

January 14, 2019

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Legislative Committee Update

The Legislative Committee, chaired by Julie Hummer (Anne Arundel), met on January 7, 2019 to review the final recommendations of the Kirwan Commission and to prepare for the 2019 legislative session.

MABE is advocating for the State’s investment of the \$200 million set aside at the direction of the legislature last session, and the additional \$125 million in casino gaming revenue made available thanks to passage of Question 1 on the 2018 ballot. On December 19, the Commission made significant funding recommendations for this year’s State Budget, which is to be introduced by the Governor at the end of this week. The Commission itself is scheduled to meet on Friday, January 18, 2019 to issue its final report.

The Legislative Committee greatly appreciates Joy Schaefer, Frederick County board member and former MABE President, for her countless hours over the course of more than 2 years as MABE’s representative on the Commission. As the sole board member on the commission, her leadership and experience has been evident as moderator of the working group focusing of targeted student funding (special education, English learners, economically disadvantaged, community schools/concentration of poverty). Again, MABE believes that significant funding increases to benefit all students are long overdue and should be a top priority for the Governor’s FY 2020 State Budget.

Updates on the status of the Commission’s work are available in MABE’s recent Education Advocate newsletters from [December](#) and early [January](#). Go to the [Commission’s webpage](#) for access to the meeting materials, video recordings, and live streaming of the proceedings.

In addition, on January 7 the Legislative Committee reviewed advocacy tools and resources for the 2019 session, including highlights on new members of the General Assembly. MABE staff has updated the Advocacy sections of the website to provide up to the minute information and resources for effective advocacy throughout session.

**Legislative Committee
2019 Calendar**

- Feb. 4, 2019
 - FYI – ***MABE’s Legislative Day in Annapolis is February 21, 2019***
- Feb. 25, 2019
- March 11, 2019
- March 25, 2019
 - FYI – The 2019 legislative session ends at midnight on April 8, 2019
- April 29, 2019

MABE’s Legislative Committee meetings are held in the MABE office on Monday mornings, 10:00 to 12:00, unless otherwise indicated. Meeting agendas and materials are posted on the [MABE website](#).

The 2019 Session Commences

On January 9, the General Assembly convened, with many of the new and returning 141 Delegates and 47 Senators adjusting to new offices and committee assignments. The opening day atmosphere, typically festive, was marred by the announcement that Senate President Mike Miller is battling prostate cancer. MABE wishes President Miller a full recovery and strength for his family at this challenging time.

At the outset of session, MABE leadership including our President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Legislative Committee Chair meet with legislative leaders and the Governor's office to present our legislative priorities and positions and to learn about the Governor's and legislators' education funding and policy priorities.

Last week's meetings included Delegate Erick Luedtke, Ways and Means Committee's Education Subcommittee Chair, and Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Delegate Tawana Gaines. In addition, MABE leaders enjoyed a lengthy meeting with members of Governor Hogan's staff and legislative team. MABE looks forward to many more leadership meetings, and outreach to new members.

MABE's gives a special shout out to new members of the General Assembly with past service on local boards of education. These include [Courtney Watson](#) (Howard County), [Ken Kerr](#) (Frederick County), and [Ron Watson](#) (Prince George's County). MABE looks forward to working with these members and other former board members serving in the legislature.

Key Committees and Subcommittees

Throughout the 2019 session, MABE will be requesting that board members contact delegates and senators on specific committees and subcommittees to advocate MABE's bill positions.

MABE spends a great deal of time advocating our positions in the [Ways and Means Committee](#) and its Education Subcommittee. In 2019 Delegate Anne Kaiser returns as Committee Chair and Delegate Jay Walker, a longstanding member of the committee, is replacing outgoing Delegate Frank Turner as Vice Chair. The 2019 roster of the Education Subcommittee, chaired by Delegate Luedtke, is provided below.

Full Committee	Contact
Kaiser, Anne R. (Chair)	➔
Walker, Jay (Vice Chair)	➔
Education Subcommittee	Contact
Luedtke, Eric G. (Chair)	➔
Cain, Alice	➔
Guyton, Michele	➔
Patterson, Edith J.	➔
Reilly, Teresa E.	➔
Rose, April	➔
Shoemaker, Haven	➔
Smith, Stephanie	➔
Turner, Veronica	➔
Wilkins, Jheanelle K.	➔

On the Senate side, most bills impacting local boards and public schools are assigned to the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. The Senate has also experienced significant turnover, resulting in longtime Vice Chair and Education Subcommittee Chair, Senator Paul Pinsky, becoming Chair, and committee member Shirley Nathan Pulliam becoming Vice Chair.

Full Committee	Contact
Pinsky, Paul G. (Chair)	
Nathan-Pulliam, Shirley (Vice Chair)	
Bailey, Jack	
Carozza, Mary Beth	
Ellis, Arthur	
Gallion, Jason C.	
Kagan, Cheryl C.	
Lam, Clarence K.	
Patterson, Obie	
Simonaire, Bryan W.	
Young, Ronald N.	

As session proceeds, and once the Governor’s budget is before the legislature, MABE will also focus advocacy efforts on the House Appropriations and Senate Budget & Taxation Committees.

MABE’s Federal Relations Network Committee

MABE’s Federal Relations Network (FRN) Committee is preparing for the National School Board Association’s Advocacy Institute in Washington, DC from January 27-29. The focus of this year’s conference and annual Day on the Hill is the reauthorization of the federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Resources

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MABE’s Annapolis Advocacy Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Assembly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MABE’s State Board Advocacy Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Board of Education/MSDE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MABE’s Federal Advocacy Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSBA Advocacy

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