

THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the September 26, 2023 Meeting
200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met on September 26, 2023 at 9:07am 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. Joshua Michael (Board Vice President), Dr. Susan Getty, Mr. Samir Paul, Esq., Ms. Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang, Ms. Rachel McCusker, Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter, Mr. Nick Greer, Dr. Holly Wilcox, Ms. Abisola Ayoola, Dr. Irma E. Johnson, Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy, Dr. Monica Goldson, and Mr. Shawn Bartley were in attendance.

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

MEETING OPENING

Mr. Crawford called the meeting to order at 9:07am and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Schoen declared that a quorum was present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Sharon Saroff – Special Education**
- 2. Amanda Jozkowski– Media Selection in Carroll County**
- 3. Buzzy Hettleman – Literacy and RTI**
- 4. Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent, Harford County Public Schools – Start of the School Year and the CCR Standard**

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of the Consent Agenda
 - Approval of the August 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - Revisions to the State Board Governance and Operations Manual
 - Personnel Actions
 - Budget Adjustments, August 2023

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION I

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy and seconded by Dr. Susan Getty and with unanimous approval, the State Board of Education met for a closed session in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All Board members were present. State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands and Assistant Attorney General Elliott Schoen were also present.

The Board considered a personnel matter.

TRANSITION UPDATE

Mr. Crawford provided a summary of actions being taken by the State Board as it relates to transition between superintendent administrations and of a national search to identify the next State Superintendent. He announced a joint State Board and MSDE transition team. Mr. Crawford will serve as the lead of the transition team for the Board, with Dr. Michael, Dr. Getty, Dr. Goldson, and Mr. Bartley serving as members. Deputy State Superintendent Krishnanda Tallur and Assistant State Superintendent Mary Gable will serve as the co-leads for MSDE on the transition team. Dr. Joshua Michael will lead a search committee that will begin development of an RFP to hire a search firm to assist with a nationwide search for the next State Superintendent.

PRIORITIES

Blueprint Deep Dive: College and Career Readiness (CCR) Study Final Report – Part 1 and Part 2

(Presenters: Matthew Duque, Director, Office of Research, Planning, and Program Evaluation, Jordan Rickles, American Institutes for Research)

Mr. Duque reviewed the statutory requirements in the Blueprint for the CCR standard and study, the scope of the research study, including the timeline and process, as well as the extent of the stakeholder engagement that was involved in the development of the study. Mr. Rickles provided an overview of the study, its objectives, and key takeaways. He highlighted that Maryland's content standards generally align to the college course content in first-year credit bearing courses, how well the interim CCR standard classified students as college ready, and that identifying alternative ways to measure CCR could

increase the percentage of student who meet the standard and accuracy rate for predicting postsecondary success.

Mr. Rickles also covered a number of recommendations for future research and for alternative to the CCR standard to measure CCR more accurately and equitably, including but not limited to: providing at least two options for students to meet the CCR standard: one option based on the state assessments in the interim CCR standard, and another option based on having an HSGPA of at least 3.0, as well as to incorporate flexibility into the CCR standard to allow students individualized ways to demonstrate mastery of the foundational skills needed for a particular postsecondary pathway, and providing clear guidance on how the CCR standard should and should not be used.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE ON BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION

(Presenters: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools and Phil Lasser, Executive Director, Office of the State Superintendent, Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent, Fiscal Planning, Operations, and Strategy, and Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Early Childhood)

Dr. Cook and Mr. Dayhoff reviewed the fast-tracked Child Care Scholarship process and family eligibility. Mr. Dayhoff discussed the statutory Blueprint requirements surrounding a statewide finance and data system.

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

COMAR 13A.15 Family Child Care, COMAR 13A.16 Child Care Centers, and COMAR 13A.18 Large Family Child Care Homes (Permission to Publish Amendments)

(Presenter: Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Early Childhood)

Dr. Cook gave a summary of the draft regulations, which seek to align the requirements for safe sleep in childcare settings with the latest research recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Dr. Getty offered an amendment to include clarifying language regarding supervision of children in childcare settings.

ACTION: Upon motion by Gen. Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Michael, with amendments, the State Board granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.15 Family Child Care, COMAR 13A.16 Child Care Centers, and COMAR 13A.18 Large Family Child Care Homes (In Favor: 14, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

COMAR 13A.02.06 General Financial Aid to Local School Systems (Permission to Adopt)

(Presenter: Gabriel Rose, Director, Office of Pupil Transportation and Emergency Management)

ACTION: Upon motion by Gen. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Greer, the State Board granted permission to adopt COMAR 13A.02.06 General Financial Aid to Local School Systems (In Favor: 14, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

Local Education Agency Submission of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
(Presenter: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools)

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Mele-McCarthy, the State Board granted permission to authorize the State Superintendent to notify the Comptroller to withhold 10% of the November State aid payment and each subsequent installment for any system that is not in full compliance with §5-114 of the Education Article. (In Favor: 14, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION II

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(7) and (13) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Mr. Greer, seconded by Ms. Chang and with unanimous approval, the State Board of Education met for a second closed session in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All Board members were present. Ms. Ayoola left early. Also in attendance were State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury, Executive Director Zachary Hands, Deputy State Superintendent Sylvia Lawson, Deputy State Superintendent Krishnanda Tallur, Assistant State Superintendent Justin Dayhoff, Ms. Neeta Gandhi, and Assistant Attorneys General Elliott Schoen and Jackie La Fiandra. The Executive Session commenced at 3:45 p.m. and ended at 5:25 p.m.

Mr. Dayhoff reviewed with the State Board the FY2025 confidential budget proposal. Following the discussion, Mr. Tallur, Mr. Dayhoff, and Ms. Gandhi left the meeting prior to the review and approval of the Opinion and Order.

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

- *T.M. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer – Opin. No. 23-23. The Board affirmed the local board’s decision.
- *T.J. and D.J. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – health class exemption – Order No. OR23-15. The Board dismissed the appeal for untimeliness.

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates and Requests

(Presenter: Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent, Fiscal Planning, Operations, and Strategy)

ACTION: Upon motion by Gen. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Bartley, the State Board granted permission to submit to the Department of Budget and Management the

following items: FY 2025 base budget estimates; FY 2025 proposal to meet reduction target; FY 2025 request for State Aided Educational Institutions, which is included in the Funding for Educational Organizations budget; and FY 2025 over-the-target requests (In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

President Crawford announced the rosters and chairs for the State Board's standing committees. Dr. Wilcox announced her participation on a NASBE panel pertaining to student mental health. Mr. Hands reminded State Board members of upcoming conference opportunities.

FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

President Crawford announced that the State Board plans to hold a public hearing on the College and Career Readiness Standard recommendations in early November.

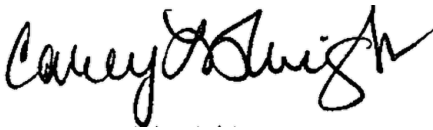
LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS

Mr. Schoen announced the following opinions:

- *T.M. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer – Opin. No. 23-23
- *T.J. and D.J. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – health class exemption – Order No. OR23-15

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: October 24, 2023

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, October 24, 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.