

January 7, 2020

In this issue:

- MABE’s 2020 Legislative Priorities
- Legislative Leadership Changes
- Legislative Committee Updates
- Passing Kirwan in 2020 – MABE Resources

MABE's Legislative Priorities in 2020

The 2020 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly convenes on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, and will adjourn “sine die” at midnight on Monday, April 6, 2020.

MABE’s **Legislative Committee** will meet regularly throughout the 2020 session to deliberate and vote on bill positions and to receive updates on pending legislation. The Committee is chaired by Julie Hummer (Anne Arundel County), and the vice-chair is Mavis Ellis (Howard County).

MABE held its annual conference in October 2019 and updated the association’s **Continuing Resolutions for 2019-2020** which provide the foundation for MABE’s legislative and policy positions. In November 2019, MABE’s Legislative Committee adopted the following **2020 Legislative Positions**.

MABE’s top priorities for 2020 include:

- Support for continued governance autonomy for local boards of education to set education policy and school budgets which provide educational benefits for all students; and opposition to unfunded mandates.
- Support for full State funding for Maryland’s outstanding public schools. Specifically, MABE is seeking passage of the Kirwan Commission legislation to update and enhance the constitutional adequacy and equity of state and local funding.
- Support for robust State funding for school construction and renovation projects. Specifically, MABE is seeking funding of at least \$400 million to assist all 24 school systems to build and upgrade school facilities and an increase in the Aging Schools Program.
- Support for sustained and increased local government investments in education. Specifically, MABE is seeking passage of the Kirwan Commission legislation including mandated increases in both State and local funding.

Legislative Committee

2020 Calendar

- January 6, 2020
* (January 8, 2020 - Session convenes)
- January 27, 2020
* (Feb, 1-4, 2020 NSBA Equity Symposium & Advocacy Inst. in DC)
- February 10, 2020
- February 13, 2020
MABE’s Legislative Day Luncheon, Miller Senate Building, Conference Center West, Annapolis (Meeting: 10:00-11:00; Luncheon: 11:00-1:00)
- March 2, 2020
- March 16, 2020
- March 30, 2020
* (April 6, 2020 - Session adjourns "Sine Die")
- April 27, 2020

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

2020 Session at the Starting Line

The Maryland General Assembly is poised to begin the 2020 legislation session at noon on January 8, 2020. MABE is enthusiastic about the high priority being placed on 2 major education bills, the Kirwan Blueprint for Maryland's Future, and the Built to Learn Act. This session sees many changes in the assignments of members to leadership positions in House and Senate committees, and of course the transition from the historic Senate presidency of Mike Miller to the incoming Senate President Bill Ferguson. MABE is confident that champions of Maryland's public schools are well represented in the legislature, beginning with House Speaker Adrienne Jones and Senate President Bill Ferguson, and including their appointments to leadership positions in the House and Senate fiscal and policy committees.

Leadership changes of note include the following:

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

(New leadership)

- Chair, Senator Guy Guzzone (Howard)
- Vice-Chair, Senator Jim Rosapepe (Prince George's & Anne Arundel)

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

(Returning Chair, new Vice-Chair)

- Chair, Senator Paul Pinsky (Prince George's)
- Vice-Chair, Senator Cheryl Kagan (Montgomery)

House Appropriations Committee

(Returning Chair, new Vice-Chair)

- Chair, Delegate Maggie McIntosh (Baltimore City)
- Vice-Chair, Delegate Michael Jackson (Prince George's)

House Ways and Means Committee

(Returning Chair, new Vice-Chair)

- Chair, Delegate Anne Kaiser (Montgomery)
- Vice-Chair, Delegate Alonzo Washington (Prince George's)

(New Ways and Means Education Subcommittee Structure and Chairs)

- Chair, Education Subcommittee, Delegate Alonzo Washington (Prince George's)
- Chair, Early Childhood Subcommittee, Delegate Eric Ebersole (Baltimore and Howard Counties)

MABE greatly appreciates the past leadership of Senator Nancy King as Chair of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee (She is now Senate Majority Leader), and the many years of Delegate Eric Luedtke's leadership as Chair of the Education Subcommittee in the House Ways and Means Committee (He is now House Majority Leader).

