

January 28, 2020

## Agenda

State Board held a meeting of on January 28, 2020, and called the meeting to order at 9:00am with the Pledge to the Flag, adoption of the [Agenda](#). Board Vice President, J. Halle, Board Members, G. Bates, C. Crawford, C. Dashiell, V. Greene, J. Hartings, R. Li, J. Mele-McCarthy, M. Phillips, D. Steiner, and Student Member, N. Badwi. It was noted that Board President W. Sumpter, would not be present; a quorum was present. MABE Board of Directors members, Joe Goetz (Kent) and Beverly Kelley (Queen Anne's) were introduced by Board Vice President Halle.

## Public Comment

Public Comment was offered to the State Board by various organizational representatives urging modifications to the proposed Charter School COMAR regulations. Several individuals provided comments on the teacher certification COMAR regulations.

## Consent Agenda

The State Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda consisting of the December 3, 2019 State Board Minutes; [Personnel Items](#); and [Budget Adjustments for December, 2019](#), and the [2019-2020 Identification of "Comprehensive Needs" Schools for Purpose of Awarding Quality Teacher Stipends to Certain Teachers and Non-Administrative School-Based Employees](#).

## Update on Student Support Initiatives and Research on Achievement Gaps

The State Board received a report from Mary Gable, Dara Shaw, and Walter Sallee and a PowerPoint with an update on Student Support Initiative and sharing research and resources pertaining to efforts to close the Achievement Gaps. The presentation started with a review of the 2007 Report of the Task Force on the Education of Maryland's African American Males, which focused on:

- Skilled, culturally competent teachers;
- High standards and academic opportunity;
- In-school suspension;
- Family and community support;
- Prevention and intervention services; and
- College preparation and financial assistance.

The PowerPoint then shared information about the more than fifteen different programs that have been instituted since 2007 and directed toward effecting change in the focus areas above.

The Update ended with a detailed Literature Review from Dara Shaw of Factors Associated with Academic Achievement Gaps. That review considered more than a dozen factors and looked at the demographic groups found to be impacted and whether each factor had narrowed or widened achievement gaps.

[Handout](#)

## **Maryland Report Card Analysis**

The State Board next received a report and PowerPoint presentation from Dara Shaw, providing a detailed analysis of the 2019 Maryland School Report Card results. The study included a Correlation of Indicators and a Correlation of Measures at the Elementary, Middle, and High School spans along with a Correlation of 2018 and 2019 measures at all school grade spans. The accompanying PowerPoint presentation contained an extensive series of charts and graphs demonstrating all aspects of the analysis and data collection.

Finally, the State Board, by consensus, granted MSDE permission to develop regulatory language in the following areas:

- For alternative approved educator preparation program pathways,
- For performance review program pathways, and
- For nonpublic experience pathways.

[Handout](#)

## **Change to High School Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) Structure**

The State Board had a presentation and PowerPoint from Bruce Lesh, requesting that the State Board approve a Change to Maryland High School Integrated Science Assessment Structure. It was proposed that the high stakes graduation assessment in science transition from a 3-dimension domain-integrated high school science assessment to a 3-dimension single domain assessment in the Life Science area. The State Board had an extensive discussion and numerous questions and concerns about the MSDE recommendation and the Board's vote, on the proposed change, failed so garner the required seven affirmative votes with six ayes, four nays, and one abstention. The State Board directed the MSDE staff to return with a presentation of all options considered to address the assessment problem at a future meeting.

[Handout](#)

## **Environmental Education Instructional Programs for Grades Prekindergarten-12**

State Superintendent, Karen Salmon, reported to the State Board briefly on Environmental Literacy Standards which has been an extensive process underway since late 2017. The timeline for the review process, the Review Panel Members, a summary of stakeholder input, and the changes recommended after the review were presented in a PowerPoint. The proposed changes to the program are outlined in the COMAR approval portion of the agenda later in the meeting.

[Handout](#)

## **The State of Early Childhood Education in Maryland**

The State Superintendent, with the assistance of Stephen Hicks, presented to the State Board a report and PowerPoint on the State of Early Childhood Education in Maryland. The report shared the numerous ways that the Child Care Subsidy Program and the PreK programs have expanded access to high-quality programs. The Maryland Child Care Credential Program, Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund, Maryland EXCELS program, Family Engagement Initiative, Judy Center Learning Hubs, and Family Support Centers were all detailed in the PowerPoint.

