

Special Retiree Edition

Over the summer, APS has seen significant staff changes. In this special edition, we are including online published stories about the new superintendent that we believe retirees will find of interest. This special edition is mailed to retirees and is available online. The new fall 2006 general edition of Clipboard for retirees and current APS staff will be distributed in October 2006.

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.
- To learn more about student accomplishments, visit the Student Showcase at www.aps.k12.co.us/students/showcase.html.
- To learn more about community partnerships, visit www.aps.k12.co.us/community/partners.html.
- 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.
- All APS news releases are also available online at www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/releases.html.
- E-News: <http://www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/enews/>.
- **To sign up for our online community newsletter, Community Connection, visit www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/connection/. Subscribers receive regular e-mail updates.**

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Barry meets students in APS summer school program.

Superintendent Hits the Ground Running

Originally published on July 18

John L. Barry's first day on the job started at 6:30 a.m. on July 17 with a brief meeting. He then hosted an informal reception where he met more than 100 APS staff members.

Next Barry joined Assistant Superintendent of Instruction William Stuart as they attended math, literacy and enrichment summer classes at North Middle School. Students shared with Barry one project they completed in their creative enrichment class. The students wrote, designed and starred in their own comic books. This unique literacy project featured topics from conflict resolution to school responsibility. Barry asked students about their projects, their classes and their goals. Barry praised students for giving up some of their summer break.

"I'm proud of you for taking advantage of summer learning. I commend you for the work you are doing in your classes."

*- John L. Barry
Superintendent*

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Hits the Ground Running

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After leaving North, Barry and Stuart visited joint summer school classes with Altura and Elkhart students, who were taking their classes at Sable Elementary while their schools underwent bond-funded improvements. Photographers and reporters from the Aurora Sentinel and Denver Post joined Barry at this stop.

Barry listened to students who were reading independently and in small groups.

“I got to read him a story about things that melt in the sun and things that don’t. He really listened. I think he liked the story.”

- Katie
Third-grade student

Barry also spoke with teachers and administrators about their views on curriculum and how to best meet the needs of APS students. He asked teachers how they meet the challenges of a highly mobile student population. “I am going to listen and learn to be sure that we are fully supporting our teachers and principals so we help all our kids become successful,” Barry said.

Barry also introduced VISTA, his 90-day day entry plan. “My goal is to listen to all of our key stakeholders—the board of education, students, parents, teachers, principals, classified staff, union leaders, business leaders, community members, elected officials and media,” Barry said.

“After meeting with students and talking with staff, after seeing the active community members here in support of AEF and our students, I am convinced that APS has the makings and the resources to be a great district—the premier district in the state. I’m committed to working with all key groups to do what is best for our students and increase their academic achievement.”

- John L. Barry
Superintendent

Barry finished the day with another three hours of meetings with key instructional staff, including William Stuart and Director of Assessment Lisa Escárcega. “Our guiding principle—our compass—our true north—will always be student achievement,” Barry said.

William Stuart to Lead APS Educators

Originally published on June 27

This summer, William Stuart accepted the position of assistant superintendent of instruction.

“It is an honor to be selected for this position. We will build on our strengths and refine our practice to do what is best for our students and for our teachers.”

- William Stuart

Stuart began his career at APS in 1986 as a teacher at Aurora Central High School. He then taught for two years at Mrachek Middle School. Stuart returned to Aurora Central, where he served as a teacher, dean of students, coach and director of the at-risk education program. From 1996 to 1999 he was the assistant principal at Aurora Central. Stuart served as principal of William Smith High School from 1999 to 2001.

Stuart has been student achievement director in APS since 2001, where he supervised K-12 principals and helped implement the Aurora Achievement Initiative.



William Stuart greets Aurora Frontier K-8 Assistant Principal Jocelyn Stephens at a recent event.

APS modeled the search process for assistant superintendent after the superintendent search process. Human Resources staff members solicited input from principals, the Aurora Education Association and others to learn the desired characteristics of the next instructional leader.

