

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Maryland State Board of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met in person on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland. The following members were present: Mr. Clarence Crawford (President); Mr. Charles R. Dashiell, Jr., Esq. (Vice President); Mr. Shawn Bartley, Esq.; Ms. Gail Bates; Ms. Chuen-Chin Chang; Dr. Susan Getty (Virtual); Dr. Vermelle D. Greene, Ms. Jean Halle; Ms. Lori Morrow; Ms. Rachel McCusker; Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter; and State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury. Mr. Kevin Bokoum and Dr. Holly Wilcox were absent.

The following staff members also participated: Elliott L. Schoen, Assistant Attorney General; Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy Superintendent, Organizational Effectiveness; Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy Superintendent, Teaching and Learning; Krishnanda Tallur, Deputy Superintendent of Operations; and Ary Amerikaner, Chief of Staff.

President Crawford called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Schoen called the roll and declared the presence of a quorum.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dr. Maria Navarro – (Charles County Superintendent) – Early Childhood
- Ashley Esposito – School Closures
- Sharon Saroff – Concerns with special education and twice exceptional students
- Michelle Nunn – Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework
- Carol Vidal – School Violence

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of Consent Agenda**
 - Approval of March 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes
 - Personnel Actions
 - Budget Adjustments, March 2022

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

RECOGNITION

Mr. Choudhury introduced the two Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science winners.

- Math Presidential Award winner:
 - Joanie Gulen, Math Teacher: Glen Burnie Park Elementary School, Anne Arundel County
- Science Presidential Award winner:
 - Melissa Thompson, Science Teacher: Arlington Elementary School, Baltimore City

Mr. Crawford thanked the two teachers for their service and dedication to the children.

GUEST PRESENTATION: Achieving Academic Equity and Excellence for Black Boys (AAEEBB)

(Presenter: Dr. Vermelle Greene)

Dr. Vermelle Greene, the Chair of AAEEBB introduced Dr. Daryl Howard the chair of the Advisory Committee. Dr. Howard gave the Board members a brief update on AAEEBB, and the pilot schools involved. The four pilot schools shared a power point presentation.

- Anthony Esposito, Principal, and Olga Lloyd, Teacher: Running Brook Elementary School, Howard County
- April Franklin, Principal, and Anne Hammel, Assistant Principal: Southwest Academy, Baltimore County
- Diane Roberts, Principal: Westlake High School, Charles County
- Kalisha Miller, Principal, and Anthony Jackson, Assistant Principal: Pikesville Middle School, Baltimore County

The Board members were overall impressed with the presentations. Dr. Greene thanked each of the presenters for what they are doing and for the 105 boys who lives that are being changed.

STATE BOARD PRIORITIES

- **School Logistics and Transmission Rates Related to COVID-19 Update**
(Presenter: Mr. Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Mary Gable, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support)

Mr. Choudhury stated that the purpose of the presentation is to provide updated information related to School Logistics and Transmission Rates Related to COVID-19 through April 22, 2022. Mr. Choudhury explained that the presentation will provide data collected from the 24 local education agencies; data published by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on positivity rates, 7-day moving average new daily case rates per 100K population, vaccination rates, hospitalization rates, and death rates for each jurisdiction, along with the CDC's new COVID-19 community levels metric, MDH and federal guidance and testing programs. The presentation will outline the following:

- Vaccinations and COVID-19 Testing
- Quarantine and COVID-10 Data
- April 2022 – LEA Updated COVID Protocols: Mask Mandates & Testing Strategies
- Current Rates
- CDC COVID-19 Community Levels
- New Interim K-12 School and Child Care COVID-19 Guidance
- COVID-19: New Variants

Mr. Choudhury informed the Board members that the numbers continue to drop. The vaccination rate continues to go up along with the booster shot rate. There are a few districts that are experiencing high numbers. The vaccination rates are both up and down, reported by the Department of Health. The school systems may not be collecting data. It is not enough to just be vaccinated but it is also important to be boosted. In one school system, the overall positivity rate is higher, and the vaccination rate is lower. Mr. Choudhury stated that only one school district has not lifted their mask mandate. Overall, there has not been a vocal group pushing against the mask mandate and no strong push from the community. Mr. Choudhury stated that when he shadows a student during a school visit, he mimics what the student does. If the student is wearing a mask, he will put on his mask. He stated that he noticed while he was in Baltimore City shadowing a student, that the vast majority of students were wearing masks. The Principal and the CEO were not wearing masks because the mandate had been lifted. The students are wearing masks more than the staff.

