

March 26, 2019

Agenda

State Board held a meeting of on March 26, 2019 and called the meeting to order at 9:00am with the Pledge to the Flag, adoption of the Agenda. Board President J. Hartings, Vice President S. Iszard, Board Members G. Bates, V. Greene, J. Halle, R. Li, J. Mele-McCarthy, M. Phillips, W. Sumpter, D. Steiner, and Student Member B. Awono. It was noted that Board Member C. Crawford would not be present; a quorum was present.

MABE Treasurer, Nancy Reynolds (Harford) and MABE Board of Directors members, Wayne Ridenour (Washington), and Mary Washington (St. Mary's) were introduced by Board President Hartings.

Public Comment

Public Comment was offered to the State Board by PSSAM and MSEA opposing proposed Changes to Maryland's Star Rating System for schools, and by MSEA regarding the Teacher Evaluation System discussion on the agenda. Additionally, an advocate commented on the new State Board Student Discipline Taskforce and suggested that changes to the student discipline regulations are unwarranted. One individual provided comments complaining about a Montgomery County bus and walking route.

Consent Agenda

The State Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda consisting of the February 26, 2019 State Board Minutes; Personnel Items; and Budget Adjustments for February, 2019.

Reports to the State Board for Discussion and/or Action

Educator Certification: Teacher Licenses

The State Board next received a report from the Sarah Sprouse to review the current state of teacher licensure in Maryland. A chart setting forth the current categories of teaching certificates was presented. Next a comparison chart was presented comparing Maryland's current eight teaching certificate categories with Massachusetts, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. It was noted that only five states nationally require educators to obtain a Masters Degree within five years. It is proposed that the professional status of teachers in Maryland be changed from Certificate to License. This change to licensure will align Maryland with all but one other state, which avoids confusion in a teacher importing state like Maryland. This change will also avoid confusion with the National Board Certification program for recognition of highly trained and effective teachers.

The presentation also presented a chart demonstrating the revised Maryland Career Ladder for Educators. The newly proposed Maryland Teaching Licensing structure includes the following license categories: Conditional, Temporary Professional, Initial Professional, Professional, and Adjunct. The components of each proposed category of licensure were spelled out along with the renewal requirements for each of the five new licensure categories.

Members of the State Board discussed the licensure proposals and expressed their areas of comfort and possible concerns, as the COMAR relevant regulations are drafted by MSDE staff for future action. H

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Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA)

The State Board had a presentation from Carol Williamson and Bruce Lesh requesting permission to delay, for two years, implementation of the High School Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (HS MISA) as a graduation requirement. This request is related to the recently changed State science standards built around Next Generation Science standards. This proposed delay is supported recommendations of the Graduation Task Force. The delay will provide the time needed to create a course pathway that would assist in the creation and implementation of an appropriate “end-of-course” assessment, and build the HS MISA data into the school system ESSA plans and ensuring that its use is supported as a graduation requirement. MSDE asserted that the two year extension would provide time for data gathering and research to inform instruction, science course sequencing, and professional development. Questions and discussion occurred and the action by the State Board was scheduled during the COMAR portion of the agenda.

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Improving the Teacher Evaluation System

The State Board had a presentation from Tiara Booker Dwyer sharing the status of improvements to the State default model for teacher evaluations. The Education Reform Act of 2010 required all teachers to be evaluated based upon a negotiated and approved locally developed evaluation model or a default state teacher evaluation model if no local model is agreed upon. MSDE is working to improve the state default evaluation model which equally measures professional practice and student growth. Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) are the primary measure of student growth for teachers in the current adopted regulation. Also under consideration for alterations to the state default model include value added measures and student growth percentages. MSDE requested feedback from the State Board and plans to bring recommendations back to the State Board for improvements to the state default model in June of 2019. The participation of MABE Treasurer, Nancy Reynolds (Harford), on the Task Force was recognized.

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State Board Member Reports and Comments

Board members received updates on numerous areas of involvement of individual State Board members in both State Board committees and outside workgroups. Several of the discussions about various committees or workgroups included brief reports. Among those committees and workgroups reported on were the Kirwan Commission; Online Learning Committee; and the Student Discipline Taskforce.

