

On Monday January 29, 2018, the Maryland State Board of Education held an information/study session. Board members in attendance included President Andrew Smarick, Vice President Chester Finn, Jr., Dr. Michelle Guyton, Dr. Justin Hartings, Dr. Stephanie Iszard, Dr. Rose Maria Li, Dr. David Steiner, and State Superintendent, Dr. Karen Salmon.

### **Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Presentation**

After the meeting was called to order, Ross Goldstein, the executive director of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS), presented. MLDS is an independent unit of the State Government tasked with housing and maintaining student and workforce data, conducting research, fulfilling public information requests, complying with relevant privacy laws, and following strict security procedures. After director Goldstein finished the presentation, the board emphasized the need for data on the Bridge Program for program evaluation purposes.

### **Baltimore City Public Schools – Facility Conditions**

Robert A. Gorrell, Executive Director Public School Construction Program, fielded questions from the board about Baltimore City School's recent closures from cold temperatures. Director Gorrell explained that school construction is based off of a per pupil square footage funding formula. This formula is statewide with the exception of Baltimore City and its 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Facilities Program that allocates more square footage per pupil. Director Gorrell emphasized that the facilities in Baltimore City are past their useful lifetime. Further, he expressed that Local Education Associations (LEAs) are not contributing what they previously had as a percentage of regular wealth. Baltimore City, in particular, cannot forward fund projects and projects are often delayed. The board then agreed that square footage for learning is an education question not a construction question. The board concluded with a call to create baseline requirements and evaluation systems for school construction.

### **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Data Release**

Steven Hicks, the Assistant State Superintendent for Early Childhood Development, presented the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment to the board. The assessment evaluated children based on their social foundations, language & literacy, mathematics, and physical well-being & motor development. All 24 Maryland jurisdictions were included in the KRA, but some gave census level data, while others provided only limited census and sample size data. The KRA categorized children's readiness into three levels, demonstrating, approaching, and emerging. When reviewing the sample size of the research, the board requested Judy Center specific data from the data release. The KRA data from the Judy Centers were not isolated, but combined with the data from Title I Schools. The board reflected that the Kirwan Commission speaks highly of Judy Centers and that specific data would be illuminating. When reviewing the methodology of the KRA, Dr. Salmon advised that parent reported data may not always be reliable.

[Handout](#)

### **Computer Science National Standards**

Dr. Lynne Gilli, the Assistant State Superintendent for Career and College Readiness, and Dr. Angela Holocker, Assistant State Superintendent for Curriculum Research, Assessment, and Accountability,

presented to the board on computer science national standards. The presentation began with an executive order from the governor to create a taskforce on cybersecurity and information technology. Dr. Gilli suggested that computer science could be part of a graduation requirement. The board was concerned about the lack of teachers trained in computer science. The board also agreed that because of Maryland's unique job market, a cybersecurity focused curriculum would be particularly advantageous to Maryland students. The national standard recommendations will be released in July for MSDE to review.

[Handout](#)

## **Grants Update**

### ***Charter Schools***

Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent for Student, Family and School Support, presented to the board about charter school grants. President Smarick commented that the 22,000 student enrollment count may be misleading because the vast majority are in Baltimore City. Charters are allowed in all of Maryland, but it is the power of the LEAs to approve charter schools. The board used to have the power to sponsor charter schools, but currently the board is not a primary sponsor. Dr. Gable stated that with grants, she expects well performing charter schools may use the grant to expand. Some board members emphasized the need for entrepreneurial charter schools to compete for grants. The board agreed that counties with no public school options, such as magnet schools, should be pushed to introduce charter schools.

[Handout](#)

### ***Literacy***

Cecelia Rowe presented to the board on the literacy grant. Maryland receives the third highest amount in the country for this grant because its plan is so well developed. The board agreed that every county should apply for the literacy grant in order to have consistency across the state. President Smarick remarked that 24 sub grants are not necessarily better than a smaller number of targeted sub grants.

[Handout](#)

### ***Gifted and Talented***

Susan Spinnato, the Director of Instructional Programs, presented on the gifted and talented grant. Board member Maria Li asked if there was an optimal number of students that can be served. Spinnato reminded the board that Maryland's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan already proposed gifted and talented flagged students with separate classes. The board then agreed that there needs to be a standard definition of gifted and talented and its programs.

[Handout](#)

### ***Social Studies Update***

Bruce Lesh, the Director of Social Studies, Science, and Disciplinary, presented the board with a social studies update. Director Lesh explained to the board that common benchmarks are shared, but that each LEA has a different assessment for US History. Some schools are eliminating the pre-assessment in order to comply with the testing cap mandate.

[Handout](#)

On Tuesday, January 30, 2018, the State Board held its regular monthly meeting. (Board President Smarick, Vice-President Finn, Guyton, Hartings, Iszard, Li, Steiner, and Phillips were present and student member Smith was absent. State Board President Smarick welcomed MABE Treasurer Nancy Reynolds (Harford), and MABE Board of Director members Phil Rice (Dorchester) and Wayne Ridenour (Washington) as the State Board meeting was commenced.

