

EPILOGUE

Implicit in the school system's three major, guiding questions, as proposed and elucidated in the preceding chapters, there is a fourth question: "What will we do if it doesn't work?"

To recapitulate, the first three questions proposed by Superintendent O'Rourke were:

- "What do we want for our children?" (Chapter III).
- "How might we provide it?" (Chapter IV).
- "How will we know we've done it well?" (Chapter VI).

If, at the end of the five years of this grant, we find that the three main questions remain unanswered or if they are answered negatively, we will move to a fourth question: "What will we do if it doesn't work?" That is not to say that we will not review the progress of school improvement annually—indeed, continuously—as outlined in the preceding chapters. We *will* monitor progress continuously, and we will not fail to make mid-course corrections as needed. But should we find, at the end of this grant period or anywhere along the way, that our major strategies are not effective, we will not hesitate to modify them, nor will we hesitate to propose bold, new strategies for the future.

Management of the Master Plan

As noted earlier, the present document was developed by a team of writers who reported to an Oversight Committee, which in turn worked in tandem with the District Planning Team. (Refer to Chapter I.)

This system of governance will be modified somewhat in the future. It is anticipated that the Superintendent's Cabinet, which comprises the major executives in charge of instruction, administration, operations, and finance, will oversee the progress of the state grant. A working group will be formed to monitor and modify the present plan as needed, under the supervision of the Superintendent's Cabinet (the working group called, perhaps, the Howard County *Bridge to Excellence* Team). Finally, a team of program managers and writers will be formed to continue the baseline work of the current writing/program team. All will continue to work in tandem with the District Planning Team. Although the new system of governance is still in the formative stages of development, it will be reported more completely in the first annual revision of the current document.

All annual updates for the *Bridge to Excellence Comprehensive Master Plan* during the five-year life cycle of the document will be presented to the Howard County Board of Education for approval and to the County Council for review in accordance with the school system's procedures and the state's final guidance. As Howard County schools continue to improve and students continue to experience breakthrough improvements, this dynamic document will reflect successes and record future expectations.