



January 2016

### MABE Calendar

#### February

- 1 - [Legislative Committee Meeting](#)
- 4 - [Workers Compensation Trustees Meeting](#)
- 5 - [Conference](#) Program Committee Meeting
- 5, 19, & 26 - Green Street Coalition Meetings
- 12 - [Legislative Committee Meeting](#)
- 12 - [Annual Legislative Luncheon](#)
- 15 - Office closed for Presidents Day
- 19 - Maintenance Managers Meeting
- 23 - [State Board Meeting](#) and [Boardsmanship Academy](#) Workshop
- 24 - MABE [Board of Directors](#) Meeting
- 26 - School Risk Managers Meeting
- 29 - [Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

#### March

- 3 - [School Funding Adequacy Ad Hoc Committee](#) Meeting
- 3 - [Conference](#) Program Committee Meeting
- 4, 11, 18, & 25 - Green Street Coalition Meetings
- 11 - [Boardsmanship Academy](#) Workshop
- 14 - [Legislative Committee Meeting](#)
- 18 - Security Directors Meeting
- 22 - [State Board 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

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

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

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## President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As usual, Maryland winters are unpredictable! I hope this finds each of you having enjoyed or at least tolerated the recent blizzard, and successfully navigating your way through school delays, closings, and budget season.

2016 is proving to be a busy session in Annapolis, and recent visits between key legislators and MABE leadership have been productive as we share our [Legislative Priorities and Positions](#) with them. We are gearing up for our Annual [Legislative Day Luncheon](#) on February 12, and hope you are planning to join us. Our goal throughout session is to keep you informed, so please look for MABE's [GreenSheet](#) Legislative Update, Call-to-Action notices, and news releases in your email inbox, and take action as needed.

In these busy days and months, the work of the MABE executive team and board of directors, many committee chairs and committee members, and the MABE staff proves to be invaluable to the organization, and I extend my sincere thanks to all of them. I truly believe that our strong, collective voice can make a difference and enable us to continue the progress we have made in providing our students the education they deserve.

My best -

**Warner**

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

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## MABE's Annual Legislative Day Luncheon

Sponsored by Senator Addie Eckardt, MABE's Annual Legislative Day Luncheon provides a forum for legislative leaders to share their perspectives and positions on education funding and policy issues and for local board members to advocate for MABE's legislative priorities. The President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and education and budget committee chairs and vice chairs present remarks, share lunch, and engage local board members in lively discussions. All members of the House and Senate are invited and many attend looking for their local boards and their input on pending bills.

Friday, February 12, 2016, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Miller Senate Building, Annapolis, MD

Pre-Luncheon Meeting for Legislative Committee Members, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Convenient parking at [Navy/Marine Corps Stadium](#)

For additional information please contact Tracy Oldaker, 410.841.5414 or [toldaker@mabe.org](mailto:toldaker@mabe.org).

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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 Event Insurance Covers Early Conference End

As last fall's conference-goers will recall, deteriorating weather conditions necessitated an early end to the 2015 Annual Conference.

After negotiation with the carrier providing event insurance, MABE is now able to provide refunds to attendees. Actual amounts will be based upon registration and event fees, and the portions of conference that were cancelled (Thursday dinner and all Friday activities).

Local board presidents and school board offices have been contacted by MABE to make arrangements for reimbursement. Should you require further information, please contact Kathy Bennett at [kbennett@mabe.org](mailto:kbennett@mabe.org).

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### U.S Department of Education Awards Nearly \$300,000 to Baltimore City School District

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students awarded the Baltimore City Schools a [Project School Emergency Response to Violence](#) (PSERV) grant totaling \$292,647. The grant will be used to assist with ongoing recovery efforts following the unrest in Baltimore in April 2015.

"We have to work harder and do more to ensure that our students feel safe in their schools and communities," said Ann Whalen, senior advisor to the secretary, delegated the duties of the assistant secretary of elementary and secondary education. "As adults, it is our responsibility to help protect and nurture students, especially when tragic incidents occur that affect the school environment and impact the community in such a way that hinders learning. This Project SERV grant will help the district move forward in restoring the learning environment." ([more](#))

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### MABE Welcomes Newest Affiliate

[Insight Management Consulting](#), located in Crofton, Maryland, is the latest business to sign on to MABE's Affiliate Program. Their business specializes in training, coaching, and consulting focusing on interpersonal communications, leadership development, and employee engagement. CEO Paul McMurray joined us in the

exhibit hall at the 2015 Annual Conference, and decided that the Affiliate Program would be an excellent connection.

