

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday
July 21, 2009

Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President ; Dr. Charlene M. Dukes; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Dr. S. James Gates, Jr.; Mr. David H. Murray; Mrs. Madhu Sidhu; Mr. Guffrie M. Smith, Jr.; Donna Hill Staton, Esq.; Dr. Ivan Walks; Ms. Kate Walsh and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. John Smeallie, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Dr. Ronald Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director to the State Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

The President welcomed the new Board members and asked if they would like to make brief remarks. He then explained the kinds of items that the Board's includes as part of the Consent Agenda and asked for approval of those items. He asked Dr. Grasmick to provide some additional background on the item on "permission to publish" amendments to COMAR references to the Voluntary State Curriculum.

Dr. Grasmick explained that a Visionary Panel created in 2002 looked at school reform efforts in Maryland and suggested that Maryland have statewide curricula due to vast financial inequities for small jurisdictions in obtaining experts to develop curricula. She said that now that the curriculum has been developed, it is now time to remove the word "voluntary" from state curriculum. She explained that every school system has embraced the Voluntary State Curricula (VSC). She described the curricula as "dynamic" rather than "static" since it will be monitored and evaluated regularly.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt reported that the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) requires the labeling of schools as "persistently dangerous" when certain criteria are met. He explained that previous Boards were uncomfortable with the designation and that the Board sent a letter last year to the federal Department of Education (USDE) seeking relief from the requirement. He introduced Mr. Jonathan Brice, Executive Director for Student Support for the Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) to answer any specific questions about the schools identified.