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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Petersburg City Public Schools selects Teacher of the Year

PETERSBURG – Ms. Shauna Mayo, a fifth grade teacher at R.E. Lee Elementary School in Petersburg, was declared in May to be the district’s 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year.

The honor was accompanied by warm words from Dr. Alvera J. Parrish, Superintendent of the Petersburg City Public Schools (PCPS), and R.E. Lee Elementary School Principal Mrs. Barbara Patterson; a bouquet of flowers from Ms. Gail Wade, PCPS Interim Director of Human Resources; and cheers from her students. Mrs. Patterson said she had a hard time keeping the news from Ms. Mayo until the time came for the announcement.

“Aren’t you all proud of her?” Mrs. Patterson asked the class, and the students enthusiastically responded, “Yes!” Two of those students were invited forward to sing, You Saw the Best in Me, as the presentation was made.

“We are so proud of the work that you are doing here. You are an outstanding teacher, by every possible means. The demonstration of your effectiveness is in your students’ scores. Job well done!” Dr. Parrish said.

Ms. Mayo’s students scored 100 percent on the most recent writing test, it was noted. She has also been a member of the PCPS Gifted Advisory Committee; Chairperson of the Lee School Improvement Team; a member of the International Reading Association; and a member of the Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

“My teaching reward comes when I see the ‘I got it’ look from my students. When I see my students’ eyes shine with understanding, I know that I am doing what I was meant to do,” Ms. Mayo said.

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The PCPS Teacher of the Year (TOY) Interview Committee made the selection. Ms. Mayo will now compete in the 2012 Mary V. Bicouvaris Virginia Teacher of the Year Program at the regional level.

All of the PCPS Teacher of the Year candidates and the winner were honored by the Board of the Petersburg City Public Schools at its June 1 public meeting. The other PCPS school-level nominees were: Ms. Annie Mickens, Blandford Academy; Ms. Romona White, Walnut Hill Elementary; Ms. Karen Gordan, A.P. Hill Elementary; Ms. Jameka Williams, J.E.B. Stuart Elementary; Mr. McKinley Perry, Peabody Middle School; Ms. Robin Simms, Petersburg High School; Ms. Shanda Sears, Vernon Johns Junior High School; and Ms. Carolyn Scott, Westview Early Childhood Education Center.

The contest is open to all teachers with teaching licenses, including school librarians, technology specialists, guidance counselors and reading specialists. They must be respected by their peers, students and students’ parents; play active and meaningful roles in their communities and schools; and have the ability to inspire the love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Cutline: Left to right: Dr. Alvera J. Parrish, Superintendent of Petersburg City Public Schools; Ms. Shauna Mayo, Teacher of the Year; and Mrs. Barbara Patterson, Principal of R.E. Lee Elementary School.