.

SCHOOLS
Schools

Gardenville Elementary, Frankfort Ave. and Belair Road;

School No. 22, Scott and Hamburg St.;

School No. 230, 301 S. Highland Ave.;

School No. 144, Mosher and Wheeler St.;

School No. 11, 1624 Eutaw Place;

SHOPPING CENTERS
Shopping Centers

Lexington Market, Lexington and Eutaw St.;

Hecht Company, Reisterstown Plaza, 6800 Reisterstown Rd.;

Hecht Company, Edmondson Village, 4501 Edmondson Ave.;

Hecht Company, Northwood Shopping Center, Hillen and Havenwood Rds.;

Mondawmin Mall, Gwynns Falls Parkway and Liberty Heights Ave.;

OTHER LOCATIONS
Other Locations

Supervisors of Elections, Peoples Court Building, Fayette and Gay St.;

Grace Hampden Methodist Church, 36th and Hickory Ave.;

Memorial Stadium, East 33rd St.;

WCBM, 2610 North Charles St.;

The Baltimore City Fair, Hopkins Plaza.

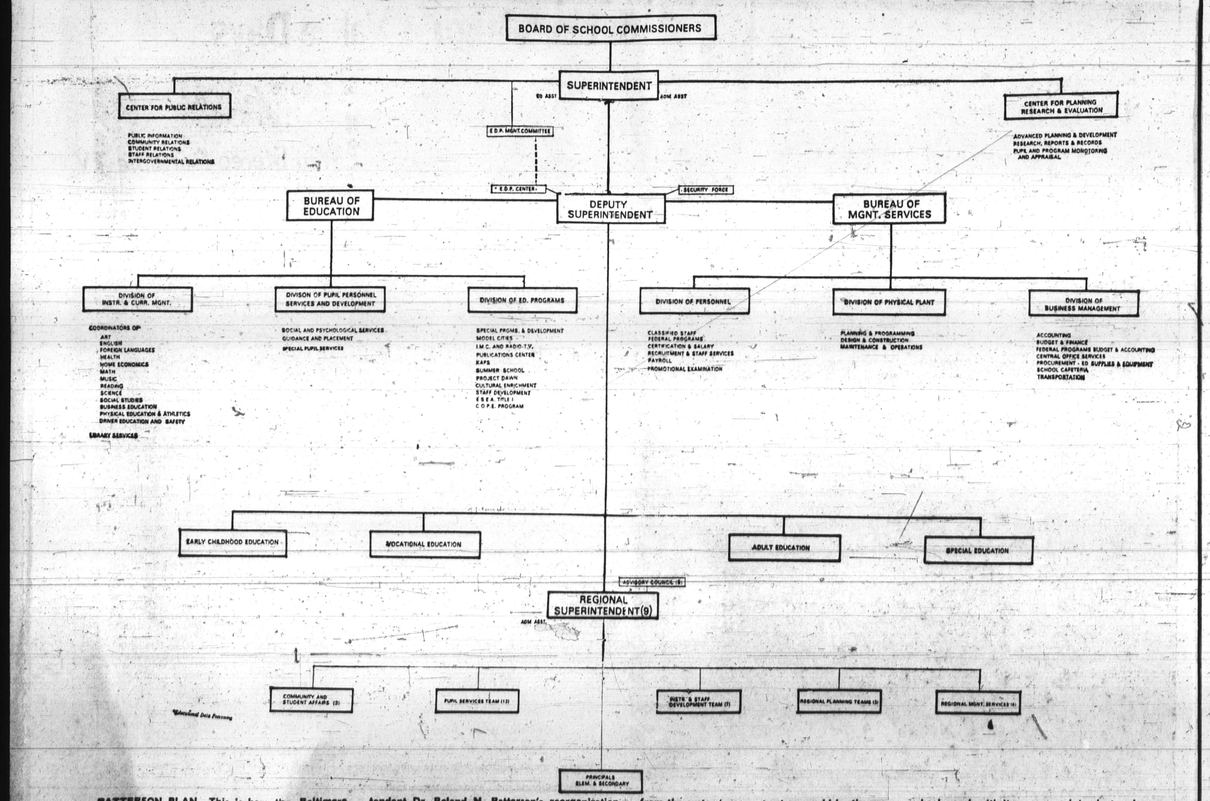
92 YEARS OLD (TODAY) Aug. 4 is John H. Murphy Jr., the oldest living incorporator of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers. Mr. John Jr. was for many years the circulation director and treasurer of the AFRO. He is an emeritus member of the Board of Directors, an emeritus trustee of the company and only living one of five sons and five daughters of AFRO founder, John H. Murphy Sr.

## School children may get seven shots this fall

For many years the Department of Education ruled on immunizations necessary for children to attend classes, but this perogative was transferred by the last session of the Maryland General Assembly to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Formerly, only vaccination against smallpox was mandatory, but this requirement was removed by the 1972 Legislature.

