

## **BUILDING PURCHASE BUILDS INDEPENDENCE AND FLEXIBILITY FOR THE SCHOOL**

*Lexington Park, MD, August 11, 2015:* Chesapeake Public Charter School (CPCS) held its ribbon cutting ceremony at the beginning of its Open House on Tuesday night, August 11. Students and families were gathered the night before their first day of school, an annual tradition through which students find out their classes, drop off materials, and meet their teachers. The ceremonial ribbon was cut by School Director, Angela Funya, with the help of Strategic Planning Chairperson, Julia Nichols; Former Building Owner, Tom Watts; CPCS students Ariel Gill-Ehrenreich, Lilia Burkes, and Roberto Fernandez; President of the Board of Education, Karin Bailey; Board of Education Member Mary Washington; SMCPs Executive Director of Elementary Education, Title I, and the Judy Center, Kelly Hall; and SMCPs School Superintendent, J. Scott Smith. Families, students, teachers, administrators, and dignitaries celebrated this momentous step for the Charter School.

Chesapeake Public Charter School, though it is public, is financially responsible for its own facility, unlike other public schools. For its first nine years, the school rented its facility space on Great Mills Road from former building owner, Tom Watts of Big Blue Management, LLC. Purchasing this building from Mr. Watts, which was enabled through a USDA loan to the CPCS Alliance, will allow the school to make plans to renovate certain unoccupied areas of the building, creating spaces more functional for the needs of a school. It will also allow the school to begin expanding. Currently, CPCS serves 360 students in grades K-8, but it plans to begin expanding during the 2016-17 school year by adding one kindergarten class of 20 students. CPCS will continue renting space to its current tenants, PAE Applied Technologies, Heron Systems, MedStar Medical Group, MedStar St. Mary's Hospital Laboratory Center, and Essex South Management, LLC. Additional office space in the building is currently available; for more information contact 301-863-9585 x48102