



Mar. 22, 2013

### MABE Calendar

March 25 - Legislative Committee meeting  
March 27 - [State Board of Education](#) meeting  
March 27 - [LSA Seminar](#): A Day in the Life of a Pupil Personnel Worker

April 5 - Conference Planning Committee meeting  
April 13 - 15 - [NSBA Annual Conference](#)  
April 18 - [LSA Seminar](#): A Day in the Life of a Principal  
April 19 - [Boardsmanship Academy](#) course:  
It's Time to Go Viral: Using Social Media to Engage Stakeholders and Build Community Capital  
April 22 - Legislative Committee meeting  
April 24 - [State Board of Education](#) meeting

(For a complete calendar with details, please visit the [MABE website](#).)

### MABE Legislative Day Highlights

MABE truly appreciates the attendance - and patience - of the many boards and board members at MABE's Legislative Day Luncheon on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Legislative Committee Chair Bob Heck provided dynamic "MC" services as it became clear that the Senate would be on the floor through the early afternoon, precluding most of the confirmed Senators from attending, or at least attending by 1:00. Bob welcomed legislators in attendance to offer brief remarks, which they greatly appreciated. House Ways and Means Committee Chair, Delegate Sheila Hixson, Education Subcommittee Chair, Delegate Anne Kaiser, and House Minority Leader, Delegate Tony O'Donnell welcomed local board members to Annapolis and updated attendees on pending issues. Eventually, and as promptly as they could, Senators Nancy King and Roy Dyson, the long-time sponsor of our event, also were able to speak shortly after 1:00.

As always, but especially this year given the date change from March 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> with fairly short notice, a huge thanks goes out to board members who made the time on their schedules to attend, and to MABE staff who rallied to make the best of the circumstances and provide the "other duties as assigned" tasks necessary to make this event possible.

The Legislative Committee Meeting that preceded the luncheon provided a much needed opportunity for updates and discussion on major and minor bills pending in the 2013 legislative session. The committee members, joined by many of their fellow board members and several superintendents, received a comprehensive review of education related legislation. The [bill highlights report](#), available on the [MABE website](#), provides the bill synopses, status, and MABE positions on bills by subject area, including: School Funding, School Safety, Charter Schools, Special Education, Employee Relations, Open Meetings, Curriculum & Instruction, and School Calendar & Enrollment, among others.



Looking for the latest legislative news? Check out the latest edition of MABE's [GreenSheet](#), sent to your email on Monday, March 18. Also be sure to visit the [legislative pages](#) of MABE's [website](#) which are updated

frequently during the General Assembly session.

**\*\*Call To Action\*\*** - Members should have recently received a MABE Call to Action, followed by an update. This information can also be found on our [website](#).

### **Legal Services Association (LSA) Seminars Underway**

MABE's LSA offers periodic [seminars](#) on legal issues of importance to board and staff members. Members may send an unlimited number of participants free of charge. Upcoming seminars are:

March 27, 2013, 9:00 - 12:00

A Day in the Life of a Pupil Personnel Worker

April 18, 2013, 9:00 - 12:30

A Day in the Life of a Principal

For more information about LSA, please contact Steve Bounds, Director of Policy and Legal Services, [sbounds@mabe.org](mailto:sbounds@mabe.org).

To register for an LSA seminar, please contact Kathy Bennett, [kbennett@mabe.org](mailto:kbennett@mabe.org).

### **Upcoming Board Development Opportunities**

**Friday, April 19, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. to noon**

#### **It's Time to Go Viral: Using Social Media to Engage Stakeholders and Build Community Capital**

Many school districts have revisited the long held belief that social media is all bad and have started using Blogs, Facebook, and Twitter to better engage stakeholders. Properly leveraged, social media can be utilized to start conversations based on a solid foundation of facts rather than some blogger's rant. With Ari Ioannides, BoardDocs president, you will learn how simple changes to existing websites and board materials combined with proactive messaging can enhance any communications strategy and build community capital.

Who should attend: School Board Members, Superintendents, Board Assistants

Key work areas: Climate, Collaboration, Continuous Improvement

Location: MABE office

**Friday, May 17, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. to noon**

#### **Special Education: The ABCs of IEPs**

Join one of Maryland's best education attorneys, Rochelle Eisenberg, for an in-depth discussion of special education law and what it looks like in real life. Educating children with special needs takes time, commitment, and resources from the school system. In this session, you'll learn the basics, the law, the challenges, and issues in school systems today.

Who should attend: School Board Members, Leadership Program Participants, Superintendents

Key work areas: Vision, Standards, Alignment, Continuous Improvement

Location: MABE office

For more information, contact Kitty Blumsack, [kblumsack@mabe.org](mailto:kblumsack@mabe.org).

To register, contact Kathy Bennett, [kbennett@mabe.org](mailto:kbennett@mabe.org)

## **MABE Surveys Ongoing**

As the Board of Directors begins the process of writing a new strategic plan, surveying our members is a high priority. During the next few months, members will receive a series of surveys designed to receive your input about MABE services. Please participate! The surveys will be relatively short and should take no more than a few minutes of your time.

Our first survey was on the topic of communication methods (how you wish to receive information from MABE), and we greatly appreciate those members who responded.

**Our second survey on the topics of professional development and our website began March 7. Please take a few minutes to provide vital feedback that will enable the board to make informed decisions about serving members in the future.**

The third survey, covering advocacy, legal, and policy services, will be sent in April. If you have not received the current survey, please contact Sandi Barry, [sbarry@mabe.org](mailto:sbarry@mabe.org).

The Nationals School Board Association Conference is just around the corner. MABE officers will be in San Diego to represent Maryland at the NSBA Delegate Assembly and other events, and MABE staff will be there presenting several workshops. Kick off your conference experience by joining us for our annual reception. We look forward to seeing you!

[NSBA Conference website](#)

**Maryland Association of Boards of Education  
invites you to a reception  
Friday, April 12  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**Start your 2013 NSBA Conference by making  
time to connect with Maryland colleagues.  
Join Us!**

**San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina  
Marina Kitchen  
333 West Harbor Drive · San Diego**



## Current Issue of [American School Board Journal](#):

### Testing and Common Core

By Lawrence Hardy

It's too soon to know what effect the Common Core State Standards will have on student achievement, but that fact has not deterred educators, researchers, and others from offering their predictions. What can be said, however, is that the ambitious, state-led, federally backed program now being implemented by 46 states and thousands of school districts across the country will have a huge impact on how teachers are expected to teach, students are taught to think, and how both students and teachers are evaluated.

Those facts alone make the coming transition from the patchwork of state standards to a new set of common guidelines -- and what are expected to be, essentially, common tests -- a truly foundational change.

"With the new standards, teachers will have to have increased content knowledge -- knowledge that looks different than it did in the past," says Nicolle Karantinos, curriculum director for Arizona's Chandler Unified School District. "We are going to make sure that we are teaching differently."

Karantinos believes firmly in the Common Core and its power to change curriculum, teacher professional development, and testing -- and change them all for the better. "But it's been a really short timeline," she says, "and that's been a struggle."

[Complete Article](#)



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