Superintendent Barry's First Day of Class

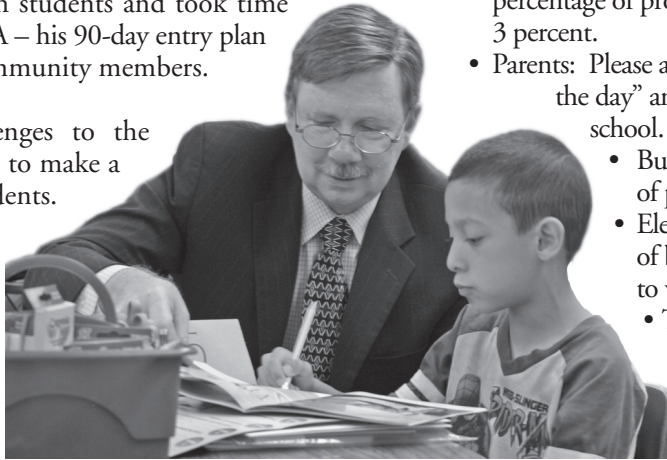
Originally published on August 15

On August 17, more than 32,000 students started classes at Aurora Public Schools. A fleet of more than 135 buses drove more than 5,500 miles and transported more than 11,000 students. More than 16,000 students ate school lunches.

New APS Superintendent John L. Barry experienced what the first day of school is like for a typical student. He started his day at 5:30 a.m. at the APS Transportation Department where he met staff and rode a bus with driver Tim Durst-or Mr. T-as the kids call him. Barry visited several schools, ate breakfast and lunch with students and took time to "Share the View" of VISTA – his 90-day entry plan – with parents, staff and community members.

Barry issued several challenges to the audience and encouraged all to make a difference in the lives of students.

Barry issued the following challenges, which he says are just a start. He will also be working with staff and community groups to ensure that all groups are represented and have an active challenge.



Barry takes part in a class at Paris Elementary School.

- Barry challenged himself and the APS Board of Education to develop a solid strategic plan that builds on what has been done and gets APS ready for the next three to five years at the end of his first 90 days on the job.
- Students: Please accept the challenge to read 25 books. Barry promised the first 100 classes to meet this challenge "high fives" prizes from Barnes and Noble, Cici's Pizza, Country Buffet and Pizza Hut for their success.
- Teachers: Please accept the challenge of 100 teachers earning their LDE (Linguistically Different Education) certificate of completion in one year's time through the University of Colorado at Denver or Regis University.
- Principals: Please accept the challenge of increasing the percentage of proficient students in all CSAP categories by 3 percent.
- Parents: Please accept the challenge of being "teacher for the day" and spending one full day at your child's school.
- Business leaders: Please accept the challenge of providing leadership training for our staff.
- Elected officials: Please accept the challenge of being leaders who are readers. We ask you to visit one school and read to our students.
- The Aurora Education Association, the APS teachers' union, also joined Barry in issuing a challenge. AEA is asking teachers to make one home visit this year with a student. When they do this, they'll receive a Borders gift certificate.

"Our goal is to make APS the lead school district in the state. We can't do it alone. We need the help of the entire community."

- Superintendent John L. Barry

"I challenge APS and the Aurora community to be bold, be courageous, and have visions of fire."

- Superintendent John L. Barry

For more information on Superintendent John L. Barry please visit <http://www.aps.k12.co.us/boe/superintendent.htm>.

We want to hear from you!

Town Hall Meetings – Share YOUR Views!

The Aurora Public Schools Board of Education and Superintendent John L. Barry invite you to share your views on our school district. Please join us at one of the upcoming Town Hall Meetings.

**Thursday, Oct. 5 Aurora Frontier K-8, 3200 S. Jericho Way
6:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, Oct. 12 West Middle School, 10100 E. 13th Ave.
6:30 p.m.**

Please take this opportunity to share your views on what is working in our district and what changes are needed to make APS the premier district in Colorado.

Spanish interpretation services will be available. For other language services or sign language interpretation, please contact the Communication Services Language Team at 303-344-8060, ext. 28078.

Aurora Central High School's First Graduating Class Celebrates its 50th Reunion

Originally published on September 15



Pat Lord (far right) greets fellow classmates as they arrive.

The first graduating class of Aurora High School, now Aurora Central High School, recently celebrated its 50th reunion. Nearly 100 students from the class of 1956 and former staff members gathered for a night of remembrance.

They shared memories from their high school years and stories of their lives after graduation. Throughout the evening, music from "The Fabulous Fifties" filled the air. Classmates also enjoyed flipping through old year books and toured the building to check out its new look.

Aurora High School was built in 1955 and was the second high school in the Aurora Public Schools District.

"We all love the fact that the building has been so well taken care of."

*- Pat Lord
Aurora High
1956 Classmate*

Pat Lord met her husband, Dr. Ed Lord, APS Board of Education Director, in high school. They recall how students of that time thought the school was "so far away," because it was "way out east." They find humor in that now, given how much the district has grown.

"I have so many great memories of the students and of my years being a young administrator. It's refreshing to see how well everyone is doing now."

*- Eugene Albo
Former Aurora
High School principal*

To view a photo slide show, please visit http://www.aps.k12.co.us/community/achs_50_reunion.htm.