

THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the June 25, 2024 Meeting
200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board met on June 25, 2024 at 9:00 am in the State Board room located within the Maryland State Department of Education.

The following Board members were present in the Boardroom:

Mr. Clarence Crawford (President), Dr. Joshua Michael (Vice President), Mr. Shawn Bartley, Ms. Chuen-Chin Chang, Dr. Susan Getty, Dr. Monica Goldson, Mr. Nick Greer, Dr. Irma Johnson, Ms. Rachel McCusker, and Mr. Samir Paul.

Ms. Abisola Ayoola, Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy, and Dr. Holly Wilcox were absent. Interim State Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright, State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands, and Assistant Attorney General Alan J. Dunklow were also in attendance.

The following Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) members were present in the Boardroom:

Mr. Isiah Leggett (Chair), Dr. William (Brit) Kirwan (Vice Chair), Dr. Mara Doss, Dr. Jennifer Lynch, Joseph Manko, Justin Robinson, Dr. Laura Stapleton

AIB Executive Director Rachel Hise and Assistant Attorney General Heidi Dudderar were also in attendance.

OPENING REMARKS

President Crawford gave opening comments highlighting the meeting as his final one as State Board President. He shared thanks to Governors Hogan and Moore for his appointments to the State Board and emphasized the honor it has been to serve in the role. He highlighted that much hard work remains ahead, but he is pleased with where Maryland's education system is headed and the deep faith he has in Dr. Wright and the MSDE team to bring transformational change to Maryland's children.

AIB Chair Leggett read a resolution from the AIB recognizing President Crawford's service to the State Board and Maryland.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Sharon Saroff - Special Education
2. Aloha Chin - MCAP
3. Katie Rooney - Outdoor, Nature-Based ECE License Pilot Program
4. Leslie Romanoff - Exploring the possibility of variances in approval of pilot program applicants
5. Dr. Jeffrey Lawson - Updates from Maryland's Superintendents
6. Riya Gupta - Blueprint for Maryland's Future/Communication
7. Cheryl Bost - Introducing MSEA New Leadership
8. Paul Lemle - Introduction as MSEA President-Elect

9. Nikki Woodward - Introduction as MSEA Vice President
10. Chuck Thompson - New Title IX Rule Effective August 1, 2024

ALIGNED METRICS

(Presenter(s): Rachel Hise, Executive Director, Accountability and Implementation Board, and Geoff Sanderson, Deputy State Superintendent for Accountability)

Ms. Hise provided background information on the development of the proposed targets before both boards for prospective approval. She also walked through the methodology and attempted alignment between the State Board's Strategic Plan, goals outlined in the AIB's Outcomes Measures Workgroup, and Governor Moore's State Plan.

Mr. Sanderson previewed each proposed metric for the State Board and AIB members and explored the rationale behind the recommendations to improve in various academic metrics over the course of the following two to three school years.

Dr. Collins spoke about supports in place for local education agencies surrounding literacy, math, chronic absenteeism, and college and career readiness to aid in meeting the proposed target goals.

Dr. Kirwan asked if every LEA is supposed to meet identical goals and if there was data to show effectiveness of Maryland Tutoring Corps. Ms. Hise and Dr. Michael noted that the metrics are designed to empower the State Superintendent and AIB to set LEA targets.

Dr. Michael introduced an amendment to match the target numbers for teacher retention for teachers of color and all teachers. Upon motion by Dr. Michael, seconded by Dr. Johnson, the amendment was adopted unanimously by both boards.

Ms. McCusker introduced an amendment to remove the counselor ratio target for further consideration. Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, seconded by Dr. Johnson, the amendment was adopted unanimously by both boards.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Bartley, seconded by Mr. Leggett, the State Board and the AIB approved the proposed targets as amended. (State Board in Favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0), (AIB in Favor: 7, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

UPDATE ON LITERACY INITIATIVES

(Presenter(s): Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Tenette Smith, Executive Director of Literacy Programs and Initiatives)

Dr. Collins and Dr. Smith provided updates to the boards on the rollout of the new professional learning partnership with the State University of New York (SUNY) and the AIM Institute. They provided a status report about work with the Maryland Initiative for Literacy Equity (MILE) milestones and the continuing development and processes for receiving feedback on a proposed rigorous new literacy policy for Maryland schools.

Dr. Collins and Dr. Smith reviewed the community engagement that MSDE was working on surrounding literacy initiatives and a literacy media campaign. Dr. Smith reviewed the core tenets of the work with SUNY and AIM, including five key areas of work on Standards and Policy, Professional

Learning, Literacy Coaching, Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction, and High-Quality Instructional Materials.

Dr. Johnson asked Dr. Smith if teachers in all content areas will receive professional training surrounding the Science of Reading. Various AIB and State Board members inquired about the collaboration with higher education teacher preparation programs to ensure that the Science of Reading is embedded in their programs. Dr. Collins noted that the conversations are ongoing with higher education leaders. Dr. Michael acknowledged that a significant number of teachers in Maryland did not go through a traditional teacher preparation program.

