**THIS IS AN INFORMATION PAPER**

**TO:** **Members of the Hardin County Board of Education**

**FROM: Robert B. Lewis, Associate Superintendent for Student Services**

**DATE:** **January 22, 2013**

**TOPIC:** **Diversity Fair/Diversity Council**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Hardin County School District has reconstituted the Diversity Council, which originally was organized many years ago under the direction of James Phillips. The **“Vision”** of the Council, made up of school and community stakeholders, is the commitment to promoting diversity where all individuals are valued and celebrated within a learning culture. The **“Mission”** of the Council is to promote an atmosphere of acceptance, equity, and respect throughout the district, school and community; teaching that we are all equal with differences and we must treat everyone with respect and tolerance regardless of our differences. The Diversity Council is developing strategies and the means to provide the school district and local community organizations a way to coordinate “diversity” discussions in order to enhance our “diverse culture/population” in Hardin County. The objective of the Council is to share ideas and information among schools in the district regarding: Character Education, Anti-Bullying programs, Affirmative Action, Multiculturalism, Prejudice Reduction, Positive Behavioral Strategies, Student Self-image, Student Academics, and Student Attendance.

The **“Goals”** of the Council include working with the local SBDM Councils to integrate training and activities that address diversity in the in the schools and promote local school work that “showcases” how they address diversity. The Council would like to invite the Members of the Hardin County Board of Education to the “Hardin County Diversity Fair” scheduled to occur on March 1, 2013 at John Hardin High School. The “fair” will be held during the performance of **“Cirque Zuma Zuma”** and will allow local community agencies and schools the chance to show how they address diverse cultures within their buildings. Booths will be staged for all those participating and could include, but not limited to, music, drawings, poetry, “History Alive”, and moodle projects, etc. The displays will be in the commons area of John Hardin and is open to the public from 5:00 to6:30 p.m. Thirty (30) spaces have been set aside for this event and we look forward to having the “First Diversity Fair” at John Hardin High School to coincide with the “Cirque Zuma Zuma” event at the Performing Arts Center (PAC).