

THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the January 24, 2023 Meeting
200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met on January 24, 2023 at 9:00am in the State Board room located within the Maryland State Department of Education.

The following Board members were present in the Board room:

Mr. Clarence Crawford (Board President), Dr. Susan Getty (Board Vice President), Mr. Charles R. Dashiell, Jr., Esq., Mr. Shawn Bartley, Esq., Ms. Merin Thomas, Ms. Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang, Ms. Rachel McCusker, Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter, Dr. Holly Wilcox, Dr. Vermelle Greene, Ms. Lori Morrow, and Ms. Gail Bates.

Ms. Jean Halle and Dr. Joan-Mele McCarthy participated virtually.

State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury, Elliott L. Schoen (Assistant Attorney General), and State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands were also in attendance.

MEETING OPENING

President Crawford called the meeting to order at 9:01am and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Schoen called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

President Crawford provided opening remarks and welcomed members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Dr. Karen Couch, Superintendent, Kent County Public Schools - Maryland Leads Initiative**
- 2. Ally McKone – parental rights**
- 3. Melissa Idleman – Maryland Comprehensive Health Framework and flags in the classroom**
- 4. Sharon Saroff – Home and Hospital Programs for Students with Disabilities**
- 5. Cheryl Bost, MSEA President – Blueprint investment in educators, Governor’s budget, legislative priorities**
- 6. Frank Patinella, ACLU – Cultural competency, culturally responsive schools**
- 7. Faith Nah – Comprehensive health education and supports for students**
- 8. Dr. LaShaune Stitt – Resources Blueprint for Maryland’s Future**

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of the Consent Agenda
 - Approval of the December 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - Personnel Actions
 - Budget Adjustments, December 2022

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

(Presenter: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools)

Mr. Choudhury provided an overview of relevant bills that have been introduced by the General Assembly at this point of the legislative session. He noted that a significant number of bills have yet to be introduced as a result of the impending introduction deadline. Ms. Morrow asked for information on which pieces of legislation the Department was planning to weigh in on from the list provided. Mr. Choudhury indicated that the Department may informally have discussions with legislators from this list but had not taken formal positions at this time.

PRIORITIES

- **Maryland Teacher of the Year Recognition**
 - Berol Dewdney, 2023 Maryland Teacher of The Year: Commodore John Rogers School
 - Dr. Sonja Santelises, CEO: Baltimore City Public School System
 - Marc Martin, Principal: Commodore John Rogers School
 - Sharonda Eley, Teacher of The Year Coordinator: Baltimore City Public School System

Superintendent Choudhury introduced Dr. Santelises and the 2023 Maryland Teacher of the Year Ms. Dewdney. He highlighted Ms. Dewdney's leadership in the classroom and her advocacy for her students in various capacities across the State.

Mr. Crawford invited Dr. Santelises and Ms. Dewdney to address the Board. Dr. Santelises touched upon Ms. Dewdney's contributions towards the school system. Ms. Dewdney spoke about her work with an individual student and steps that the State Board can take to elevate the teaching profession and improve the educational environment and students outcomes.

The Board presented Ms. Dewdney with a certificate and an award recognizing her as the Maryland Teacher of the Year for 2023. The Board took photos with Ms. Dewdney and thanked her for her service to the children of our State.

● **Maryland Leads Spotlight**

(Presenters: Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning and Mr. Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent of Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy)

Dr. Collins stated that the purpose of the presentation is to provide a briefing to the State Board of Education on the implementation of the Grow Your Own (GYO) and Science of Reading (SOR) strategy-related activities in St. Mary's County Public Schools and Montgomery County Public Schools as part of the Maryland Leads Initiative.

Mr. Dayhoff reviewed the summary of grant funding provided by MSDE to LEAs for the Maryland Leads initiative which is designed to support local LEAs in utilizing federal funds to overcome the learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, accelerate student learning to narrow opportunity and achievement gaps, and provide more targeted support for underserved students and their communities.

○ **St. Mary's County Public Schools**

■ Dr. Jeffrey Maher spoke about SMCPs use of funding through the Maryland Leads program to establish a Grow Your Own and partnerships that SMCPs has established with institutions of higher education.

■ Ms. Lisa Bachner spoke about training educators in St. Mary's County on the use of Science of Reading and the implementation of reading apprenticeships in the 9th grade. She also showed the tools being used to measure progress for students in the Science of Reading and data collected by screening teams on cohorts of kindergarteners and first graders. The data has started to see improvements in SMCPs via the DIBELS screening tool.