ACTION: None. For information and discussion.

- **Blueprint Deep Dive: Early Childhood Education**
(Presenter: Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; and Mr. Steven Hicks, Assistant Superintendent for the Division of Early Childhood)

Dr. Collins stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide updated information related to Early Childhood programs and initiatives in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. Dr. Collins explained that the presentation will discuss early childhood education through four sections: laying the foundation, early childhood implementation in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, programs, and initiatives in support of early childhood in the Blueprint and stabilizing and rebuilding Maryland’s Child Care System. The presentation will outline the following:

- Mixed-delivery Prekindergarten
- Program Quality
- Workforce
- Expanded Support Programs
- R4K Assessments System

Mr. Hicks stated that the vision for Maryland’s path to school readiness and success is that all young children and their families will thrive. Maryland’s mission is to promote a well-coordinated and integrated system of programs, supports and services where each child has equitable access to high quality early

childhood experiences to develop a healthy body, healthy mind, with the foundational knowledge and skills needed to succeed. A system where every family has access to the resources needed to be effective as their child's first and most important teacher. There are six goals for Maryland's path to school readiness and success.

- Strengthen availability and access by increasing availability and choice for all families, decreasing barriers, serving more children with special needs in inclusive settings, and improving coordination between early childhood education and health services.
- Improve and support program quality by increasing quality across sectors, focusing on equity, increasing kindergarten readiness for all children, and improving capacity to meet infants' and children mental health needs.
- Deepen family engagement by increasing families' awareness of high-quality programs, expanding two generational programming, and enhancing families' opportunities to engage.
- Ensure successful transition experiences by strengthening institutional support for transitions, supporting families through transitions, and improving transition focused professional development opportunities.
- Expand and enhance workforce development by improving professional development opportunities, strengthening equity, coordination, and alignment efforts, and improving compensation for early childhood education professionals.
- Improve systems for infrastructure, data, and resource management by improving coordination across agencies, modernizing the data system, using resources in ways that promote equity, and streamlining funding mechanisms.

Mr. Hicks and replied to the questions that the Board members asked him. He explained to the Board members that since last fall, they have held webinars and customer services where individuals could come and discuss their application. He explained that the department works with each grantees case by case.

It was suggested that Mr. Hicks complete the second half of his presentation at the May Board meeting. President Crawford and the Board members thanked Mr. Hicks for his presentation.

ACTION: None. For information and discussion.

- **Resolution: Committing to Transformative Action to Create a World-Class Education System in Maryland** (Presenter: Mr. Clarence Crawford, President of State Board)

Mr. Choudhury read the resolution to the State Board members. President Crawford said that it might be useful to go on record articulating the Board's goals and objectives in this area so as not to duplicate or confuse what we are going to be doing with this strategy. He stated that COVID is not over but hopefully the worse is behind us. President Crawford commended the Board for rising to the challenge of working through a worldwide pandemic. The Resolution that was done about a year ago helped guide the Board's actions. As you look at the transformation in general, the sooner we can begin to articulate a few core beliefs and directions and bring together a coalition of the willingness will increase the likelihood of success. President Crawford stated that one of the initiatives in the next month or two is to start having small conversations with local board leadership about where we are presently. Clarifying questions and comments were made by the Board members and the decision was made to change the metric and

incorporating language in the resolution.

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Greene, and seconded by Senator Bates, the State Board adopted Resolution 22-01 as amended (Passed: Unanimously)

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

- **2022 Legislative Session**
(Presenter: Ary Amerikaner, Chief of Staff)

Ary Amerikaner provided an overview of the 2022 Legislative Session process and status updates on the bills before the 2022 Maryland General Assembly.

- House Bill 89/Senate Bill 480 – State Department of Education – Stabilization Grants
- House Bill 1100 – Child Care Providers and Employees – Bonuses
- House Bill 993/Senate Bill 919 – Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund – Established
- House Bill 995/Senate Bill 920 – Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations and Study

ACTION: None. For information and discussion.

- **Calendar Modification Requests**
(Presenter: Mohammed Choudhury)

Dorchester County and Queen Anne’s County Public Schools requested a wavier of one day of the 180-day instructional requirement for student attendance for the 2021-2022 school year.

ACTION: The vote to waive one day of student attendance for the 2021-2022 school year – Passed unanimously.

STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

Ms. Morrow stated that herself, Mr. Bokoum, and Ms. McCusker attended the National Association of State Boards of Education Legislative Conference at the end March. It was a great opportunity to get to Board members around the country. Ms. Morrow stated that she and Mr. Bokoum served as panelists in a couple of the sessions. They were also able to meet in-person with Senator Van Hollen and virtually with staff member from Senator Cardin’s office. Ms. Morrow said the conference was very beneficial. Ms. McCusker stated that there were seven or eight teachers board members across the county and four of them attended the conference.

Mr. Dashiell stated that the Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting regularly. He thanked MSDE staff who have been helping conduct the roundtables and listening sessions. The sessions have been extended throughout to the month of May or longer. Mr. Dashiell stated that the Committee has been working on the value statements contained in the draft strategic plan and will seek input from

Superintendent Choudhury. The Committee is also working on the mission statements and drafts of the value, mission, and vision statements will be sent out to the full Board for input.

Mr. Crawford stated the he, Mr. Dashiell, and Dr. Getty met with the leadership of the AIB, Chairman Leggett and Vice Chair Kirwan. Had a good conversation with them. They are looking at finding ways to collaborate and meet to improve the educational outcomes for Maryland's children.

General Sumpter stated that he, Senator Bates, and Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy are still in the process of searching for an Executive Director. Looking to set up a schedule to start sharing what they have received so far. President Crawford added that the Board is still looking at possibility two rounds of interviews.

Mr. Crawford stated that he was very pleased with the hiring taking place at MSDE. Mr. Choudhury is hiring very good candidates. Mr. Choudhury announced the promotion of Ms. Chandra Haislet to Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Accountability, Assessment and Reporting. He stated that his goal is to bring the vacancy positions down.

Executive Session

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Dr. Greene seconded by General Sumpter and with unanimous approval, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present except Dr. Greene, Dr. Wilcox, and Mr. Bokoum. Dr. Getty participated by video conference. Also in attendance were Superintendent Choudhury, and Assistant Attorneys General, Elliott Schoen, and Jackie La Fiandra. The Executive Session commenced at 3:40 p.m.

At that time, the State Board reviewed and approved one Opinion and two Orders.

- *Donnell Heard v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – non-certificate employee termination – Opin. No. 22-10. The Board affirmed the local board decision.
- *Tobias H. and Margaret H. v. Carroll County Board of Education* – appeal of quasi-legislative decision to modify quarantine protocol – Order No. OR22-05. The Board dismissed the appeal for lack of jurisdiction.
- *Mentoring by Example College and Career Academy Business Learning Institute (“MBLI”) v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – denial of charter school application – Order No. OR22-06. The Board referred the case to the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings for further proceedings.

Mr. Schoen provided a litigation update.

The Board discussed a personnel matter.

The Executive Session ended at 4:24 p.m.

LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS

Mr. Schoen announced the following Opinions:

- *Donnell Heard v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – non-certificate employee termination – Opin. No. 22-10
- *Tobias H. and Margaret H. v. Carroll County Board of Education* – appeal of quasi-legislative decision to modify quarantine protocol – Order No. OR22-05
- *Mentoring by Example College and Career Academy Business Learning Institute (“MBLI”) v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – denial of charter school application – Order No. OR22-06

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mohammed Choudhury
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: May 24, 2022

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://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2022.aspx>

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

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2022.aspx>

The next Maryland State Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

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.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING ("CLOSING STATEMENT")
UNDER OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General Provisions Article § 3-305)

1. Recorded vote to close the meeting.
 Date: April 26, 2022
 Time: 3:37 PM
 Location: 200 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
 Motion to close meeting made by: Dr. Greene
 Seconded by: Gen. Sumpter
 Members in favor: 12
 Opposed: 0
 Abstaining: 0
 Absent: 2

2. The meeting was closed under authority of Section 3-305(b) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (check all provisions that apply). This meeting will be closed under General Provision Art. § 3-305(b) only.
 - ✓ 1. To discuss: (i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.
 2. To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business.
 3. To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.
 4. To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.
 5. To consider the investment of public funds.
 6. To consider the marketing of public securities.
 - ✓ 7. To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
 8. To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.
 9. To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.
 10. To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.
 11. To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination.
 12. To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct.
 13. To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.
 14. Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion to topic
§3-305(b)(1)	Personnel Matter	State Board Executive Director vacancy
§3-305(b)(7)	Legal Advice	1 Appeals and 2 Draft Orders; Update on pending litigation

4. This statement is made by Clarence Crawford, Presiding Officer.