

## Special Retiree Edition

### A New Direction ...

The APS Communication Services team learned in our recent Clipboard survey that many retirees would prefer to receive printed versions of Clipboard rather than online versions. To keep retirees up-to-date on APS news, the APS Communication Services team plans to publish special editions of Clipboard especially for you. Special editions of Clipboard for retirees will contain information that staff and community members receive online via E-news and Community Connection.

We will continue to publish new editions of Clipboard quarterly, which will be posted online and mailed to retirees via U. S. mail.

### Cheer For Your Favorite Team!

Did you know that retirees get free admission to APS athletic activities? Just stop by the Communication Services Department in the administration building at 1085 Peoria Street to pick up your free activity card.

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### Aurora Public Schools Welcomes New Superintendent John Barry

The APS Board of Education appointed John Barry as Superintendent of Schools. Barry will officially begin on July 17th. "We believe we have made the best choice. We're confident that John is going to be successful. He will bring a fresh perspective to APS," said Board President Matt Cook.

"This is an honor. My children attended public schools from kindergarten through graduation, and I am committed to public education. My goal is to build on the strong foundations at APS in order to improve the quality of learning that we provide Aurora's children," said Barry.

#### Real World Experience

Barry comes to APS from SAP, the world's leading provider of business and educational software solutions where he served as Vice-President for Defense and Security.



Barry also served more than 30 years in the Air Force and retired in 2003 as a Major General. Barry was head of strategic planning for the entire U.S. Air Force and is highly experienced in crisis response and training. Barry has led multicultural and multilingual groups throughout the world, including Germany, Korea, the Netherlands and Turkey. As Wing Commander of a base in Turkey, Barry was responsible for human resources and support services at a Department of Defense K-12 school.

As executive director and board member of the 2003 Columbia Accident Investigation Team, Barry led the independent inquiry

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## Dianne Dugan Named Colorado Distinguished Principal of the Year

Students, staff and parents at Dalton Elementary School know that their principal Dianne Dugan is special. Now the rest of Colorado knows it too. This spring, Colorado Association of Elementary School Principals named Dugan the 2006 Colorado National Distinguished Principal. She will be honored, along with winners from other states, in Washington, D.C. by the U.S. Department of Education.

Dugan has been principal of Dalton for 20 years and has worked in education as a teacher and administrator for more than 34 years. "I am thrilled. It is great to be recognized for something I love to do. I can't think of anything better. I am excited for our school and so proud of our district," said Dugan.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, this award recognizes successful elementary or middle level principals who have provided outstanding leadership. Selection criteria include evidence of respect from the school community; active community involvement; strong educational leadership; and evidence of maintaining an orderly, purposeful learning environment.

"I hope that this award shines light on the positive work that we are doing in the Aurora Public Schools. There are so many other outstanding principals, teachers and students in our district. I hope that this award helps our community to focus on the success that I see every day as a principal," said Dugan.

## Superintendent John Barry

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of the tragic accident. He effectively led more than 25,000 individuals and coordinated the efforts of more than 130 organizations.

Barry successfully helped manage a \$326 million budget. Also in a record seven months, investigators were able to submit a full report identifying causes, findings and recommendations for NASA to safely return to manned space flight. NASA is implementing all 29 of the major recommendations offered by the Columbia Accident Investigation team.

Barry's desire to lead APS comes from a combination of two passions—children and education. "I always knew I would get directly involved in public education after I retired from the Air Force. I believe that my experience as a leader who inspires positive actions and change will be an asset to the Aurora Public Schools," he said.

### Broad Academy

In 2004, Barry was one of only 20 graduates of the Broad Academy and Center for Superintendents. As a Broad fellow, he received extensive CEO-level training in finance, management, operations, organizational systems and education. The center prepares CEOs and senior executives from business, nonprofit, military, government and education backgrounds to lead urban public school systems.

"The Broad Academy helped bridge my leadership experiences with urban educational needs. I believe that leading APS is the ideal opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children. Ensuring that what we do is best for students will always be my compass, my true north. The focus on students will guide everything that we do in APS," said Barry.

### Future Updates

The APS Communication team has published several articles about Barry on the APS Web site at [www.aps.k12.co.us/district-info/supt\\_search.htm](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/district-info/supt_search.htm). For a printed copy of the articles, please call 303-344-8060 ext. 28010.

Barry sent APS staff a letter of introduction earlier this month. The letter is reprinted for retirees on page 3 of this edition of Clipboard.

### Want to learn more APS News?

- To learn more about staff accomplishments, visit the Staff Showcase page at [www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/showcase.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/showcase.html).
- To learn more about student accomplishments, visit the Student Showcase at [www.aps.k12.co.us/students/showcase.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/students/showcase.html).
- To learn more about community partnerships, visit [www.aps.k12.co.us/community/partners.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/community/partners.html).
- Sign-up for our online community newsletter, Community Connection, visit [www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/connection/](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/connection/). Subscribers receive regular e-mail updates.
- Aurora Public Schools also publishes weekly stories on the back page of the Aurora Sentinel. To access these stories, log on to [www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/ads.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/ads.html).
- All APS media releases are also available online at [www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/releases.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/releases.html).