■ Mr. Crawford spoke about potentially utilizing the results of these initiatives and the outcome data from them in our efforts to recruit and retain educators.

○ **Montgomery County Public Schools**

- Ms. Brown reviewed the high-quality instructional materials utilized by MCPS and steps being taken to redefine instructional programs in the school system. She also addressed the professional development opportunities being offered to educators on literacy training, of which nearly 5,000 educators have taken advantage.
- Mr. Wiebe provided an overview of the Grow Your Own program in Montgomery County. He spoke of continuing MCPS' relationship with Montgomery College and partnerships with other institutions of higher education on their teacher certification programs. He also shared data on initial cohorts of students that have moved through the Grow Your Own program.

● **Regulations Deep Dive: Educator Preparation and Licensure Updates (Presenters: Kelly Meadows, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval, Ms. Maleeta Kitchen, Chair, PSTEB, and Mr. Darren Hornbeck, Vice Chair, PSTEB)**

Ms. Meadows provided the historical legislative and regulatory background on Educator Preparation and Certification regulations, and discussed the impacts of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future on the requirements within the proposed regulatory actions. She laid out the prospective timeline for when these regulations could become effective, which is estimated to be in early 2024 assuming the Board provides permission to publish and they make it through the regulatory promulgation process.

Ms. Meadows reviewed the common themes that MSDE and the Professional Standards Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) received from stakeholders in public comment and steps the Department took to address concerns, particularly in the consultation period with the Accountability and Implementation Board.

Ms. Meadows provided context on the requirements for educator preparation programs surrounding alignment to national standards, the application process, entry and instructional requirements, and program practicum and exit requirements. Ms. Meadows identified the various required teacher competencies that must be met by teacher preparation programs and provided several national examples on holding educator preparation programs accountable.

Ms. Meadows continued to the educator licensure regulations and explained to the Board that the regulations before them reimagine licensure entirely in the State of Maryland and move from verbiage surrounding certification towards licensure. Ms. Meadows provided

details on the various pathways to licensure and showed two practical examples of how a prospective educator in Maryland would obtain their Professional License.

PSTEB Chair Ms. Kitchen and PSTEB Vice Chair Mr. Hornbeck expressed their excitement to have gotten the regulations to this point and described the in-depth process that PSTEB went through to bring the regulations to the point of moving them for permission to publish. They underscored the importance of stakeholder engagement and considering every comment that came to PSTEB.

Dr. Greene asked if the Science of Reading was embedded in the required testing options of the edTPA and the PPAT. Mr. Choudhury responded that it was embedded throughout the proposed regulations. Ms. McCusker asked if there was a grace period within the renewal process for educators currently coming upon their renewal around the same time these regulations would take effect.

Mr. Choudhury requested that the Board take action on the proposed regulations at the conclusion of the discussion. Mr. Crawford asked if there was a motion.

- **Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)**

- **COMAR 13A.12.01-.07 Educator Licensure - Permission to Publish**

- Presenter: Kelly Meadows, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval

- ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Greene, seconded by Dr. Getty, the State Board granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.12.01-.07 Educator Licensure – Permission to Publish (In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

- **COMAR 13A.07.06 Programs for Professionally Licensed Personnel**

- Presenter: Kelly Meadows, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval

- ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Greene, seconded by Dr. Getty, the State Board granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.07.06 Programs for Professionally Licensed Personnel (In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

- **Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting**

- **Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program Results, Part 2**

(Presenter: Chandra Haislet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting, and Matthew Duque, Director of the Office of Research, Planning, and Program)

Ms. Haislet reviewed the results of Math and ELA from the latest 2022 Spring data available from the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program. Cohort performance data in Math has seen significant declines post-COVID from Grade 3 to Grade 8, while students meeting ELA proficiency has improved modestly from Grade 3 to Grade 8. Ms. Haislet provided information that there is a significant portion of students who are close to reaching proficiency and she demonstrated some examples of how small improvements in answers on the assessment could alter proficiency level.