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## Board Development News

The first two Boardsmanship Academy sessions were recently held at the MABE office.

This past December, Henry Johnson, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, MSDE; Heather Lageman, Director of Curriculum, MSDE; and Melissa Finkel, Education Specialist, MSDE, presented a workshop entitled *PARCC Assessments: What Every Board Member Needs to Know*.

They gave a detailed presentation on what types of assessments are used in Maryland, when and why student learning is assessed, what assessments are used, who designs and requires the assessments, and how the results are utilized. Board members also received an update on the status of the recently formed Commission to Review Maryland's use of Assessments in Public Schools.

In January, John R. Woolums, Director of Governmental Relations for MABE, presented a workshop on the Charter School Improvement Act of 2015.

Board members gained a deeper understanding of Maryland's approach to authorizing and operating public charter schools, from the Charter School Act of 2003 to the Charter School Improvement Act of 2015. Woolums and attendees explored the perceptions and realities of charter schools as public schools of choice, and the board's role in their governance.

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## Upcoming Boardsmanship Academy Workshops:

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Understanding the Work of the State Board\*

This session is designed to give board members a greater understanding of the State Board, how it operates, and the kind of decisions it makes. From 8:30 - noon, you'll observe the State Board of Education in one of its meetings, and then have an opportunity to "debrief" with John Woolums, MABE's Director of Governmental Relations, over lunch

Who should attend: School board members, leadership program participants

Key Work Areas: Vision, Accountability, Board and Superintendent Relationships

Location: Maryland State Department of Education, 8th Floor, Conf. Room 3

200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland

Friday, March 11, 2016

Writing Skills for Board Members

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

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

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## **Maryland Superintendent Op-Ed Featured on AASA Website**

Dr. Henry Wagner, Superintendent of Dorchester County Public Schools, recently wrote an editorial that was featured on the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) website.

*Five Power Verbs That Elevated Our Schools*

*By Henry V. Wagner, Jr. /School Administrator, October 2015*

*One of the promises I made upon becoming superintendent in Dorchester County, Md., about five years ago was that our business, local government and faith-based leaders would become a part of the fabric of our school system. I made this pledge after perceiving a wide disconnect between the local schools and the community at large.*

*Initially, the vehicle for this sought-after synergy was the formation of my Superintendent's Advisory Council. I used the first meeting of this collection of prominent leaders as a wide-ranging listening session: What's good about our public schools? How do we need to improve? How might you get involved directly with us? The positive and not-so-positive feedback they offered came with a sincerely expressed desire to "roll up their sleeves" and become involved personally. ([more](#))*

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## **Somerset County Board Recognizes the Work of MABE**

At a recent Somerset County Board of Education meeting, Deputy Executive Director Steve James and Risk Manager John Magoon were recognized for the ongoing insurance and risk management services provided to the school system.

MABE's Risk Management staff works with all 24 districts, but with a dedication to the members of the two Insurance Programs, the Pool and the Fund. They strive to promote effective management of risks our members face, allowing them to benefit from opportunities that arise.

In the past year, MABE's risk management officers approved 30 grants designed to support the risk management efforts of the members of the Insurance Programs, totaling \$595,000.

*Below: L-R: Somerset Board President Warner I. Sumpter, MABE Deputy Executive Director Steve James, MABE Risk Manager John Magoon, Somerset Superintendent of Schools John W. Gaddis  
L-R: Steve James, Supervisor of Transportation and Operations Gregory Sutton, John Magoon*



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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](#)

### Comeback Season

A New Jersey school district and community recover from a hazing scandal  
by Glenn Cook

More than two decades after playing his last football game, Richard Labbe still has dreams about being on the field. "If you took Father Time away, I would never stop playing football. That's how much I love football," says Labbe, who vividly remembers his final high school and college games as an undersized lineman.

For more than a year, however, football has been the subject of nightmares for Labbe, who was named superintendent of New Jersey's Sayreville Public Schools in July 2014. Just three months later, the district's acclaimed football program, which had won six state championships and made 20 consecutive playoff appearances, became embroiled in a locker room hazing scandal that drew national attention.

Like any scandal or catastrophic event, Sayreville's story has multiple layers and details that have not-and in some cases still cannot-be made public. But what happened then and what's happened since offer valuable lessons for other school districts." ([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.



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