Legislative Committee Updates

MABE's Legislative Committee kicked off the 2020 Session with a meeting on the morning of January 6. The agenda featured an overview of recently released set of talking points, fact sheets in support of the Kirwan Blueprint for Maryland's Future, and in-depth discussion on the legislative initiative to seek improvements to the law adopted in 2019 which requires school systems to conduct more thorough employment histories to screen applicants who have been disciplined for child sex abuse or sexual misconduct. MABE is seeking amendments to allow the temporary placement of new employees who have met all other background check requirements, pending the completion of the additional review required by HB 486.

The Committee also addressed the need to amend this year's Built to Learn Act (House Bill 1/Senate Bill 1) to reflect the amendment adopted last year to ensure the continued ability of local school systems to design their own schools, while utilizing the funding stream created through the bonds issued by the Maryland Stadium Authority.

Passing the Kirwan Blueprint in 2020

The Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education is a multi-year initiative to research and develop major funding and policy reforms to improve the quality of Maryland's public education system to benefit all of the more than 890,000 students, which will, in turn, benefit the State's economy and quality of life for all Marylanders.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) calls on all Marylanders to support the immediate passage of the Kirwan Blueprint legislation in 2020 to make all Maryland public schools world-class to prepare each of our students for success in college and careers.

The following advocacy tools provide clear and concise explanations of the key reasons to pass the Kirwan Blueprint in 2020.

MABE encourages all board members and all Marylanders to use these talking points with state legislators and local officials.

- [Blueprint Talking Points](#) - A list of 10 talking points on a convenient 5X7 postcard
- [The Value of the Blueprint in One Page](#) - A one-page document that outlines easy to understand concepts on the importance of the Blueprint
- [Kirwan Business Leaders & the ROI](#) - A brief document outlining what Maryland business leaders are saying about Kirwan and the return on investment
- [An Economic Assessment of Kirwan Commission Recommendations](#) - A study written by Sage Policy Group Inc., and paid for by Strong Schools Maryland

More information on the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, including the Commission's [Interim Report](#) issued in January 2019, the [National Center on Education and the Economy \(NCEE\) Framework](#), the Blueprint legislation passed in 2019 (Senate Bill 1030), and MABE's testimony throughout the process, is available on MABE's [priority issue page](#) on the Kirwan Commission and Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Bill Hearing and Briefing Highlights

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday, January 14, 2020 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee 1:00 PM - West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD Full Committee Briefing - Overview of the final policy and funding recommendations of the Kirwan Commission
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday, January 21, 2020 Ways and Means Committee 2:00 PM - House Office Building, Room 130, Annapolis, MD Briefing by the Department of Legislative Services on Fiscal Matters and the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday, January 30, 2020 Finance Committee 1:00 PM - East Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD Fiscal/Kirwan Briefing by the Department of Legislative Services

Bill Report

A preliminary [Bill Report](#) containing MABE's positions and the status of all the bills we are tracking is available on the MABE website and updated weekly during Session.

Advocacy Resources

- [MABE's Annapolis Advocacy Center](#)
 - Including resources on MABE's [Legislative Committee](#), [Priority Issues](#), [2020 Positions & Bill Testimony](#), the [Education Advocate](#) newsletter, and [Kirwan Blueprint resources](#).
- [MABE's State Board Advocacy Center](#)
 - Including resources on pending State Board regulations, and issues of MABE's newsletter recapping the monthly State Board meetings, [The Monitor](#).
- [MABE's Federal Advocacy Center](#)
 - Including resources on MABE's Federal Relations Network Committee and pending federal funding and policy issues.

For more information, contact John R. Woolums, Esq., MABE's Director of Governmental Relations, at jwoolums@mabe.org or 410-841-5414.

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