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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Spotswood Board of Education Announces Plans for Use of Education Job Funds**

On September 20, 2010, the Spotswood School District was awarded \$214,000 as a result of the federal education stimulus bill. The intention of this bill, signed into law by President Obama in August, was to provide funds to put teachers back into the classroom. As a result, the district has dedicated some of the grant monies to institute a full-time Reading and Writing Coach position and a part-time Mathematics Coach position at Schoenly and Appleby schools.

“Although the parameters of this law eventually expanded to include non-teaching costs, such as bus drivers or coaches, the Board felt it was prudent to concentrate on the classroom,” said Board President Donna Faulkenberry. “With the loss of our pull-out Basic Skills program, we took this opportunity to support the literacy and mathematics development of our elementary students.”

The Reading and Writing Coach will provide content knowledge and resources about learning and teaching literacy – including teaching strategies, assessment techniques, assessment of reading skills, interpretation of assessment results, classroom routines and practices that promote literacy. This position has been filled by third-grade teacher Donna Danzig. Prior to her classroom assignment, Mrs. Danzig was a long-time Reading Specialist for the Spotswood School District and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position. Mrs. Danzig’s third-grade class will now be taught by Jill Laskowski, a former elementary teacher at Appleby School that was not rehired due to budget cuts. Ms. Laskowski will take over the teaching duties on November 1, 2010.

The Mathematics Coach will examine student work as evidence of understanding, misunderstanding, and proficiency and use this information to make instructional decisions for improving student achievement in mathematics. This part-time position will be taught by Debbie Cohen, also a former employee of the Spotswood School District. Ms. Cohen was a part-time Basic Skills teacher who had great success with her students and also brings experience and skill to this new position.

The Board of Education chose to hold the remainder of the grant monies aside for use in the 2011-12 school year. “We are fully aware that next year’s budget will most likely present us with even greater challenges than this past year,” stated President Faulkenberry. “Therefore we held these funds in reserve for future use.”