

**March 24, 2015**

## Oral Argument

The board heard arguments in the case of *Allison York v. Prince George's County Board of Education*.

## Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Renewal Request

Dr. Lowery introduced the ESEA Flexibility Renewal request. Dr. Jack Smith explained the waiver renewal process and that Maryland is eligible for a three year waiver with a right to withdraw at the end of any year of the agreement. The waiver process must be completed by the end of March or there will be an automatic return to AYP. It was pointed out by Dr. Lowery that all Maryland schools would be deemed to be failing under that evaluation system.

Dr. Mary Gable further presented the status report and responded to a number of language questions and concerns from board members. She reported there were either no or few substantive changes to the principles, and those are listed in the report (see handout link below).

The parameters of the renewal request were approved by the board with the understanding that changes would be taken up by the board by electronic means.

[Handout](#)

## Wellness Policy Briefing

Stewart Eidel of MSDE and Erin Hager, Ph.D., from University of Maryland School of Medicine, reported on the status of the Wellness Policies and Practices Evaluation Project in all 24 Maryland LEAs.

A presentation supported the report; questions and feedback were forthcoming from a number of board members. The report focused on steps to support school-level implementation of wellness policies and practices. The report contains five school-level recommendations, presented for discussion only, which are:

1. Establish a school based wellness team with a designated coordinator (Champion) that is broadly representative of the school community.
2. Develop school wellness goals and implementation plans that connect with school improvement team goals.

3. Identify resources to support implementation of wellness policy provisions at the school
4. Communicate and promote the importance of healthy eating and physical activity for students, families, and the community
5. Gather and report school-level data on wellness policy implementation.

### **COMAR 13A.12.01 – General Provisions – Permission to Publish**

Dr. Satterfield reported on the recommended COMAR changes which clarify the terms of issuance of the Initial Professional Certificate. Permission to Publish was granted.

[Handout](#)

### **Legislative Update**

A written report was provided and questions about specific bills and their status was entertained. Bills were covered well beyond the actual written report.

[Handout](#)

### **State Superintendent's Update**

Race to the Top Update - A question was presented as to whether the various technology issues remaining will be solved in a satisfactory manner. MSDE staff expressed confidence that the technology issues will be resolved in a timely fashion.

[Race to the Top Handout](#)

School System Calendar Modification - As a result of more severe than anticipated winter weather, Dr. Lowery requested the State Board grant her the authority to approve written waiver requests up to three days from the 180 day requirement. The request was approved by the State Board.

[School System Calendar Modifications Handout](#)

### **Milken Awards**

This year's Milken National Educator Award winner is Margaret (Maggie) Hawk, a first grade teacher at Yellow Springs Elementary School, where she had been a student, in Frederick County and overcame dyslexia and a developmental reading disorder. Ms. Hawk was commended by Frederick Superintendent Theresa Alban and her principal, Sue Krieger. A video captured the surprise announcement of the award in Frederick County in January.

[Handout](#)

### **State Board Member Update**

Several State Board members shared information about several conferences and local educational events that they had attended.

### **Public Comment**

Cheryl Bost testified on behalf of MSEA on the ESEA Waiver Request.