

For Immediate Release

JAMES-HASSAN ELECTED PRESIDENT AT MABE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ANNAPOLIS, MD October 11, 2019 – On Wednesday, October 2, 2019, more than 180 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 education equity, school law, and social media.

Sean McComb, the 2014 National Teacher of the Year from Baltimore County, opened the conference with a spirited keynote in which he shared his challenging youth and encouraged participants to build relationships with students to make a difference.

Attendees also heard from Dr. Karen Salmon, Maryland State Superintendent, who shared a number of changes occurring on the state level regarding public education. Mark Brown, a world-renowned speaker, closed out the conference with a keynote address about discovering excellence.

At the Presidents' Dinner, 2018-2019 President C. Tolbert Rowe received a plaque in honor of his dedicated service to MABE. The 2019 MABE Excellence in Education Award recipient Dr. Nancy Grasmick was honored for her extraordinary contributions to Maryland public education, who presented an inspiring message to attendees.

During the Presidents Dinner, Martha James-Hassan, member of the Baltimore City School Commissioners, was sworn in as President for 2019-2020. Other officers inducted with her were President-Elect Tammy Fraley of Allegany County, Treasurer Virginia McGraw of Charles County, and Secretary Pamela Cousins of Calvert County.

Local board members elected to the MABE board of directors were: Mavis Ellis, Howard County; Shebra Evans, Montgomery County; Julie Hummer, Anne Arundel County; William Malesh, Cecil County; Joseph Goetz, Kent County; Laura Layton, Dorchester County; Karin Bailey, St. Mary's County; Beverly Kelly, Queen Anne's County; and Melissa Williams, Washington 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 advocated before the General Assembly and State Board of Education. Highlights include:

- Adopting a new resolution on Educational Equity, which MABE defines as “providing access to essential academic, social, emotional, and economic supports to engage each student in rigorous instruction with appropriate educational resources to achieve their highest potential.”
- Updating the Adequate & Equitable Funding resolution to voice strong support for passage of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future in 2020.
- Updates to resolutions on other major policy issues included: Student Assessments, Student Health and Fitness, Student Discipline, and Local Board Governance and Professional Development.

In her first message to members, newly elected President Martha James-Hassan, stated, “Leadership is about keeping people together, safe, and positive. I look forward to continuing our work to ensure a standard of care that delivers the baseline a well-rounded education for each child in Maryland.”

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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.

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