

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday
September 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 Monday, September 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, Vice-President; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Dr. Sylvester J. Gates, Jr.; Mr. David H. Murray; Mrs. Madhu Sidhu; Mr. Guffrie M. Smith, Jr.; Donna Hill Staton, Esq.; Ms. Kate Walsh and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Ivan Walks arrived late.

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

Dr. Grasmick asked for approval of the Consent Agenda. She explained that the proposed new regulation for World Languages is designated as a core content area in the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) and has not been included as a subject in the *Code of Maryland Regulations* (COMAR). She introduced Mary Gable, Director of Instructional Programs in the Division of Instruction, to provide additional information and answer any questions posed by Board members.

Ms. Gable explained that the World Languages State Curriculum was accepted by the State Board in March, 2009, and that by 2011 all middle schools will be providing the option for students to take World Languages. In response to a question by Mrs. Sidhu, she noted there are currently nine languages being offered.

Dr. Grasmick reported that the Department is making a strong recommendation that language learning begin in sixth grade. In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Dr. Grasmick said that the designation of languages is determined by the interest of students, the needs of the communities and the availability of specialized language teachers and noted that language teachers represent a critical shortage area in Maryland.

In response to a concern expressed by Ms. Staton, Ms. Gable said that twenty-two of twenty-four local school systems are currently offering world languages in middle school and that all high

schools in Maryland currently offer world languages. She reminded the Board that world languages are required for graduation in order to enter college.

Upon motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Dr. Dukes, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows: (In Favor – 9 Dr. Walks was not present for the vote.)

- Approval of Minutes of August 25, 2009
- Personnel (copy attached to these minutes)
- Budget Adjustments for July & August 2009
- Permission to Publish:
 - COMAR 13A.04.11 (NEW)
World Languages

PRINCIPALS AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

Dr. Grasmick said that the Department places great emphasis on school leaders and the role they play in providing instructional improvement and gains in student achievement. She asked Eugene Streagle, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) to introduce two principals and an assistant principal who were selected by their Maryland colleagues as the best representatives of their professions.

Mr. Streagle introduced the following leaders:

- Mr. William Ryan, High School Principal of the Year (River Hill High School in Howard County)
- Dr. Shawn Joseph, Middle School Principal of the Year (Roberto Clemente Middle School, Montgomery County)
- Ms. Melissa Shindel, Assistant Principal of the Year (Patuxent Valley Middle School, Howard County)

Mr. Streagle reported on their exemplary careers and the numerous application requirements for this prestigious award. He noted that all three individuals love students and have made great strides in developing leaders in their schools. In addition to being selected Maryland Assistant Principal of the Year, Ms. Shindel was subsequently selected National Assistant Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Following brief remarks by each recipient, Mr. DeGraffenreidt and Dr. Grasmick presented each with a certificate of recognition.

STATE CURRICULUM: ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

The State Superintendent recommended approval of the proposed English Language Proficiency State Curriculum. She explained that this curriculum defines what English Language Learners (ELL) should know and be able to do at five levels of proficiency across five grade bands. She