Greetings,

As we approach the end of 2022, it's reassuring to think of all the progress Maryland school systems have made throughout the year. Whether coming up to speed and moving to the implementation phase of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future; strengthening our strategic partnerships; or continuing to craft solutions tied to the many pandemic-related challenges we have faced, dedicated school board members throughout Maryland continued to earn their stripes -- and then some.

But if there is one truism in the public education world, it's that change is a constant. It's with this reality in mind that following the Nov. 8 election we will be seeing changes in the makeup of several of Maryland's 24 school systems -- with attendant new challenges, but also with new opportunities for growth, progress and cohesion. If we stick to our guiding mantra that students come first, we can achieve so much. That's really what it comes down to.

As of publishing time, some Maryland school board race results were still pending, but you can access current results for Maryland counties and Baltimore City on the State Board of Elections site (scroll down to the Local Offices section listed by county). Additionally, Ballotpedia is maintaining a helpful hub of Election 2022 overview information and results which you can access here.

I'm honored to have begun my term as MABE President on Oct. 6 of this year, and see a real chance over this coming year not only to help find solutions and answers, however modest, but to learn from my school board peers both long-term and new in Maryland. Your “smarts,” your innovation, and your ingrained perseverance all have inspired me since I began serving as a school board member several years ago -- and this surely will only increase in the days ahead.

Thank you truly for all that you do,

~ Joe Goetz (Kent County)
MABE President

In what is considered an historic national race, Wes Moore, 44, has been elected governor by a wide margin, making him Maryland's first Black governor and just the third Black governor elected in U.S. history (following Deval Patrick in Massachusetts and Virginia's L. Douglas Wilder).

Governor-Elect Moore's platform, the Baltimore Sun reported, included “plans to invest heavily in child care, job retraining and apprenticeship programs, public transportation, education and more.” The education page of Moore's campaign website singles out his support for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, including a pledge to "always make education a top priority," and "ensure Maryland's Blueprint for Education is fully funded and implemented and provide dedicated funding for the Blueprint's Accountability and Implementation Board to assess progress and provide technical support to localities."

We are eager to learn more specifics of all of the Governor-Elect's education plans, and will be closely watching what we hope will be significant progress in the months and years to come.
Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launches $1 Billion in Funding through State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently announced $1 billion in funding over four years, beginning FY22, to support state, local and territorial governments in their work to address cyber risk within their information systems. School systems and districts will have access to the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program's grant funding, but application for this federal funding must be made by the state which then may allocate funds to school systems and local governments.

Grant funding may be applied toward combatting cybersecurity threats or risks "on information systems owned or operated by school systems to support best cybersecurity practices, such as multi-factor authentication, enhanced logging and data encryption," but may not be applied to cybersecurity insurance or extortion payments stemming from ransomware attacks (source: K12 Security Information Exchange).

Further details may be found here on the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency’s website; click “Tools and Resources” for related fact sheets, FAQs and free cybersecurity tools and services.

Latest Edition of Maryland School Law Deskbook Available

Given the complex challenges facing Maryland’s public education professionals today, it's crucial they stay up to speed on the laws governing public education.

To this end, and in efforts to help ensure public schools are innovative learning environments providing the key skills students need to be successful in college and career, the latest edition of the Maryland School Law Deskbook is available for pre-ordering. The Deskbook, the only education law reference of its kind in the state, is written by experienced education law attorneys and published in cooperation with MABE. It offers current and authoritative information on legal issues facing schools within the context of state and federal education law.

Concise, intuitive, and clearly written in a straightforward Q&A format, the Deskbook includes a comprehensive index and table of cases cited. It is considered the essential education law resource for school principals, administrators, school board members, superintendents, education professionals and attorneys in Maryland.

We believe this timely edition will be a standout resource for Maryland public education professionals. To pre-order the 2022-2023 school year edition, visit here.

MABE Executive Director Search Survey: Deadline Extended

MABE Executive Director Francie Glendening has announced her retirement, effective in July 2023. The MABE Officers and Board of Directors have initiated the search process to recruit a new Executive Director. On Wednesday, November 3rd, all local board members received a survey via email from MABE's Executive Director search consultant Kitty Blumsack (mabedirectorsearch@gmail.com). Results of this survey will help identify the skills and characteristics the new Executive Director should possess to ensure MABE's leadership continues to meet members’ needs and help advance Maryland public education.

Given the importance of this survey and the recent focus on state elections, the survey deadline has been extended. Please complete the short survey linked within the November 3rd email you received by Thursday, November 17th. Questions regarding the Executive Director search or survey may be directed to Kitty Blumsack at kblumsack@aol.com.
The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case of *Perez v. Sturgis Public Schools*, a case involving the question of whether a plaintiff must exhaust administrative remedies under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in order to maintain suit for relief under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The case is scheduled for argument before the Court on January 18, 2023.

The case, which entails the denial of services to a deaf child, “could prove significant for remedies being sought in lawsuits against school districts on behalf of children with disabilities,” *Education Week* reported in October.

