

For Immediate Release – October 10, 2018

ROWE ELECTED PRESIDENT AT MABE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ANNAPOLIS, MD – On Wednesday, October 3, 2018, more than 150 school board members and other education leaders from across the state gathered for the Maryland Association of Boards of Education Annual Conference. The conference program gave members the opportunity to discuss topics such as the Every Student Succeeds Act, emerging school law issues, and school safety in Maryland.

Dr. Julie Sweetland, a sociolinguist and vice president for strategy and innovation at the FrameWorks Institute, opened the conference with an address on communications strategies gleaned from the Core Story of Education Initiative, comprehensive research project that queried over 40,000 Americans nationwide to determine how to talk about education – and what to leave unsaid.

Attendees also heard from Dr. Karen Salmon, Maryland State Superintendent who discussed what changes are occurring on the state level regarding public education. Dr. Sonya Douglass Horsford, author and Associate Professor of Education Leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University, closed out the conference with a keynote address on educational equity.

At the Presidents Dinner, 2017-2018 President Charles McDaniels was presented a plaque in honor of his dedicated service to MABE. The 2018 MABE Distinguished School Board Service Award recipient Dr. Edward Root was honored for his extraordinary contribution to Maryland public schools through school board service.

During the Presidents Dinner, C. Tolbert Rowe, member of the Caroline County Board of Education, was sworn in as President of the association for 2018-2019. Other officers inducted with him were President-Elect Martha James-Hassan, Baltimore City, Treasurer, Nancy Reynolds, Harford County, and Secretary Tammy Fraley, Allegany County.

Local board members elected to the MABE board of directors were: Pamela Cousins, Calvert County, Mavis Ellis, Howard County, Shebra Evans, Montgomery County, Michael Garman, Talbot County, Julie Hummer, Anne Arundel County, Robert Lord, Carroll County, Virginia McGraw, Charles County, Michael Murray, Wicomico County, Phillip Rice, Dorchester County, Wayne Ridenour, Washington County, K. Alexander Wallace, Prince George's County, and Mary Washington, St. Mary's County.

At the Annual Business Meeting, members adopted revisions to MABE's [Continuing Resolutions](#), which provide the foundation for the association's legislative and policy positions in the coming year. MABE members overwhelmingly approved updates to many of the association's resolutions, which provide the foundation for the legislative and policy positions before the General Assembly and State Board of Education. Major actions included:

- Support for the constitutional amendment, Question 1 on the Nov. 6 ballot, to convert \$500 million in casino revenues to actual increases in education funding;
- Support for legislation to require local governments to fund their share of the additional costs for high needs students (English Learners, Special Education, and Economic Disadvantage);

- Opposition to Kirwan Commission proposals to reduce or eliminate the decision-making authority of local boards of education as a condition for receiving increased state funding; and
- Support for a pause in using cut scores on state assessments as high stakes graduation requirements because the old PARCC tests are ending in 2019 and the new tests will be given for the first time in 2020.

In his first message to members, newly elected President C. Tolbert Rowe, stated, “This may seem like a lot of work, all these challenges and opportunities. But I don’t think any of us would be sitting here in this room, on this last day of a very productive and educational conference, if we did not want to do the very best for our children and by our children. I have great faith in MABE – the staff, the leadership, the Board of Directors, and every one of our members – to recognize the challenges and seize on the opportunities. I look forward to working with each of you this year.”

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Founded in 1957, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to serving and supporting boards of education in Maryland. MABE is a leading advocate for public education in the state. All 24 Maryland boards of education are members of MABE.