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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR WJCC'S STRATEGIC PLAN CONTAINS CROSS-SECTION OF 15 COMMUNITY LEADERS

Williamsburg, VA, Oct. 18 – A diverse cross-section of 15 community leaders with the common goal of helping to make Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools a premier school division have agreed to serve on a steering committee that will help guide and promote WJCC's Strategic Plan project.

"We are deeply grateful that all 15 of the community leaders invited to serve on this important committee have enthusiastically accepted," said Superintendent Steve Constantino. "This unanimous positive response tells us that we have people from all walks of life who wish to make a meaningful contribution to the future quality of our students' education."

With the assistance of the Public Consulting Group (PCG), which will help facilitate a collaborative effort, the Steering Committee will work with WJCC staff and the entire community in a meaningful and respectful manner to ensure that all voices are equally heard as the Division charts a new course for the future. The duties of the Steering Committee will include:

- Helping broadcast the purpose of this project within the community
- Representing the community voice
- Reviewing collected data and supporting the development of key goals
- Representing and proposing community participation in enacting the goals

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The Steering Committee will have its first meeting on **Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 6 p.m. in Room 400 of the Central Office at James Blair.** The Steering Committee is expected to meet up to three more times after that through June, 2012. A series of focus groups and a public forum also will be scheduled. Information can be found on a new web page devoted to the Strategic Planning Process: www.wjcc.k12.va.us/content/admin/superintendent/premier.

“When I first arrived in this community early this year, its citizens’ passion for quality public education became immediately evident to me,” Constantino noted. “The response from our Steering Committee members confirms this. I wish to personally thank them for stepping forward to participate in this important endeavor.”

The Steering Committee members are as follows:

- **Tony Conyers**, social services, retired
- **Kyra Cook**, Program Officer, Williamsburg Community Health Foundation
- **Mark Duncan**, Director, Community, College & Government Relations, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- **Dr. Chris Gareis**, Associate Dean for Teacher Education and Professional Services, College of William & Mary
- **Dr. James Golden**, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, College of William & Mary
- **Barbara Harris**, Education Representative, NAACP
- **David Jarman**, Community Representative
- **Robert Middaugh**, County Administrator, James City County
- **Rick Shippey**, Brewery Manager, ABInBev
- **Dr. William Travis**, Provost, Thomas Nelson Community College – Historic Triangle Campus
- **Jack Tuttle**, City Manager, City of Williamsburg
- **Steve Vignolo**, Citizens for Education
- **Jeanne Zeidler**, President & CEO, Williamsburg Community Health Foundation.
- **Dr. Stacia Barreau**, Principal, James River Elementary School
- **Karen Downing**, President, Williamsburg-James City Education Association