

July 28, 2020

[Agenda](#)

Opening of Meeting

Board President Warner Sumpter convened the teleconference meeting and was joined by all members, including: Vice President Jean Halle, Rose Li, Joan Mele-McCarthy, Gail Bates, Vermelle Greene, Clarence Crawford, Charles Dashiell, Jr., Rachael McCusker, Lori Morrow, new board members Shawn Bartley, Susan Getty, and Holly Wilcox, and new student board member Jason Wu. President Sumpter welcomed the new members.

Public Comments

The State Board heard public comments from the following individuals: Cheryl Bost, President of the Maryland State Education Association, voicing the concerns raised regarding adequate educator and other stakeholder input into the State's education recovery plan, concerns which were outlined in her recent [letter](#) to the State Board. Lisa VanBuskirk, with Start Schools Later in Anne Arundel County, outlining her concerns with the student health and educational rationale for local school systems adopting later school start times in the context of the State's education recovery plan. A parent raising concerns about the burdens on parents of providing home instruction while also working from home. An individual raising concerns about the mental health needs of students. A Montgomery County parent supporting consensus-based risk mitigation strategies to address the 6 months of learning loss, mental health issues, and parents' abilities to return to work by requiring more in-person instruction based on student need and parent choice. Courtney Cass, Executive Director of Teach For America Baltimore, opposing the department's interpretation of its new basic skills assessment policy for new teachers, which sets different standards for alternative teacher preparation programs. A Frederick County resident, Tom Warner, advocating for enforcement of the state regulation requiring substance abuse education.

Elections of Officers

The State Board unanimously elected Clarence Crawford as President and re-elected Jean Halle as Vice President. Board members thanked General Warner Sumpter for his service as President. General Sumpter noted that he will continue to serve on the Board until his term ends on June 30, 2021.

Oral Argument

The State Board heard oral arguments in the case: *Monarch Academy Public Charter School v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners*.

State Superintendent Updates

Maryland Report Card Updates on Teacher Qualifications and Graduation Rates

Dr. Salmon introduced Chandra Haislet, MSDE's Director Accountability and Data Systems, who presented the Maryland Report Card data for teacher qualifications and numbers of students receiving instruction from inexperienced teachers, disaggregated by race, for high- and low-poverty schools, and other factors. She also reviewed data on high school graduation rates, and numbers of students completing rigorous high school programs.

Board member Wilcox raised her concern with disproportionate impacts reflected in these reports, including on student discipline and arrests on students of color. Superintendent Salmon agreed and shared that work is ongoing to address these issues.

Board President Crawford asked about the assignment of teachers, which shows a disproportionate share of inexperienced teachers in schools with higher percentages of minority students and students in poverty. Dr. Salmon responded that teacher assignments are made by local superintendents and her message has been to address this inequity at the local level.

[Presentation](#)

Maryland Education Recovery Plan Update

State Superintendent Salmon reviewed the work of the Recovery Plan Stakeholder Committee to provide feedback from the on Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education, including the recent scenario exercise conducted on July 16th. Dr. Salmon shared that 59 individuals participated representing parents, students, state and local school system staff, teachers and principals, business leaders, and high education.

Dr. Salmon provided a detailed overview of the department's new constituent inquiry and input tracking system and reviewed the results showing the numbers and categories of communications received to voice opinions and preferences pertaining to school closings, child care, virtual learning, and other issues relating to the pending recovery and reopening plans. She emphasized that the data is not the results of a survey, but rather is the result of the staff intensive process of reading and categorizing the thousands of pieces of correspondence received since the closure of schools this spring.

[Handout](#)

Local School Reopening Plan Presentations: Calvert, Cecil, and Frederick Counties

The State Board received presentations from three local school systems on their recovery and reopening plans, including a presentation on one school system's implementation of summer learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentations highlighted how the education recovery plan requirements were addressed.

Dr. Dan Curry, Calvert County Superintendent, presented on his school system's approach to summer school in 2020. He described the K-5 in-person instruction provided through the summer school program, with higher grades receiving summer school exclusively online. The program focused on students scoring in the lower 10 percent of the mid-winter performance test and students who had not engaged in the online learning opportunities provided before the end of the school year. However, the program was not limited based on Title I eligibility.

Dr. Jeff Lawson, Cecil County Superintendent, presented on his school system's approach to returning to school in the 2020-2021 school year. He described the challenges experienced through the close of the school year and the concerted efforts to ensure a more robust approach to providing access and accountability for all students through online learning. Dr. Lawson noted that the plan is to review the recovery plan every 30 days and to hold weekly community engagement meetings as the and school year begins.

Dr. Terry Alban, Frederick County Superintendent, presented on her school system's approach to reopening schools in the fall. Dr. Alban described the process of assessing what worked, and did not work, in the spring. Similarly, the draft reopening plan was made available for comment early in July to provide ample opportunity for input. Dr. Alban reviewed the extensive parent and community engagement process, and her board's focus on the safety of students and staff relative to the hybrid and online models being presented.

Handouts: [Memo & MSDE Presentation](#) (Local presentations not uploaded at this time.)

Charter School Funding Formula Regulations

The State Board rescinded the proposed regulations under COMAR 13A.19.01, Commensurate Funding for Charter Schools. Board member, and past-President, Warner Sumpter, described the original intent to assist local school systems in encapsulating state board decisions defining the requirements for charter school funding provided by local school systems. General Sumpter made the motion to rescind the regulations based on the comments received from local school systems and others, and the Board agreed.

[Memo & PSSAM Letter](#); [MABE Letter](#)

Social Studies Regulations

The State Board granted final approval to regulations governing programs for social studies instruction under COMAR 13A.04.08. Bruce Lesh, MSDE's Director of Social Studies, Science, and Disciplinary Literacy, described the regulations as being the byproduct of extensive consultation with the public, teachers, content supervisors, and nonprofit social studies advocacy organizations. The standards were published in the Maryland Register from May 22, 2020 until June 22, 2020, and staff briefly described the comments received and recommendation to adopt the regulations without the revisions requested in the comments.

Handouts: [Memo & Presentation](#) and [Social Studies Program](#)

State Board Committee Updates

Board Vice President Jean Halle provided a detailed update on the State Board's Digital Learning Committee, which she chairs, sharing that a presentation would be made at the next meeting.

Board member Vermelle Greene provided a presentation on the work plan for the State Board's recently established Task Force on Achieving Academic Equity and Excellence for Black Boys, which she chairs.

The Board also discussed their intention to hold two meetings in August with one devoted to reviewing the local school systems' education recovery and reopening plans, which are to be submitted by August 14th.

State Board Decisions

The State Board issued decisions and orders in the following cases:

- Darryl Baccus v. Prince George's County Board of Education, affirming the local board's employee termination decision.
- Susan C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education, affirming the local board's denial of a request to recalculate grades.
- Keith H. v. Montgomery County Board of Education, affirming the local board's denial of a request to recalculate grades.
- In the Matter of Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys, denying the waiver request from certification requirements for school counselors.
- In the Matter of Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School, denying the waiver requests from certification requirements for school counselors and grading records requirements.
- In the Matter of KIPP Harmony Academy, denying the waiver request from certification requirements for school counselors.
- In the Matter of Lillie May Carroll Jackson Charter School, denying the waiver request from certification requirements for school counselors.
- In the Matter of Southwest Baltimore Charter School, denying the waiver request from certification requirements for school counselors.