

May 24, 2022

On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, Board President Clarence Crawford convened the meeting and was joined by Vice President Charles Dashiell, Jr., Shawn Bartley, Gail Bates, Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang, Susan Getty, Vermelle Greene, Jean Halle, Rachel McCusker, Lori Morrow, and Warner Sumpter.

[Link to meeting agenda, materials, and video](#)

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the consent agenda including personnel actions and budget adjustments.

Public Comments

Public comments were delivered by the following individuals: Buzzy Hettleman, former member of the Kirwan Commission and Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, spoke in support of accountability measures to ensure that local school systems spend Blueprint funds intended for special education as supplemental funding to current state and local funding, and not to allow supplanting of current funds with the new Blueprint funds. Donna Blaney, Director of Accountability with the Montgomery County Public School System, urged the State Board to delay until the 2023-2024 school year the implementation of Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) end of course high school assessments. Tom Mortensen shared his concerns with the education and college and career readiness preparation of male students. Sharon Saroff raised concerns with strict implementation of policies for inclusion of students in education settings providing the least restrictive environment for students receiving special education services. Dr. Scott Smith, St. Mary's County Public Schools Superintendent, expressed his appreciation for the recently awarded LEADS grant funding allocated by MSDE from available \$135 million in federal ESSER funds, and highlighted the benefits of the \$5.3 funding St. Mary's County has been awarded to invest in supporting promotional pathways via tuition reimbursement and embedded coursework to recruit students for future careers in teaching.

Oral Arguments

The State Board heard oral arguments in the following case: *Stephen Price v. Howard County Board of Education*.

Maryland Local Teachers of the Year Awards

The State Board and Superintendent Choudhury recognized the 24 local Teachers of the Year selected for 2022-2023. The National Teacher of the Year Program is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and intended to draw public attention to the teaching profession and the contributions of our outstanding teachers. The Maryland Teachers of the Year represent thousands of teachers in the public schools of our State and, when selected for the State Award, he or she enters the National Teacher of the Year competition. The Maryland Teacher of the Year participates in numerous speaking engagements and professional development programs at state conferences, college graduations, ceremonies, and other events.

[Local Teachers of the Year](#)

Blueprint Deep Dive: Early Childhood Education

Steven Hicks, Assistant Superintendent for the Division of Early Childhood Development, and Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum, Instructional Improvement and Professional Development, presented a continuation of the briefing on early education issues they began at the April meeting at which they covered the first three early childhood education themes from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future: 1. Mixed-delivery Prekindergarten, 2. Program Quality, and 3. Workforce. The remaining two policy areas were the focus of this month's presentation: 4. Expanded Support Programs, and 5. R4K Assessment System.

1. Mixed-Delivery PreK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prekindergarten Expansion Grant• Maryland State Prekindergarten Program
2. Program Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maryland EXCELS• Child Care Accreditation Support Fund• Child Care Incentive Grant Program
3. Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maryland Child Care Credential Program• Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund
4. Expanded Support Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ulysses Currie Head Start State Supplemental Grants• Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program• Judy Centers• Patty Centers (Family Support Centers)
5. R4K Assessment System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kindergarten Readiness Assessment• Ready for Kindergarten (R4K) Grants

The presentation on expanded support programs focused on:

- Head Start Supplemental Grants - Funding used to extend the day for children who would otherwise participate in a 3.5 hour day; and/or extend the year for children to participate in a six-to-eight-week summer programming.
- Blueprint Funded Expansion of Judy Centers (69 and Growing) - Judy Centers promote school readiness for children ages birth through five using a multigenerational approach for families and children and provide professional development for early childhood educators.
- Blueprint Funded Expansion of Family Support Centers (Patty Centers) (20 and Growing) - Patty Centers provide parents and their children with a two-generation approach that improve parenting skills, develop the family as a functioning unit, and promote the growth and development of their children.