### **COMAR Changes**

The State Board approved adoption of [COMAR 13A.03.02](#) Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland; and approved permission to publish the following: [COMAR 13A.03.04](#) Test Administration and Data Reporting, [COMAR 13A.12.01.04](#) Options for Obtaining Initial Maryland Certification, [COMAR 13A.12.01.05](#) General Requirements for Professional Certificates, [COMAR 13A.12.01.08-1](#) Adjunct Certificate, and [COMAR 13A.12.03.04](#) Pupil Personnel Worker.

### **Public Comment**

Four individuals appeared at the Public Comment period.

### **Prince George's Graduation Rates Audit and Response**

MSDE received an [Independent Performance Audit of the Prince George's County Schools Graduation Rates](#) in response to allegations of improper inflation their graduation rates. Prince George's Board President, Segun Eubanks, and Prince George's School CEO, Kevin Maxwell, and his senior staff presented the [PGCPS Response to Independent Performance Audit](#) of PGCPS Graduation Rates to the State Board using a PowerPoint Summary of their full written Audit Response. Extensive questioning by all State Board members took place following the report.

### **ESSA Plan Feedback**

Dr. Salmon provided a report on the U.S. Department of Education's approval of [Maryland's ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#) and provided [USDE Feedback on Maryland's ESSA Plan](#). It was reported that an implementation timeline and standard setting decision points will be brought to the State Board at a subsequent meetings.

### **Comprehensive Needs Schools Report**

The State Board received a report on the [2017-2018 Identification of "Comprehensive Needs" Schools for Purpose of Awarding Quality Teacher Stipends](#). The recommendation approved by the State Board was to have all identified Title I schools in the state identified as "Comprehensive Needs" Schools for the awarding of National Board Certification stipends of \$2000.00 instead of the \$1000.00 stipend awarded to all teachers pursuing this certification.

### **State Board Reports and Planning Matters**

#### **Committee Updates**

Kirwan Commission – Dr. Finn reported that the Commission did not complete it work and advised that a lengthy interim report will be forthcoming shortly.

Policy Review – State Board internal policy review was deferred until the February State Board meeting.

Additional Reports from State Board Committees – Dr. Steiner reported that an upcoming teacher certification issue report will be forthcoming. Ms. Iszard and Ms. Guyton reported on coming recommendations from the mental health committee. Dr. Hartings reported on the High School Graduation Taskforce and several other Board Committees that will have proposals in coming months.

## **Review Tentative Items for February 26-27, 2018 Meeting**

- Bridge Accountability Recommendations
- Early Childhood
- Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- Legislative Update
- Definitions for “At-Risk”
- Superintendent Report
- Regulatory Actions
- Board Members Updates/Comments – Dr. Li – AARP/Johns Hopkins Partnership

## **Baltimore City Schools Update**

The State Board received a Baltimore City Schools Update regarding the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) with MSDE](#). Biggest focus has been on PARCC data use and staff development to support better use of data in the 16 priority schools. A PowerPoint explained the curriculum changes that are occurring out of the work under the MOU. Instructional audits are conducted to ensure that the intervention strategies are being implemented.

**Recognition** of [Maryland Secondary School Assistant Principal of the Year](#). Debra O’Byrne of Glenwood Middle School from Howard County has been named as the 2017 winner.

## **Superintendent’s Report**

### ***Graduation Cohort Data***

[Report on Graduation Cohort Data](#). Dr. Dara Shaw presented the newly released report of the Maryland 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates. A PowerPoint presentation was shared to demonstrate the data contained in the 2017 report.

### ***Updates:***

[Responses to State Board’s Bridge & Graduation Questions](#) – A brief discussion of local curriculums ensued and there were many questions about curriculum development and curriculum selection and requests for the State Board to address this area further in the future.

### ***Financial Literacy***

The State [Financial Literacy](#) – Dr. Li asked about Financial Literacy instruction report and her desire to increase the emphasis on the topic.

### ***ESSA Participation Rate***

Dr. Salmon briefly shared information on the topic and additional data will be forthcoming.

### ***Requests for Calendar Waivers***

[School Calendar Waivers](#) – Granted all (list) requested waiver requests except Wicomico’s request for a waiver from the 180 day requirement (for now) and urge that all other options professional development days, President’s Day and Easter Monday; are used first and school systems can come back if 180 days can’t be accommodated otherwise.

## **[Legislative & Budget Updates](#)**

Kristy Michel reported on the Governor's budget relevant to MSDE areas. Patrick Fleming, reported on the status of significant legislation from the current legislative session.

## **Opinions**

The State Board issued legal opinions in the following cases:

- Alan S. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, affirming the local board decision to deny an out-of-area school transfer request.
- William and Darda W. v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, affirming the local board decision to deny an age waiver for early entry into kindergarten.
- Rodney and Rosi P. v. Montgomery County Board of Education, affirming the local board decision denying admission to a highly gifted center program.
- Michael McRae v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, denying the Board's Motion for Summary Affirmance in a payroll dispute; and referring the case to the Office of Administrative Hearings for further proceedings.
- Matthew Torres v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, affirming the non-renewal of a probationary teacher contract.