[Click here](#) to learn more details of this important case from MABE Director of Legal & Policy Services [Debra Daniel](#).

The Educational Equity Committee has been working hard to complete the Facilitator’s Guide to accompany the “Leading For Educational Equity Through School Board Governance” workbook.

The Committee expects to wrap up its work on the Facilitator’s Guide by the end of this year, and hopes to have it in production by the first quarter of 2023. Stay tuned for more details!

One hundred percent of MABE Annual Conference 2022 attendees rated the conference’s Session Content, Information Takeaway, Speakers, and Overall Satisfaction rate with “Extremely Satisfied,” “Satisfied,” or “Moderately Satisfied” ratings, with the highest percentage self-describing as “Extremely Satisfied.” The 100% approval rating is up from last year’s 96% approval rating.

In case you missed them earlier, presentations and resources from MABE Annual Conference 2022 may be found [here](#). Thank you to all who attended the conference!
In the News:

Kent County News (10/12)
Kent County Board of Ed President Joe Goetz sworn in as president of MABE

Washington Post (10/18)
How to protect schools getting whacked by ransomware

WMAR-BAL abc (10/22)
Pew Research Center projects by 2030 Hispanic and Latino students to make up the second largest group of students in the country

KBVU (10/12)
“STEAM” bus educating elementary school kids in Prince George’s County outside the classroom

Southern Maryland News (10/12)
Mentorship programs show huge gains in Charles schools

Salisbury Daily Times (9/6)
‘We’re all leaders’: Wicomico schools Superintendent Micah Stauffer embraces challenge

K-12 Dive (11/1)
Maryland’s Wicomico County Public Schools Adds Innovative New Edtech Tools to High School Curriculum to More Deeply Engage Students in Science

Fox 45 News (10/12)
School on a snow day? More than half of Md. school districts planning for virtual learning

DCist (10/31)
Montgomery County launches solar microgrid to power electric buses, a first for the region

Rev. Dr. Robert G. Kirkley, who served for ten years on the St. Mary’s County Board of Education and as MABE President from 1996-1997, passed away earlier this year at the age of 92. Our sincere condolences go out to his family and loved ones.

The 74 (10/26)
How Do Americans Truly Feel About Public Education, & What Do They Want to See?

Maryland Matters/WTOP (10/14)
Blueprint board recommends timeline to implement comprehensive education plan

Yahoo! Finance (10/13; release)
New Report, ‘Out of the Box,’ Offers Promising Path to Increasing Educational Equity and Opportunity

MSDE (10/6; release)
Baltimore City elementary school teacher Berol Dewdney named 2022-23 Maryland Teacher of the Year

Maryland teachers quitting, larger exodus could follow

Stay tuned for Maryland Public Television’s upcoming launch of a four-part series of special reports on the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. MABE’s John Woolums is scheduled to appear in Part I of the series, scheduled as of 11/14 to air 11/18.

Upcoming Meetings & Trainings

MABE OFFICERS’ RETREAT
NOVEMBER 18
2:00 - 4:00 PM
(Virtual)

MABE BOARD RETREAT
NOVEMBER 19
8:30 AM - Noon
(Virtual)

VIRTUAL NEW BOARD ORIENTATION TRAINING
DECEMBER 8
9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Register here.
A Message from MABE
Strategic Partner BoardDocs:

Special Limited Time Offer:

Now is a great time to check out BoardDocs Pro, the premiere board management solution for educational organizations. Thousands of districts trust the advanced functionality in BoardDocs Pro to ensure transparency and support positive public engagement.

Save $1,000 on BoardDocs Pro! Waive the implementation fee through 12/20/2022.

Request a Demo now and a BoardDocs governance advisor can show you how you can streamline your board meetings with a modern, cost-effective solution designed to simplify the entire end-to-end board meeting process.

BONUS: New implementations and upgrades will include a dedicated Board Member Training session to be provided during your scheduled board meeting by a Diligent trainer.

Sessions are 30 minutes in length and subject to trainer availability and scheduling. Sessions must be completed by March 31, 2023.

Want to learn more? Watch this virtual meeting knowledge check to see how organizations are using Minutes, Workflow and Goals to streamline their board meetings.

TACKLING THE TRIFECTA OF COSTS, INFLATION & INCREASING CLAIMS

School systems and counties are facing the daunting hurdles of rising health care costs, inflation and, often, increased medical and pharmacy claims. Stuart M. Sutley with Bolton Innovation Group dives into what this means for employers, and offers his take on "fixing" unpredictable costs through "bundled" procedures and in-person or virtual "concierge-like" primary care and mental health services.

Click here to read his perspective.

MABE Member Benefits

We encourage you to visit the MABE Member Benefits & Solutions booklet for helpful details on MABE's professional development services, publications, insurance offerings and much more -- all geared toward helping you with your much-needed work as a school board member.

Click here to visit the MABE Member Benefits & Solutions booklet.