

March 10, 2017

A Message from the President

Greetings!

I am pleased to report that my first few months as President have been eventful and productive. MABE continues to be proactive in serving members on a number of fronts.

Making Our Collective Voice Heard

We continue to strengthen our collaborative partnerships and our collective voice. State Board President Andy Smarick took us up on an invitation to attend our February Board of Directors meeting. While our directors are charged with representing the needs and challenges of all Maryland school boards, Mr. Smarick was very appreciative of the local perspectives shared by our directors who are representative of our diverse state. We, in turn, found hearing the point of view of the State Board and its leadership extremely valuable and informative. I am hopeful that this kind of outreach is the foundation for a stronger relationship with the State Board of Education.

A Focus on Equity

In response to the gaps we see among our students in opportunity and academic performance, as well as to concerns raised by our Board of Directors, I have established an Ad Hoc Committee on Equity.

This committee is charged with providing a forum for local boards of education to examine and discuss the concept and issue of “equity” as it relates to student opportunity, learning and instruction in our public schools. The committee will develop a shared understanding and vision of “equity,” produce guiding principles related to this issue that will inform MABE programming and professional development opportunities, and develop and identify policy elements and strategies to assist member boards in crafting local policy.

I am grateful to President-Elect Charles “Chuck” McDaniels (Baltimore County) for graciously accepting the appointment to chair this important body. As Board of Education members, I know we are all committed to the success of every student and to eliminating barriers that prevent them from access to the opportunities that public education provides. My thanks to Chuck for his leadership and to the members of the committee for their willingness to work on this critical issue.

Other members of the committee are: Martha James-Hassan (Baltimore City); Pamela Cousins (Calvert); Virginia Harrison (Carroll); Virginia McGraw (Charles); Shebra Evans (Montgomery); Beverly Anderson (Prince George’s); and Michael Garman (Talbot).

I am honored to serve an organization that represents members dedicated to the well-being and success of each and every Maryland student. I am fortunate to have a diligent, insightful Board of Directors

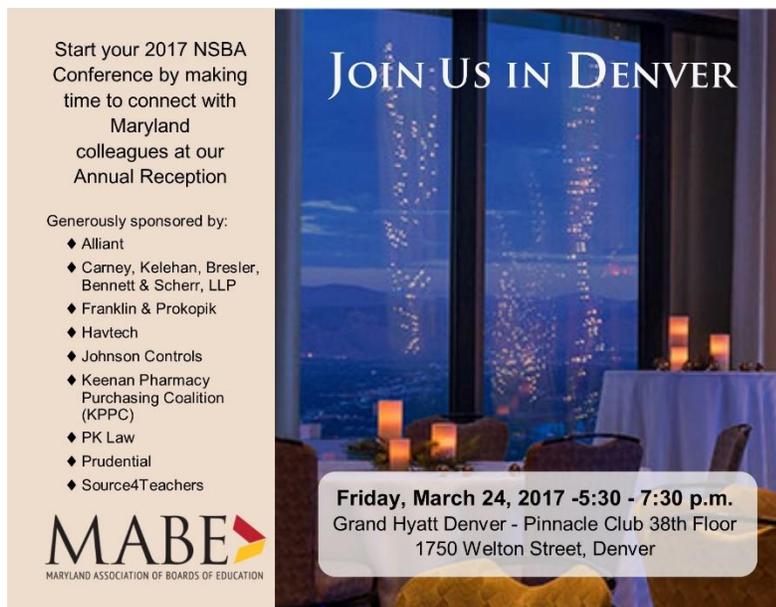
supported by talented and hard-working staff. I greatly appreciate the work all of our members do each and every day to serve our students, families and communities.

My best –



Join Us for MABE's Reception at NSBA's Annual Conference

The National School Boards Association Conference is just around the corner, March 25-27 in Denver, Colorado. MABE officers will be there to represent Maryland at the NSBA Delegate Assembly and other events, and MABE staff will be there to support members and present workshops. Kick off your conference experience by joining us for our annual reception. We look forward to seeing you!



Start your 2017 NSBA Conference by making time to connect with Maryland colleagues at our Annual Reception

Generously sponsored by:

- ◆ Alliant
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- ◆ PK Law
- ◆ Prudential
- ◆ Source4Teachers

MABE
MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION

JOIN US IN DENVER

Friday, March 24, 2017 -5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Grand Hyatt Denver - Pinnacle Club 38th Floor
1750 Welton Street, Denver

Upcoming Boardmanship Academy Course

Friday, April 21, 2017

It's Time to Go Viral: Using Social Media to Engage Stakeholders and Build Community Capital

Many school districts have revisited the long held belief that social media isn't all bad and have started using Blogs, Facebook and Twitter to better engage stakeholders. Properly leveraged, social media can be utilized to start conversations based on a solid foundation of facts rather than some blogger's rant. With Ari Ioannides, you will learn how simple changes to existing websites and board materials combined with proactive messaging can enhance any communications strategy and build community capital.

[Registration form](#) – please complete and return to Kathy Bennett, kbennett@mabe.org.

[Complete listing](#) of upcoming academy courses

MABE Legal Services Associations Announces 2017 Seminar Series

The Legal Services Association (LSA) has released the scheduled dates and topics for the 2017 seminar series. Seminars are designed for the benefit of specific groups of school system staff; however, board members are welcome to attend.

For a complete list of offerings and details, please visit the [LSA area](#) of the [MABE website](#).