COMAR Changes

The State Board next conducted a discussion of COMAR regulations to be developed about [Out-of-State Pathways to Obtain a Maryland Teacher Certificate](#) and a discussion of COMAR regulations to be developed on [Educator Preparation Program Requirements](#). They further approved Permission to Publish [COMAR 13A.03.02](#) Graduation Requirements; [COMAR 13A.03.04](#) Test Administration; and [COMAR 13A.10.01](#) Home Instruction.

Calendar Waiver Requests

The State Board considered requests from Garrett County Public Schools to grant a calendar waiver to be open on for an instructional day on April 22, 2019 (conditional). Allegheny County also requested to open on April 22, 2019. The State Board voted unanimously to give Dr. Salmon the ability to approved or deny those waiver requests.

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State Superintendent's Report

Maryland Career and Technology Education (CTE) Transition Year State Plan 2019-2020

The State Board next received an update on the state plan for Career and Technology Education (CTE) under Federal law (Carl D. Perkins Act). The law provides options for either developing a one year transition plan (2019-2020) or a plan through 2023. MSDE has proposed electing to develop a CTE Transition Year State Plan (2019-2020) in order to permit time for full development of a comprehensive state plan that will set forth the State CTE Plan through 2023. The State Board approved the proposed 2019-2020 CTE Transition Plan.

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Implementation of Strategic Plan of the Division of Early Intervention/Special Education Services – Moving Maryland Forward: Sharpen The Focus for 2020

The State Board next received an update for discussion only regarding the Implementation of Strategic Plan – *Moving Maryland Forward: Sharpen the Focus for 2020*. The central focus of this strategic plan is to “narrow the gap” that students with disabilities have when compared to their non-disabled peers in the general education curriculum. Each local school system will annually be assigned to one of four tiers of supervision; universal, targeted, focused, or intensive) based upon their special education compliance and results data.

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School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries

The State Board next received an update and granted approval to publish the proposed Maryland School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries. The existing Maryland library standards were last updated in 2000. School library media centers and media specialists are essential to student learning. Up to date standards provide for effective programs and best practices and equip media specialists to raise student achievement through engaging, personalized, creative learning.

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2019 Legislative Session Overview

Tiffany Johnson Clark provided the State Board with a written legislative update consisting of primary and secondary education related bills that are currently before the 2019 Maryland General Assembly. The State Board received presentations and responded to questions of Board members on a number of pending bills that would be of particular interest to the State Board and MSDE.

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Future Agenda Items/Agenda Planning

The State Board reviewed tentative items for the April Meeting(s)

- Monday, April 22nd – TBD
- Tuesday, April 23rd –
 - Certification – Test Comparison
 - Graduation Task Force – Endorsement
 - School Transfer/Choice Follow Up Discussion
 - ESSA: Equity Data for Report Card
 - Standards: Environmental Science & Technology Education
 - Juvenile Services Education
 - Superintendent’s Report
 - Legislative Updates

Legal Opinions

Opinions and Orders were announced in the following cases by the State Board:

- Order No. OR 19-01 – Monarch Academy Public Charter School v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, declining to strike Appellants’ appeal memorandum which exceeded the newly established page limit for such pleadings.
- Opinion No. 19-11 – Chiffon H. v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, affirming the denial of a request for early entry into kindergarten.
- Opinion No. 19-12 – Jennifer Hoover v. Montgomery County Board of Education, denying a request for the State Board to reconsider their previous Opinion No. 19-03, which affirmed the local board decision to dismiss a claim for workplace bullying brought by the employee, because there was no mistake or error of law and no facts material to the issues discovered subsequent to the decision.
- Opinion No. 19-13 – Rosalia Huggins v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, affirming the local board decision upholding the overall rating of “Developing” on the Appellant’s 2017-2018 end of year Teacher Effectiveness Evaluation.
- Opinion No. 19-14 – S.K. v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, affirming the decision of the local board, denying a complaint alleging that two coaches abused her son, as not arbitrary, unreasonable, or illegal.
- Opinion No. 19-15 – Suzanne McNamara v. Frederick County Board of Education, affirming the local board decision to deny the renewal of Appellant’s teaching certificate and thus end her employment.
- Opinion No. 19-16 – Angela Wakhweya v. Prince George’s County Board of Education, affirming Appellant’s termination as Chief of the Office of School Health Policy, Service, and Innovation for deficient performance managing student immunization compliance.

Adjournment

The State Board meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.