



Aug. 16, 2013

MABE Calendar

August 27 - Maryland State Board of Education meeting

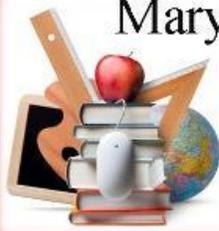
September

- 2 - Labor Day, MABE offices closed
- 9 - Legal Services Association meeting
- 13 - School Security Directors meeting
- 20 - School Risk Managers meeting
- 24 - Maryland State Board of Education meeting

October

- 1-2 - New Board Member Orientation
- 2-4 - MABE [Annual Conference](#)

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



Maryland Association of Boards of Education
2013 Annual Conference
Ocean City, October 2-4

Don't miss keynote Michael McGough, associate professor of education at Pennsylvania's York College and amateur historian. Wonder what the Battle of Gettysburg has to do with leadership skills necessary for school board service? Join us and find out!

Registration is now open! Visit the [conference page](#) of our [website](#) for complete conference details.

Charles W. Willis
Memorial Award
Honoring Outstanding School Board Service

Col. Donald M. Wade, Charles County Board Member, Chosen as 2013 Recipient

MABE has announced the selection of Col. Donald M. Wade as the Charles W. Willis Award Recipient for 2013. The award, named for the first executive director of the association, is presented to a board member who has made outstanding contributions to school board service in Maryland. Col. Wade was selected from among a number of highly qualified nominees recommended by local Boards of Education. ([more](#))

[Charles W. Willis Memorial Award](#)

News from the Board of Directors

Board Now Using BoardDocs

Like so many local boards, the MABE Board of Directors has gone paperless by taking advantage of long-time MABE partner, [BoardDocs](#). The first meeting went smoothly, with members appreciating the lack of paper and the efficiency of the BoardDocs online agenda and attachments.

For more information about BoardDocs paperless meetings for your own board, please contact Sandi Barry, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, sbarry@mabe.org.

2013-2018 Strategic Plan

Since January of this year, the MABE Board of Directors has been hard at work developing a new strategic plan for 2013-2018. President Rodger Janssen appointed an ad hoc committee to begin the process, chaired by President-Elect Katie Groth. Based on the recommendations of the committee, the Board of Directors approved a revised mission statement, and reaffirmed MABE's core values. They also agreed to revisit MABE's vision statement at the next Board of Directors retreat. Also as a part of the process, several surveys of the membership were conducted to gauge use of and satisfaction with MABE services. In addition, the board was provided with several presentations on external forces influencing education today.

Following this internal and external scan, the board met in a two day retreat to begin writing a new strategic plan. While not yet finalized, broad goals were identified in four major areas:

- communications and marketing
- partnerships
- professional development
- advocacy

The final Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 will be shared with the membership at the Annual Conference business meeting in October. Following the conference, staff will be crafting a work plan to be discussed at the Board of Directors retreat.

Successful Start to MABE's New Board/Superintendent Assistant Program

The newest edition to MABE's Professional Development Programs, the Board/Superintendent Assistant Program, has drawn a high number of participants from around the state. This is an individualized program designed for board/superintendent assistants who are interested in receiving additional training.

The program requires attendance at five sessions, which can include the Boardsmanship Academy courses, and MABE and/or NSBA conferences, and a project designed to improve the functioning of the board office or documenting board practice in the participant's school system.

The first all-day training consisted of Parliamentary Procedure, conducted by Tyson Bennett of the law firm Carney, Kelehan, Bennett, Bresler & Scherr, and Meeting Minutes, conducted by Rochelle Eisenberg of PK Law.

(See photos below)

Dorchester and Queen Anne's County Public Schools Sign On with Milestone Communications

Two more Maryland school systems, Dorchester County and Queen Anne's County, have signed marketing agreements with wireless infrastructure development and management firm [Milestone Communications](#). These agreements were facilitated through Milestone's business partnership with MABE. ([press release](#))

Milestone Communications is a leading developer of wireless towers in partnership with school and government landowners, enabling them to direct millions of dollars annually to educational and extracurricular budgets. Milestone solves network coverage priorities for the wireless industry efficiently and reliably by working closely with local communities to provide solutions that are aesthetically and functionally optimized for their environments.

From NSBA [Legal Clips](#)

:

Department of Education issues release of school district's agreement to continue to treat gender identity student as it has

The Arcadia Unified School District (AUSD) has entered into a resolution agreement with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division which ends the federal agencies' investigation into allegations of discrimination against a transgender student. Under the resolution agreement, AUSD agrees to continue accommodations it began providing the student over a year ago. ([more](#))

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

NOTE: MABE's own Director of Board Development, Kitty Blumsack, co-authored this article with assistance from Kent County board member, Michael Harvey.

7 Signs of Effective School Board Members

By Kathryn Blumsack and Terry McCabe

Congratulations! You're now a member of the Board of Education. If you're like most new board members, you've worked hard to reach this point. You've listened to your community, and come to understand its values and concerns. Above all, you've embraced the transformative power of a great board to improve public education. Local control of education through elected school boards is a deeply held American political tradition. School boards may be small and local, but they represent perhaps the most important daily civic commitment we as citizens make to our communities, our children, and our future.

As a new board member, you bring sharp questions, innovative ideas, and fresh energy. You'll look at established routines and policies with new eyes, you'll challenge old assumptions, and you'll have the opportunity to share your perspective with your fellow board members. At the same time, you'll learn how to make a positive difference in the work of the board, and how to contribute most effectively to lasting change. We want you to be the most effective possible advocate for your community's educational vision and values. To help you succeed, we're going to share with you the seven practices of highly effective boards. ([more](#))

Scenes from MABE

MABE is now on [Flickr](#)! Check out photos from the past few years (with more to come) and see the work from the ever-present photographer. In the meantime, here are a few recent pictures:



2013 Board of Directors Retreat

Top row, L-R: Don Wade, Katie Groth; George Abner, Steve James, Jeana Jacobs; John Woolums, Shirley Brandman, Rodger Janssen

Bottom row, L-R: Jeana Jacobs, David Stone, Judy Docca, David Stone, Tom Carr





Board-Superintendent Assistant Program

Top: Participants pose for a photo after a workshop.

Middle: Those registered in the full program show off their program shirts.

Bottom: Tyson Bennett, from the law firm of Carney, Kelehan, Bennett, Bresler & Scherr; Margaret Brown, and Vivian Fisher



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