2024-2025 EXPERT REVIEW TEAMS DEPLOYMENT

(Presenter(s): Dr. Paula Cage, Director, Office of School Review, Support, and Improvement; Dr. Matthew Duque, Director, Office of Research, Planning and Program Evaluation; and Phil Lasser, Senior Executive Director)

The MSDE team provided a description of the design and purpose of the Expert Review Teams and the process that has been put together to deploy them to schools. They outlined that the review teams conducted 50 reviews of schools in the 2023-2024 school year and discussed the methodology for selecting those schools. For the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, Expert Review Teams will focus specifically on improving instruction in Literacy/ELA and Mathematics in elementary schools.

Staff reviewed the revised methodology for 2024-2025 and the timetable for completion of roughly 150 school visits.

Several members of both boards asked questions pertaining to the depth and breadth of the reviews with concerns about visiting middle and high schools, as well as conducting reviews of subject areas outside of literacy/ELA and math.

LEA BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

(Presenter(s): Emma Pellerin, AIB Blueprint Implementation Director, and Phil Lasser, Senior Executive Director, MSDE)

Ms. Pellerin and Mr. Lasser examined the review and approval process for the submission of LEA Blueprint Implementation Plans by each school system. AIB and MSDE staff took nearly a full week with a team of 30 MSDE and six AIB representatives to review each plan and offer ratings and feedback. Ms. Pellerin and Mr. Lasser reviewed the Blueprint Implementation Development Guide which contains the questions that each LEA was asked to respond to.

They also shared with the boards highlights and common themes from each submitted plan, which included: prioritization of stakeholder outreach and involvement, dedication to establish or expand partnerships with other organizations and institutions, increased collaboration of LEA staff across different district offices and schools, expanded access to opportunities such as Pre-K, Career Counseling, Dual Enrollment, etc., continued discussions around financial decisions and resource allocation, and focus on identifying and developing additional supports for students who have not yet met the CCR Standard.

Next steps include LEA review of the feedback and requests for revisions, technical assistance from MSDE and AIB staff, and final recommended approval of plans to the AIB.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR) SUPPORTS

(Presenter(s): Phil Lasser, Senior Executive Director, MSDE, Dr. Antoine L. Hickman, Assistant State Superintendent, Early Intervention and Special Education Services, and Richard Kincaid, Senior Executive Director, Office of College and Career Pathways)

Mr. Lasser reviewed the Blueprint's requirements and emphasis on the development of a College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard and took an opportunity to review the revised standard adopted by the State Board in January 2024.

Mr. Lasser explored that the Blueprint law sets the expectation that students meet the CCR Standard by the end of 10th grade and requires LEAs to develop and provide CCR supports that allow all students who are not CCR by the end of 10th grade to graduate high school and move forward with a trajectory that will guide them in being college and career ready.

Mr. Lasser emphasized that the new CCR Standard is meant to provide additional options in the form of multiple measures for students to meet the CCR Standard and not to create unintended harm by removing options for students and that MSDE will continue to provide guidance and supports informed by LEAs and in partnership with LEAs, as well as to offer best practices related to CCR. Guidance and resources will be provided in two phases. The first phase will help to support 11th and 12th graders who are not yet CCR and the second phase will focus on a proactive effort to guide Pre-K through 10th grade students to becoming CCR by the end of 10th grade.

Dr. Hickman presented on the specifics of both phases and outlined the work of the Special Education Workgroup. Mr. Kincaid discussed the work of the Post-CCR Pathways Workgroup. He emphasized the need for redesigning the fundamental structure of CTE programs to encourage participation in apprenticeships, offer flexible scheduling models, and ensure programming is consistent with the trajectory of CCR.

Mr. Lasser offered in conclusion that in July MSDE plans to release an updated set of FAQs on the CCR Standard and other resources. Several board members shared concerns and hopefulness that there will be enough resources available to meet the goals of the CCR standard and the programs described by MSDE staff.

The AIB adjourned their meeting at 2:30pm and the State Board continued with the regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of the Consent Agenda
 - Approval of May 21 and May 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - Personnel Actions
 - Budget Adjustments, May 2024
 - State Board Governance and Operations Manual Revisions
 - COMAR 13A.08.01.02-3 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (Permission to Adopt)

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

Recognition of U.S. Presidential Scholars in Maryland

The State Board and Dr. Wright honored Maryland's four U.S. Presidential Scholars: Maximilian P. Belyantsev and Angelina Xu, Richard Montgomery High School (Montgomery County); Mingni L. Dong, Dulaney High School (Baltimore County); and Minaal A. Khwaja, Wicomico High School (Wicomico County). The State Board and Dr. Wright took photos with each scholar.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Wright shared with the State Board that MSDE recently participated in a convening in Chicago by the U.S. Department of Education on teaching and learning which was attended by several members of the MSDE team.

