



February 2016

### MABE Calendar

#### March

- 3 - [Conference](#) Program Committee Meeting
- 4, 11, 18, & 25 - Green Street Coalition Meetings
- 4 - Benefits Administrators Meeting
- 7 - New Board Member Mini-Orientation
- 11 - [Boardsmanship Academy](#) Workshop
- 14 - [Legislative Committee Meeting](#)
- 18 - Security Directors Meeting
- 22 - [State Board Meeting](#)
- 30 - Student Accident Cat Cash Meeting

#### April

- 1 - [School Funding Adequacy Ad Hoc Committee](#) Meeting
- 1, 8, & 15 - Green Street Coalition Meetings
- 4 - [Legislative Committee Meeting](#)
- 8 - MABE Reception at the NSBA Conference
- 9-11 - [NSBA Conference](#)
- 14 - [Workers Compensation Fund Trustees Meeting](#)
- 15 - [Boardsmanship Academy](#) Workshop
- 18 - LSA Directors Meeting
- 21 - [Conference](#) Program Committee Meeting
- 21-22 - [Group Insurance Pool](#) Trustees Retreat
- 25 - [Legislative Committee Meeting](#)
- 26 - [State Board Meeting](#)
- 27 - [Board of Directors](#) Meeting
- 29 - School Risk Managers Meeting

#### May

- 6 - Maintenance Managers Meeting
- 13 - [Boardsmanship Academy](#) Workshop
- 19 - [Conference](#) Program Committee Meeting
- 20 - Security Directors Meeting

Oct. 5-7 - MABE [Annual Conference](#)

## President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Despite the freezing temperatures, attendance at MABE's Annual Legislative Luncheon was impressive again this year. Board members, superintendents, school system staff, and the larger education community turned out in large numbers to share insights and opinions on the various education policy and funding issues pending in Annapolis during the 2016 Legislative Session.

We especially appreciate the many legislators who attended, a number of whom gave remarks strongly supporting MABE's legislative priorities. Our special thanks goes to Senator Adelaide (Addie) Eckhardt for sponsoring the event, which provided us the opportunity to gather and meet with legislators in the Senate's conference center.

If you were not able to attend, more details and a list of our speakers was provided in the Feb. 22nd issue of the [GreenSheet Legislative Update](#). Staff also produced a [slideshow](#) to capture the event.

In other legislative news, the hearing on MABE's [Pre-Kindergarten funding bill](#) (SB461/HB1433) was held before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on February 24. Stacy Korbela, president of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, waited hours to join MABE's panel but unfortunately had to leave before the bill was finally called. John Woolums, MABE's Director of Governmental Relations, provided compelling testimony, along with PSSAM's Renee Spence, the ACLU's Bebe Verdery, and Maryland PTAs' Ysla Leight. Prince George's County Public Schools representatives and Baltimore City parents also provided testimony in support of this bill. As always, we'll keep members aware of the progress and final outcome of this important piece of legislation.

My best -

**Warner**

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Warner I. Sumpter  
MABE President

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## NSBA Rescheduled Events

As a result of the January snowstorm, the National School Boards Association had to reschedule two events. Please click on the event name for details and registration information.

[Equity Symposium](#) - June 11, 2016 - Educating and Leading: Addressing Equity through Effective Policy and Strategies

[Advocacy Institute](#) - June 12-14, 2016 - Election Year Politics & Public Schools

## MABE's Annual Reception at the NSBA Conference

# The Maryland Association of Boards of Education invites you to a reception

Friday, April 8, 2016  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
The Seaport Hotel  
Flagship Ballroom  
200 Seaport Boulevard

Start your 2016  
NSBA Conference by making  
time to connect with  
Maryland colleagues.  
Join us!



Many thanks to our generous sponsors:



## School Law & Policy Update

Looking for background on current school law topics? Browse the presentations recently posted on the MABE website:

[Custody Issues](#) - Presentation made to Kent County Public School staff, Summer 2015

[Search & Seizure Issues](#) - Presentation made to Worcester County Public School staff, Summer 2015

[Negligence Liability Avoidance](#) - Presentation made to Kent County Public School staff, Summer 2015

[Transgender & Related Issues](#) - Legal Services Association presentation, October 2015

[Title IX Issues](#) - Presentation made to Worcester County Public School staff, Summer 2015

[Social Media for School Employees](#) - Presentation made to the Maryland Negotiation Service, Fall 2015

For more information about a presentation to your board or in your school system, please contact Stephen C. Bounds, Director of Legal & Policy Services.