- Accountability and Maryland School Report Card Update
(Presenter: Chandra Haislet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting, and Matthew Duque, Director of the Office of Research, Planning, and Program)

Ms. Haislet reviewed information regarding student enrollment and attendance for 2022. Student enrollment in 2023 is up 3% to roughly 889,000 students. There are also increases in students enrolled at nonpublic schools and students being homeschooled. Enrollment by demographic includes fewer White students, more Hispanic students, and is relatively static among other demographic groups. Attendance is at a 10-year low and in 2022 was 91.1%.

Mr. Choudhury explained that Maryland has secured through the addendum to the U.S. Department of Education, one-year adjustments for interim targets and accountability calculations, and identification of Comprehensive and Targeted School Improvement (CSI/TSI).

● **Early Intervention and Special Education Services:**

- Data Deep Dive: Students with Disabilities, Part 2

Due to time constraints, this presentation was delayed until a future meeting.

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

- **COMAR 13A.06.07 Student Transportation**
(Presenter: Gabriel Rose, Director of Pupil Transportation and Emergency Management)

Mr. Rose stated that the purpose of this item is to request permission to publish amendments to regulations under COMAR 13A.06.07 Student Transportation.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Morrow, seconded by Ms. Bates, the State Board granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.06.07 Student Transportation Personnel (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

- **COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland - Permission to Publish**
(Presenter: Chandra Haislet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting)

Ms. Haislet stated that the purpose of this item is to request permission to publish amendments to regulations under COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Dashiell, seconded by Ms. Morrow, the State Board granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

- **COMAR 13A.14.06.03-.05,.07,.10,.12 Child Care Subsidy Program - Waiver Request**
(Presenter: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools)

Mr. Choudhury stated that the purpose of this item is to request permission to waive regulations under COMAR 13A.14.06.03-.05,.07,.10,.12 Child Care Subsidy Program.

ACTION: Upon motion by Gen. Sumpter, seconded by Ms. Morrow, the State Board granted permission to waive COMAR 13A.14.06.03-

.05,.07,.10,.12 Child Care Subsidy Program (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, upon a motion by Ms. Bates, seconded by Dr. Getty and approved by unanimous consent, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on January 24, 2023 in Conference Room 6 on the 8th Floor of the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All Board members were present. Also in attendance were State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury, Assistant Attorney General Elliott Schoen, and Executive Director of the State Board Zachary Hands.

Shamere E. v. Baltimore County Board of Education – residency – Opinion No. 23-01. The Board affirmed the local Board’s decision.

S.A. and O.S. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – early kindergarten admission – Opinion No. 23-02. The Board affirmed the local Board’s decision.

MBEF College and Career Academies, Inc. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – denial of charter school application – Opinion No. 23-03. The Board reversed the local board’s decision and directed the local board to award the charter subject to reasonable contingencies.

Stephanie Brown v. Carroll County Board of Education – untimely – Order No. 23-01. The Board dismissed the appeal for untimeliness.

Shawanda E. v. Baltimore County Board of Education – mootness – Order No. 23-02. The Board dismissed the request for mootness.

Sherry Frazier v. Prince George’s County Board of Education – failure to exhaust administrative remedies – Order No. 23-02. The Board dismissed the appeal for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Dr. Greene shared information on the work of the Achieving Academic Equity and Excellence for Black Boys initiative. She shared that the Advisory Council and Pilot Schools have met in the last couple of weeks and that we are seeing results from some of the 14 pilot schools that have been funded. She let Board members know that the speaker

series would continue January 26th with Dr. Leonard Sax and invited all of the Board to attend virtually. Dr. Greene thanked the State Superintendent and MSDE staff for their assistance with the initiative and announced that they are hopeful to have a spring convocation for the boys in the pilot schools. Dr. Greene expressed hope to have a full-time coordinator at the Department to assist with the program long-term.

LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS

Mr. Schoen announced the following opinions and orders:

Shamere E. v. Baltimore County Board of Education - residency - Opinion No. 23-01

S.A. and O.S. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education - early kindergarten admission - Opinion No. 23-02

MBEF College and Career Academies, Inc. v. Montgomery County Board of Education - denial of charter school application - Opinion No. 23-03

Stephanie Brown v. Carroll County Board of Education - untimely - Order No. 23-01

Shawanda E. v. Baltimore County Board of Education - mootness - Order No. 23-02

Sherry Frazier v. Prince George's County Board of Education - failure to exhaust administrative remedies - Order No. 23-02

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mohammed Choudhury
Secretary/Treasurer

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-2023.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, February 28, 2023**.

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.