Dr. Wright also shared that she recently attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Association of Counties and a recent hearing held by Congress.

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

The State Board voted to move the following regulatory actions forward as a consent agenda:

COMAR 13A.12 Educator Licensure (Permission to Publish), COMAR 13A.12.02.03 Pathways to Teacher Licensure (Permission to Publish), COMAR 13A.07.06.02 and .08 Definitions and Program Approval Requirements (Permission to Publish), COMAR 13A.14.15 Outdoor, Nature-Based Child Care License Pilot Program (Permission to Publish), and COMAR 13A.07.08 Incentive Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (Permission to Publish)

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING STANDARDS

(Presenter(s): Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Elise Brown, Executive Director of Professional Learning and High-Quality Instructional Materials)

Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, seconded by Dr. Goldson, the State Board adopted the Professional Learning Standards. (In Favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

ENDORSEMENTS

(Presenter(s): Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning, Richard Kincaid, Senior Executive Director, Office of College and Career Pathways, and Molly Conner, Branch Chief, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services)

Mr. Kincaid provided the State with a comprehensive update on the development of implementation plans for diploma and certificate endorsements. He outlined the requirements, standards, and competencies associated with these endorsements, as well as the phased rollout plan to ensure successful implementation across the state. The MSDE described that in response to the evolving educational landscape and the need for more personalized recognition of students' skills and achievements, MSDE is developing this framework for diploma and certificate endorsements. These endorsements were proposed following extensive research, stakeholder engagement, and recommendations from the Maryland High School Graduation Task Force and the Maryland Certificate of Program Completion Task Force. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, students will have the opportunity to earn various endorsements, including diploma endorsements for College and Career Readiness and Career and Technical Education, as well as specific competencies for students completing a certificate program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Ms. McCusker, seconded by Dr. Michael and with unanimous approval, the State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present except Dr. Mele-McCarthy, Dr. Wilcox, and Ms. Ayoola. Also in attendance were State Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright, MSDE Chief of Staff Alex Reese, State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands, and Assistant Attorneys General Alan Dunklow and Jackie LaFiandra. The Executive Session commenced at 3:45 p.m. and ended at 4:35 p.m.

The State Board reviewed and approved two Opinions and two Orders.

- *Denise Flowers Brooks v. Prince George’s County Board of Education* – school bus driver termination – Opin. No. 24-14. The Board affirmed the local board’s decision.
- *L.S. v. Howard County Board of Education* – primary residence determination – Opin. No. 24-15. The Board affirmed the local board’s decision.
- *AutoFlex Fleet, Inc. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – remand to the local board – Order No. OR24-11. The Board remanded the appeal to the local board for further proceedings consistent with the opinion of the Appellate Court of Maryland.
- *Chad Edwards v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – not ripe for review – Order No. OR24-12. The Board dismissed the appeal without prejudice.

In addition, Dr. Wright and Mr. Reese provided an informational briefing on the budget and the Department’s internal process for reviewing legislation. Mr. Reese then departed the Executive Session.

Mr. Hands shared with the Board an initial list of dates for Board meetings in 2025 and provided an update on applicants for the State Board Deputy Director position. President Crawford discussed the evaluation of the Executive Director and the process for officer elections in July as well as presented a Maturity Model to summarize the State Board’s growth over the past several years.

STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Ms. McCusker reported that the Education Policy Committee will meet on July 17th at 6:30pm.

Dr. Goldson reported that the Education Transformation and Accountability Committee will meet on July 11th at 6:00pm.

Mr. Hands provided an update on a workgroup related to the appointment process for the student member of the State Board.

Mr. Crawford recognized the State Board members whose terms were concluding on June 30th.

FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. McCusker raised the prospect of discussing student learning objectives. Mr. Greer highlighted that the Board will be receiving an AI presentation in August.

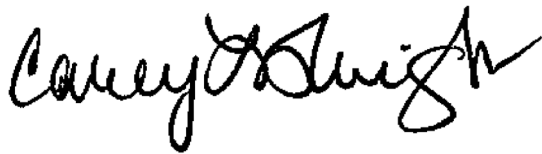
LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS

Mr. Dunklow announced the following opinions:

- *Denise Flowers Brooks v. Prince George’s County Board of Education* – school bus driver termination – Opin. No. 24-14
- *L.S. v. Howard County Board of Education* – primary residence determination – Opin. No. 24-15
- *AutoFlex Fleet, Inc. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – remand to the local board – Order No. OR24-11
- *Chad Edwards v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – not ripe for review – Order No. OR24-12

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools
Secretary/Treasurer of the State Board

Date: July 23, 2024

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented. The video recordings of the meetings are the official record and can be located at:

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2024.aspx>

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Orders can be found at:

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default.aspx>

The next Maryland State Board of Education meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 23, 2024**.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days’ notice prior to the event is required. Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.