## **Maryland School Law Deskbook Excerpt**

A recent question posed to MABE staff received a fast answer, thanks to the Maryland School Law Deskbook:

*Q: May a home-schooled student participate in public school activities?*

*A: The answer is no, as found in Chapter 16: Public schools are not statutorily authorized to allow home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities and academic programs at public schools. Legislation has been introduced in recent years, but not enacted, that would have authorized a public school to allow a home-schooled student to participate in extracurricular activities and the academic programs offered at the public school.*

In answering the specific question, it was added that if an after-school program is run by an outside entity, such as the county park and recreation department, then presumably anyone can participate.

The [Maryland School Law Deskbook](#) is the first education law reference of its kind in Maryland. Written by experienced education law attorneys, and published in cooperation between the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) and LexisNexis, this comprehensive publication offers current and authoritative information on legal issues facing schools within the context of state and federal education law. To purchase the 2015-2016 Maryland School Law Deskbook call 1-800-533-1637, or visit the [LexisNexis Bookstore](#).

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## **Board Development News**

February's Boardsmanship Academy Workshop, Understanding the Work of the State Board, began with the observation of a regular state board meeting, followed by lunch and a "debrief" with John Woolums, MABE's Director of Governmental Relations. Attendees also were able to talk with state board members during breaks, and discuss various agenda items.

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## **Upcoming Boardsmanship Academy Workshops**

### **Writing Skills for Board Members - Friday, March 11, 2016**

One of the key responsibilities of a good school board member is to speak to the public through the written word - in opinion pieces, letters to the editor, and other public statements. Whether it's talking about notable successes and achievements or defending schools against unfair or inaccurate criticism, board members can support public education and strengthen community relations through the written word. In this session with former board member and college professor Michael Harvey, author of *The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing* and editor-in-chief of *Leadership and the Humanities*, you will hone your writing skills in a way that helps tell the story of the people, the challenges, and the accomplishments of your school system.

Who Should Attend: School Board Members, Leadership Program Participants,  
Key Work Areas: Community Leadership, Board and Superintendent Relationships  
Location: MABE office

### **Making Your Meetings Work Using Parliamentary Procedure - Friday, April 15, 2016**

Do your meetings drag on for too long? Do you "call the question" at the right time? Effective board leaders know and understand the elements of parliamentary procedure and how to use them to make your meetings efficiently. Led by Tyson Bennett, managing partner at Carney, Kelehan, Bresler, Bennett and Scherr, LLP, this session promises to be highly interactive and engaging, providing you with a clear understanding of ways to make your meetings both effective and productive.

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

Key work areas: Community Leadership, Board and Superintendent Relationships

Location: MABE office

Photos below; more available on [Flickr](#).

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## Candidate Info Sessions

Is your board interested in cultivating the next generation of local leaders? In support of our commitment to quality leadership for Maryland's public schools, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education has developed a [Candidate Information Session](#) to help school and community leaders inform school board candidates.

Customized for your school system and held locally, these sessions provide candidates with information on the following topics:

- Overview of school boards and members in the state and country
- Board member duties, roles, and responsibilities
- The Board - Superintendent Relationship
- Characteristics of effective board members
- Why board members serve

To discuss planning an event for candidates, please contact Kitty Blumsack, Director of Board Development, at [kblumsack@mabe.org](mailto:kblumsack@mabe.org).

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## MABE Associate Membership

*Once a school board member, always an advocate for public education*

MABE counts on the continued interest of former local school board members to support the association in our work as advocates for Maryland public schools. Associate members are able to keep abreast of current issues and challenges facing public education and Maryland board members. They receive the MABE Directory of school systems and members, and our electronic publications including legislative updates, newsletters, and the state board meeting summary, *The Monitor*. Associate members are welcomed at various MABE events, including the annual conference.

[Associate membership](#) is open to all former Maryland local board of education members. For more information about becoming an associate member, please contact Sandi Barry, Communications & Marketing Coordinator, [sbarry@mabe.org](mailto:sbarry@mabe.org).

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

## Teacher Diversity Efforts in Boston

by Michelle Healy

Boston Public Schools identifies and offers "letters of reasonable assurance" of future employment to promising black applicants and students about to graduate from a teachers college. The effort is being praised by the city and school officials for increasing diversity. This academic year, 26 percent of April hires were black compared to only 17 percent of August hires.

Boston is under a 1974 court order stipulating that 25 percent of the district's teaching staff be black, with another 10 percent comprised of other minority groups. Currently, 38 percent of Boston teachers are minorities, and just under 21 percent are black.

"Among big cities, the average [of minority teachers] is about 28 percent so we are doing incredibly well given the national picture," says Emily Qazilbash, assistant superintendent for human capital. "We still don't think we're doing a good enough job in that we would like the diversity of our workforce to reflect the wonderful diversity of our student body." ([more](#))

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### Scenes from MABE

Below are a few photos from MABE events. To view all photos, please visit MABE's [Flickr](#) page.

Legislative Luncheon Photos:



Boardsmanship Academy workshop photos:





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