State health officials now propose to require shots for measles, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough), and oral immunization against polio, if the new regulations are signed into law by Dr. Neil Solomon, Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.




PATTERSON PLAN—This is how the Baltimore City Public School System would look if Superintendent Dr. Roland N. Patterson's reorganization proposal went into effect. The plan's major change from the system's present set-up would be the creation of the nine regional divisions of the city's schools, each with its own superintendent and community advisory council.

VILLAGE PLAYERS — Members of the Little League Village Players baseball team of Edmondson Village are front row, left to right, Kelvin Jacobs, Mart Dickerson, Harry Bennett, Henry Sampson, Dwaine Folks, Adolph Bryson, Robert Stephens; second row, Bell Thomas, Ricardo Borks, Mark Styles, Ronald Thompson, Terry Little, Glenn Watkins, Richard Pierce, Otho Murphy, manager.

## Baltimore winners in Jesse Owens competition

The 8th Annual Jesse Owens inter-city championships were held in Pittsburgh on Saturday.

The 39 participants from Baltimore earned a berth on the team by winning on July 14.

Baltimore winners in Pittsburgh were:

Boys, 10-11, 50 Yd. Dash 1st place, Toussaint James 6.2;

Boys, 14-15, 100 Yd. Dash 4th place, Desi Franklin 10.7;

Girls, 14-15, 200 Yd. Dash, 2nd place, Jeanne Speedling 27.0;

Boys, 10-11, 200 Yd. Relay, 3rd place, Morris Simmons 28.0, William Johnson, Clifton Morton and Brett Randall.

Girls, 10-11, 200 Yd. Relay, 4th place, Patience Young, 31.0; Yvonne Reid, Cheryl Atkins and Monica Reynolds.

Boys, 10-11, Softball Throw 4th place, Darrell Mearson 169'9";

Girls, 12-13, Softball Throw 4th place, Gloria Slaten 140' 5½";

Boys, 14-15, Softball Throw 4th place, James Rogers 254';

Girls, 10-11, Long Jump 2nd place, Myrtle Kee 14';

Boys, 10-11, Long Jump 2nd place, Brian Harris 5'7";

Boys, 12-13, Long Jump 1st place, Charles Ryan 16' ";

Girls, 12-13, Long Jump 3rd place, Laura LaMire 14'5";

Boys, 12-13, High Jump 3rd place, Ronnie King 4'6";

Girls, 14-15, High Jump 3rd place, Linda Morelock 4'4".

837-9313 is BAN Line, a telephone number for concerned citizens to call in narcotics information.

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## Special mile runs in Governor's Track Meet

With the Governor's Youth Track and Field Meet set for Saturday, August 5, the Maryland Commission on Physical Fitness has announced that special mile run for age group 9-17 will again be on the program.

These events are run in memory of the late Walter W. Korpman, Jr., distance running enthusiast and former director of the Baltimore Run For Your Life program.

Opening ceremonies get under way at the Montgomery College in Rockville, Md. at 9:30 a.m.

The opening parade will feature the Fort George G. Meade Marine Barracks Drum and Bugle Corps and the Bolling Air Force Base Color Guard.

Gordon Oliver of Bethesda Chevy Chase High is the Maryland state indoor mile and 880 yd. champion, a high school All-American in cross country and has run the mile in 4:08.

The meet itself, which includes a full program of track and field events, begins at 10:30 a.m.

The special mile runs will be open to any youth present.

The public is invited to attend the Governor's Meet and to enjoy the festivities and the competition among some of Maryland's best young athletes.

## Asheville grad gets grant for N. C. Central

DURHAM, N.C. — Samuel Quick Jr., a graduate of Asheville High School, has been named to receive a freshman scholarship from the James G. K. McClure Educational and Development Fund of Asheville.

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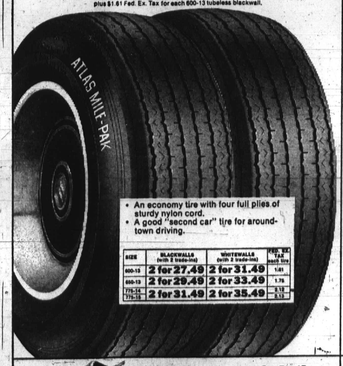


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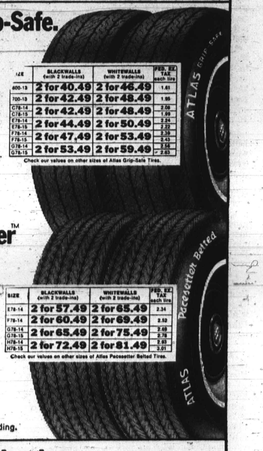


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| G78-15 | | | 2.85 |

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