

For Immediate Release

FRALEY ELECTED PRESIDENT AT MABE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ANNAPOLIS, MD October 21, 2020 – On Wednesday, October 14, 2020, more than 100 school board members and education leaders from across the state gathered virtually for the Maryland Association of Boards of Education Annual Business Meeting and Conference. The conference's professional development program encouraged members to discuss topics from education equity to the importance of educating the whole child.

Joanna Lohman, retired professional soccer player, LGBTQ advocate, and a Montgomery County Public School graduate, opened the conference with a lively keynote in which she shared her experience as a member of the LGBTQ community. She gave participants recommendations on how to create an inclusive school environment for all students.

Attendees also heard from Dr. Karen Salmon, Maryland State Superintendent, who shared several updates about the state's education recovery efforts and responded to numerous questions from our members.

During the Annual Meeting, Outgoing President, Martha James-Hassan, gave her final address to participants, "We must work side-by-side, across the aisle, and around the State to ensure the promise of abundance for each young person. Once we know better, it is our obligation to those we serve to do better. We know that our students deserve abundance. We know we have the experience, expertise, and energy to fight on behalf of children. So, let us allow our hope for a better future, our hope for an abundant and equitable education for each student in Maryland be the force that keeps us true to our path."

Tammy Fraley, a member of the Allegany County Board of Education, was sworn in as President for 2020-2021. Other officers inducted with her were President-Elect Virginia McGraw, Charles County, Treasurer Pamela Cousins, Calvert County, and Secretary Joseph Goetz, Kent County.

Local board members elected to the MABE board of directors were: Michelle Corkadel, Anne Arundel County, Linda Chinnia, Baltimore City, Patricia Dorsey, Carroll County, William Malesh, Cecil County, Laura Layton, Dorchester County, Karen Yoho, Frederick County, Rodney Glotfelty, Garrett County, Shebra Evans, Montgomery County, Alvin Thornton, Prince George's County, Karin Bailey, St. Mary's County, Penny Nicholson, Somerset County, Michael Garman, Talbot 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, including:

- Adopting a new resolution on COVID 19 to urge Maryland's federal delegation to support education stabilization funds urgently needed to prevent state and local cuts in education funding;
- Updating the Digital and Distance Learning resolution to call for increased federal funding and policy reforms to guarantee student access to high-speed internet; and
- Updates to resolutions on other major policy issues, including support for passage of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act and Built to Learn Act in 2021.

In her first message to members, newly elected President Tammy Fraley stated, "During the past seven months our world has been turned upside down, whether it be economic development, education, or just day-to-day living. The struggle to find our 'new normal' is ongoing – and honestly, we must all admit that the challenges ahead of us are high. As a group, however, we can meet each challenge head-on. As the old saying goes, there is power in numbers. Please let me help you show the citizens of Maryland how resilient and forward-thinking we are."

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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.

Contact:

Jackie Weisman, Director of Communications and Marketing, jweisman@mabe.org