[www.aps.k12.co.us](http://www.aps.k12.co.us)



# Aurora Public Schools

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June 15, 2006

Dear APS Colleagues:

Although I do not officially begin my duties until July 17, I'd like to introduce myself and emphasize how honored I am by the APS Board of Education's decision to hire me as Superintendent of Schools. This is truly a privilege, and I look forward to serving as your Superintendent. I have no doubt that, together, we can do great things for the children who attend our schools.

I want to thank Superintendent Bob Adams for his vision and leadership. Bob leaves behind a firm foundation that we'll build upon. I thank him for the transitional support he has offered. I also offer my gratitude to Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Debbie Backus for her commitment to students and staff.

My nontraditional background has provided me leadership experience creating successful multi-cultural coalitions and maximizing the potential of those who worked with and for me. I know that whether you are leading in the military, business or a school district, you do so by inspiring and not commanding. My commitment to you is to foster an environment of collaboration, coalition and cooperation.

With any new leader, there will be changes. I promise you that my guiding principal — my compass — my true north — will be increasing student achievement. Every decision we make will be based, first and foremost, on what is best for our students.

In my first 90 days, I will meet with our Board of Education, students, teachers, principals, staff, parents, union leaders, business leaders and community members. My goal is to listen, to gather information and to learn what is working and what is not working. From these listening sessions, we will develop our revised strategic plan that builds on what has been done and guides us for the next three to five years.

This summer you will find regular updates on hiring steps for the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and our evolving vision for APS on our Web site, <http://www.aps.k12.co.us>.

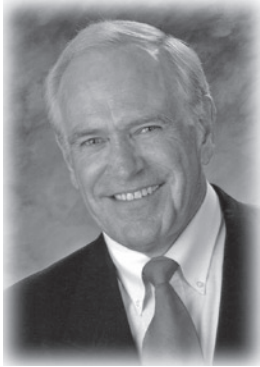
I look forward to meeting each and every one of you. My goal is to support every teacher, every administrator and every classified staff member so we can do the following: maximize the potential for our students so they can attain the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that lead to self-sufficient, socially responsible citizens of Colorado and the United States of America. Together we will make APS the lead school district in the state of Colorado.

Sincerely,

John L. Barry  
Superintendent-elect

## Congratulations, Retirees!

Aurora Public Schools would like to thank the nearly 120 staff members who are retiring from the district this year. These retirees represent nearly 2,600 years of experience and dedicated service to Aurora's children.



### Superintendent Bob Adams Retires

Superintendent Robert D. Adams will retire on June 30, 2006, after leading the Aurora Public Schools for the past five years.

"This was a hard decision, but it is time to refocus my energy on my family and our future. I am proud of the

hard work of every staff member and student in our district," Adams said.

"Dr. Adams has been a great resource for me as the new board president. I know that this was a difficult decision for Bob, but I understand that after 36 years of dedicated service, it is time to move forward in his life. The board values all that he has done for APS. He has set us in the right direction, and we will continue to partner with him until his retirement," Board President Matt Cook said.

Adams began his educational career as a teacher in Michigan. He served as a high school assistant principal, a high school principal and the director of vocational education. Adams relocated to Colorado in 1982 and served as principal of Eagle Valley Middle School and Eagle Valley High School. After joining Aurora Public Schools he served as director of employee relations and assistant superintendent of Human Resources.

Adams earned a bachelor's, master's and Education Specialist degrees in Michigan and a Ph.D. from the University of Denver.

"APS staff and I have been committed to ensuring that every child in APS learns as much as possible every day—regardless of the child's economic, linguistic or cultural background. Our democratic society must have learned citizens if we are to thrive. I am confident that John Barry is also committed to all of Aurora's children," Adams said.

Adams will retire in Scottsdale, Arizona.

### From APS Kindergarten Student to Retired Teacher

One retiree, teacher Anne Brown, has spent nearly 40 years in APS. Not all that time was spent in front of the classroom; some was spent in the classroom as a student. Brown

attended Peoria Elementary and South Jr. High School (now South Middle School) and graduated from Aurora Central High school in 1970.

Her greatest memory of her years as a student is of her favorite fourth-grade teacher, Ms. Ott. "She believed in me and recognized that there was something special about me," Brown said.

"As a student I did not realize how hard teachers work to be successful. My greatest memories as a teacher are the moments when I saw the light bulb come on and my students understood what I was teaching. I'll always treasure that."

Brown fondly remembers holiday celebrations with her sixth-grade teacher playing the piano. She also remembers finally being allowed to wear pants to school the last semester of her senior year at Aurora Central.

Brown taught for 26 years. She started as a long-term substitute at Crawford Elementary School in 1979, taught at Tollgate from 1984-1986 and spent the last 20 years teaching at Virginia Court.

She has witnessed generations of students grow up. Recently she had the child of one of her first Crawford students in her class. My, how time flies!

To view the list of 2006 retirees visit [www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/retirees\\_06.htm](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/retirees_06.htm).

