

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday-Wednesday
April 29-30, 2008

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

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 28-29, 2008, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Dunbar Brooks, President; Ms. Beverly A. Cooper, Vice-President; Dr. Lelia T. Allen; Mr. Henry Butta; Dr. Charlene M. Dukes; Mr. Blair G. Ewing; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Mr. Renford Freemantle; Ms. Rosa M. Garcia; Mr. Richard Goodall; Dr. Karabelle Pizzigati; Mr. David Tufaro and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Finan was absent on Wednesday, April 29, 2008.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. Skipp Sanders, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Dr. Ronald Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy; Ms. JoAnne Carter, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction and Academic Acceleration and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director to the State Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Superintendent Grasmick asked Mr. Steve Brooks, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Business Services, to respond to questions posed by Mr. Ewing about the budget adjustments for March, 2008. Dr. John Smeallie, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Certification and Accreditation, responded to a question by Dr. Pizzigati regarding COMAR 13A.09.09 and .10.

Upon motion by Dr. Pizzigati, seconded by Mr. Tufaro, and with unanimous agreement, the State Board approved the consent agenda items as follows: (In favor – 12)

Approval of Minutes of March 25-26, 2008
Personnel (**copy attached to these minutes**)
Budget Adjustments for March, 2008
Permission to Publish:

COMAR 13A.09.09 (AMEND)
Educational Programs in Nonpublic Schools

COMAR 13A.09.10 (AMEND)
Educational Programs in Nonpublic Schools and Child Care and
Treatment Facilities

COMAR 13A.07.08 (AMEND)
Incentive Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional
Teaching Standards

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION MONTH

Dr. Grasmick reminded the Board that April is Environmental Education Month in Maryland and introduced Rebecca Bell, Specialist, Environmental Education, Division of Instruction. She explained that Ms. Bell deals with curriculum and environmental issues in the schools and has been given the added responsibility of promoting energy conservation within the MSDE building.

Ms. Bell informed the Board that she had taken steps to make the April meeting of the Board a “green” meeting describing such items as the cups, plates and utensils that the Board would be using for drinks and refreshments as being biodegradable and environmentally friendly. Ms. Bell also described the contents of a complementary bag of energy related products provided to each Board member.

Dr. Grasmick explained that the Governor recently signed an Executive Order requiring State Government to be more environmentally aware. She reported that the Department is participating in a program to preserve the Chesapeake Bay and that staff are currently cataloguing environmental educational programs being done in Maryland.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Brooks thanked Ms. Bell for her diligence in “greening” the State Board meetings.

NATIONAL ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Superintendent asked Dr. Colleen Seremet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Instruction, to introduce an outstanding teacher who has gained national recognition for the excellence of teaching in the field of physical education.

Dr. Seremet introduced Mr. Rocco Aiello, Physical Education Teacher, St. Mary’s County Public Schools and Mr. Michael Mason, Specialist, Physical Education, Division of Instruction. She announced that Mr. Aiello was named the National Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the American Association of Physical Activity and Recreation and described the rigorous process used to select candidates for this award.