[Handout](#)

## 2020 Legislative Session Overview

The 2020 Legislative Session Overview was presented by Tiffany Johnson Clark, who reported on the way the Maryland Legislature operates (for new State Board Members) and reported on the status of a handful of pending bills with implications for MSDE and the State Board. The State Board decided to send letters supporting SB 267 AP Opportunities Act of 2020 and SB 275 Community and Local Accountability for Struggling Schools (CLASS) Act of 2020. They agreed to monitor the status of the other bills, potentially impacting the Department.

[Handout](#)

## Educator Preparation and Licensure Regulation Update

Sarah Sprouse provided the State Board with a detailed report and PowerPoint presentation updating them on the most recent steps taken with the Department's 14-member Educator Preparation and Certification Advisory Group as the process of developing new regulations in this arena continues. It was noted that these proposed regulations must be shared with PSTEB (Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board). The opinion was shared that the positions of MSDE and PSTEB were getting close to being in alignment, although there was still some work to do.

[Handout](#)

## Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Changes

The State Board next approved Permission to Publish amended COMAR 13A.02.02.03-.04 [Emergency Plans](#); approved Permission to Publish amended COMAR 13A.04.17 [Environmental Education Instructional Programs for Grades Prekindergarten-12](#); approved Adoption of COMAR 13A.05.01.14 [Provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education: Procedural Safeguards – Independent Educational Evaluation](#); approved Adoption of updated COMAR 13A.05.12.01-.03 [Hearing Aid and Language and Communication Video Loan Bank](#), and Reviewed [COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public Schools in Maryland](#); and [COMAR 13A.03.02.08 Grading and Reporting](#). Mary Gable and Karen Salmon led the discussion of the review of these last proposed COMAR changes that are currently on hold with the AELR Committee of the Legislature (The Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review). The Department proposed two changes in the proposed regulations to respond to ARLR's and advocate's concerns, but the State Board did not move to consider the proposed changes, preferring to instead inquire as to why the hold had been put in place.

## Calendar Modifications

The State Board considered and approved a request for calendar modification from the Baltimore County Board of Education to hold school on Presidents' Day as a snow makeup day and additionally granted authority for the State Superintendent to grant any similar requests about Presidents' Day that may be forthcoming from other school systems.

[Handout](#)

## Legal Opinions

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

- Opinion No. 20-01 – Nalda Rozon v. Prince George's County Board of Education – Issued a Declaratory Judgment that the Prince George's County Public Schools may charge tuition for core academic courses taken in summer school.

- Opinion No. 20-02 – J.M. and S.J. v. Baltimore County Board of Education – Affirmed the local board decision to dismiss a student discipline appeal for untimeliness.
- Opinion No. 20-03 – Erica Lunn v. Baltimore Board of School Commissioners – Affirmed the dismissal of a non-certificated employee, for cause, during their probationary period.
- Opinion No. 20-04 – M.S. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – Affirmed a five-day student suspension for race-based harassment.
- Opinion No. 20-05 – Jerome A. Nicholas, III v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Affirmed the dismissal of a non-certificated employee for cause.
- Opinion No. 20-06 – T.R. and B.J. v. Caroline County Board of Education – Reversed the local board student discipline decision removing T.R. from school and placing him on home instruction solely based upon the reportable offenses charged against him and did not engage in a thoughtful analysis in determining the appropriate educational plan for T.R. that also maintained a safe and secure school environment.
- Order No. 20-01 – Yvette Brebnor v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Denied Appellant’s request for reconsideration of the State Board’s decision to affirm her termination as a teacher for incompetency, insubordination, misconduct, and willful an appeal neglect of duty.
- Order No. 20-02 – Jaimie and Bryan S. v. Harford County Board of Education – Denied Appellant’s request for reconsideration of the State Board’s denial of a student transfer appeal because it was untimely filed.
- Order No. 20-03 – Tybolia Brown v. Somerset County Board of Education – Dismissing the appeal of a finding that the Appellant was not subjected to discrimination, retaliation, or a hostile work environment while working as a temporary emergency basketball coach due to untimeliness.

## **Adjournment**

The State Board meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.