

Meeting [Agenda](#) on MSDE website; meeting agenda in [PDF](#)

MABE Attendees

MABE President Warner I. Sumpter (Somerset), MABE Treasurer Ellen Flynn Giles (Howard), and MABE Past President Kathryn Groth (Frederick) were present for the meeting representing MABE and recognized at the beginning of the meeting by newly elected State Board President Andrew Smarick.

Election of Officers

The board elected Andrew Smarick as president. Dr. S. James Gates was re-elected as vice president. Mr. Smarick introduced [new board members](#) Barbara Shreeve and Jannette O'Neill-González, along with new student board member David Edimo.

[Press release](#)

Consent Agenda

[Persistently Dangerous and Probationary Status Schools](#) update was included in the consent agenda. President Smarick questioned the inclusion of this item in the consent agenda. Vice President Gates explained it was to avoid media attention that would prohibit the school from moving forward with improvement, and that staff and parents were notified directly regarding the status. Mr. Smarick requested the board consider removing this item from future consent agendas, and placing it as a regular discussion item in the interest of transparency.

Discussion of Commission on Assessments Report

Dr. Salmon introduced newly appointed Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Assessment, & Accountability Dr. Carroll Visintainer. Dr. Visintainer presented recommendations from the final report of the Commission on Assessments that provided three overarching themes:

- Theme A: Large-scale assessment should be limited in purpose, number and time.
- Theme B: Large-scale testing is a shared responsibility of MSDE and local school systems.
- Theme C: Technology plays a critical role in testing and reporting decisions, but those decisions are not independent of hardware and infrastructure disparity.

The board engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the committee's role and recommendations, MSDE's fundamental role in assessments and accountability, and the difference between formative and summative assessments.

Board member Shreeve recommended a work session to review the committees' recommendations and the board agreed.

[Presentation](#)

Mental and Social Health Issues Impacting Maryland's Students

Dr. Salmon introduced:

Walter J. Sallee, Director, Student Services and Strategic Planning, MSDE

Deborah Nelson, Section Chief, School Safety and Climate, MSDE

Michael Ford, School Safety Specialist, MSDE

Robert C. Schmidt, Behavioral Specialist, Talbot County Public Schools

The panel provided the board information regarding MSDE's efforts to address student suicide and human trafficking. The presentation addressed how MSDE is addressing these issues, what lessons MSDE learned as it implements initiatives to address these issues, and next steps to ensure the desired outcomes.

The board engaged the panel in a discussion of social media's impact on cyberbullying. The board also suggested engaging with student and community groups on these issues.

[Presentation 1](#)

[Presentation 2](#)

Regulatory Actions

[COMAR 13A.05.01 Provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education \(AMEND\)](#)

In accordance with the Regulatory Review and Evaluation Act, MSDE periodically schedules regulations for review. Changes were made in this regulation to reflect current terminology, reflect reference to correct citation, reflect a statutory amendment, or to coordinate with Maryland Infants and Toddlers regulations.

[COMAR 13A.05.12 Hearing Aid Loan Bank \(NEW\)](#)

The board granted permission to publish new regulations that govern the administration of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank.

Charter School Eligibility Criteria

The board received a proposal for implementation of certain provisions of Maryland's Charter School Law which was revised in the 2015 Session of the Maryland General Assembly. Specifically, the proposal addresses Education Article § 9-104.1 which directs the State Board to develop standards and criteria by which an eligible public charter school shall be assessed by local boards of education. Eligible charter schools then would be granted flexibility in operations.

The board engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding new charter school processes, and how new standards and criteria would impact new and current charter schools. The discussion centered on proposed autonomies that would be granted to a charter school meeting certain criteria after five years in operation, whether these autonomies currently exist, and if they would be withdrawn prior to the five year review should the State Board approve the proposal.

Board member Chester Finn proposed the current process be put on hold until it could be determined that changes would not negatively impact charter schools. Dr. Salmon agreed and asked Liz Kameen, Principal Counsel, MSDE, to research and provide information for board consideration at a later meeting.

[Presentation and Handout](#)

Maryland Public School Standards for Telecommunications Distribution Systems (DISCONTINUATION)

Staff requested the board discontinue the requirement that major capital projects comply with the telecommunications standards because as instructional technology has changed, the *Standards* have become outdated. The wired and wireless technology currently being installed by school systems

supersedes the requirements and nature of the *Standards*. Each local board is responsible for determining the best technology, including telecommunication distribution systems, for existing and new school buildings. Discontinuation of the standards will ensure that school systems have the flexibility they need. Local superintendents were notified in September 2015 of the intent to discontinue the *Standards*, and MSDE did not receive any objections or comments on the proposal.

[Handout](#)

Public Comment

A speaker from the Citizens Advisory Committee for Baltimore County commented on the need for Gifted and Talented Education, and the State Board's need to ensure the law is being followed in all school systems.

State Superintendent Update

Dr. Salmon provided a brief overview of the [School Improvement Grant](#) recently awarded to MSDE by the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Salmon asked Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Academic Policy & Innovation, to present an update on the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). Dr. Gable provided an overview of the ESSA Internal Committee work plan for the completion of Maryland's Consolidated State Plan/Application including timelines and a draft outline.

The board discussed gathering information from outside groups including data, stakeholder group feedback, and best practices so they can make informed decisions. Dr. Salmon shared that she will be meeting with state superintendents from Pennsylvania and Delaware to discuss what they are doing. Dr. Gable acknowledged the need for information, and stressed that there is a tight timeline within which the staff needs to work.

[Handout and Presentation](#)

Dr. Salmon recommended changing the HSA biology assessment from a high school graduation requirement to a participation graduation requirement for school year 2016-2017 because the biology HSA was not aligned to the curriculum currently being taught. The Board voted to include the change in the graduation requirements regulations that were pending publication in the Maryland Register. They will be published in the Maryland Register for public comment in late August or early September.

State Board Update

The board discussed [proposed meeting dates](#) for 2017. The September meeting was changed from September 25 to September 17, and the calendar was unanimously approved.

Mr. Smarick noted the August meeting schedule will be revised because of the proposed work session on the Commission of Assessments report.

Opinions

- *Eudaimonia Foundation Corporation v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners*, affirming the local board's decision not to renew MATHS' charter
- *Shannon and Dennis P. v. Dorchester County Board of Education*, remanding the case to the local board to resolve all outstanding issues in the Appellants' appeal.
- *Josette Williams and LaShawn Jackson v. Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer of Prince George's County Public Schools*, finding the Appellants in default and dismissing the appeal.
- *Janet Winter v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education*, affirming the decision of the local board because it is not arbitrary, unreasonable, or illegal.