In addition, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Marcella Franczkowski presented on Maryland's unique and nationally recognized program to allow parents of children with disabilities to choose to enroll in free infants and toddlers programs to ensure smooth transitions to prekindergarten programs.

The presentation on readiness assessments focused on:

- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) - All entering kindergarteners will be assessed beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Ready for Kindergarten (R4K) Grants - Formula grants to school systems for implementing the Ready For Kindergarten (R4K) Assessment program which includes the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and the Early Learning Assessment (ELA).

Representatives from private childcare providers share their experiences, including: Ruby Daniels, Daniels Family Daycare, Howard County; Arlene Ennis, Little Creation Family Child Care, Prince George's County; Deena Gutridge, DnD Christian Daycare, Baltimore County; and Sonya Odum, Sonya's Family Daycare, Anne Arundel County.

Presentation: [Blueprint Deep Dive: Early Childhood Education](#)

Educator Qualification Data & Maryland Report Card

Chandra Haislet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting, presented on the 2020-2021 Educator Qualifications information being reported on the MSDE website. This educator qualification data is available on the Maryland Report Card website and includes information on the following: 1. Educator Qualification data disaggregated by local education agency, 2. Educator Qualification by Poverty data, and 3. Educator Qualification by Students of Color.

The presentation featured statewide and local school system data on educator qualifications, including: 1. inexperienced teachers and educators, defined as teachers and educators with three or less years of experience; 2. teachers teaching with emergency and provisional credentials, defined as teachers with a certificate that is issued only to an applicant employed in an LEA who does not

meet all professional certification requirements; and 3. out-of-field teachers, defined as teachers teaching in a subject they are not certified to teach.

[Presentation](#)

Covid Transmission Rates and School Logistics

Superintendent Choudhury presented recent data for the monthly update on state logistics and transmission rates related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including data on the number of students and staff who have needed to be quarantined, positivity rates, 7-Day moving average case rates per 100K by jurisdiction, community transmission levels, and statewide hospitalizations. Highlights of the presentation include:

- Data collected related to COVID-19 logistics from the 24 local education agencies (LEAs) through May 20, 2022 (LEAs update the data weekly)
- Data published by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on positivity rates, 7-day moving average new daily case rates per 100K population, vaccination rates, hospitalization rates, and death rates for each jurisdiction
- The CDC's new COVID-19 community levels metric
- MDH and federal guidance and testing programs
- MDH/MSDE's new Interim K-12 School and Child Care COVID-19 Guidance
- MDH information on Omicron variants

[Presentation](#)

2022 Legislative Session Summary

The State received a 2022 session summary report from MSDE Chief of Staff Ary Amerikaner, highlighting the following bills:

- House Bill 277/Senate Bill 234 – Public Schools – Purple Stars Schools Program – Establishment
- House Bill 467 – Education – Teacher Certification – Montessori Schools
- House Bill 660 – Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitation Services
- House Bill 769/Senate Bill 325 – Student Data Privacy – Protections, Digital Tools, and Student Data Privacy Council
- House Bill 850 – Schools, PreK Programs, and County Board of Education - Discrimination
- House Bill 1255/Senate Bill 705 – Education – Physical Restraint and Seclusion – Limitations, Reporting, and Training
- Senate Bill 617 – Local School Systems – Equivalent Access Standards
- House Bill 1450 – Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation Plans and Funds – Alterations

[Presentation](#)

Board Opinions

The State Board issued legal opinions for the following cases:

- *Bryan Carter v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners*, affirming the local board decision to terminate employment for insubordination, misconduct in office, willful neglect of duty, and incompetency.
- *Stephen Price v. Howard County Board of Education*, rejecting the ALJ's recommended decision and remanding the employee termination case for a full evidentiary hearing.
- *Mr. and Mrs. Vernon C. v. Prince George's County Board of Education*, dismissing the appeal of a student assessment decision for untimeliness.
- *John and Tammy W. v. Charles County Board of Education*, dismissing the appeal of a student transfer decision for untimeliness.