MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

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TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education

FROM: Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed. D.

DATE: May 22, 2012

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Proposed Changes to Certification

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to present an update regarding the proposed changes to certification specifically pertaining to the changes recommended by the Joint Conference Committee related to the continuance of the Advanced Professional Certificate (APC).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Proposed changes to COMAR13A.12.01, General Provisions, were presented to you at your March 27, 2012 meeting. Due to a perceived difference in understanding regarding the proposed changes, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) requested that a Joint Conference Committee be convened.

Mr. James Degraffenreidt, Jr., President; Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, Vice President; Mr. Guffrie Smith, Jr.; and Ms. Kate Walsh represented the MSBE. Dr. Margaret Trader, Chair of the PSTEB, Mr. Darren Hornbeck, Vice Chair; Ms. Shirley Brandman, and Dr. Carl Roberts represented the PSTEB. The Joint Conference Committee met on April 5, 2012 prior to the regular meeting of the PSTEB; Ms. Jean Satterfield and Legal Counsels were also present.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the Advanced Professional Certificate (APC) should remain a requirement with a strong recommendation from your conference committee members that another option for achieving the APC be developed. This option would include demonstrated teacher effectiveness based on student achievement as an additional option. Achieving the APC in this way would not require coursework.

The PSTEB discussed this option at their May 3, 2012. As the discussion progressed, the PSTEB identified potential challenges to implement this proposed new option and decided to continue deliberation at its June 7, 2012 meeting.

SUMMARY:

The PSTEB requested a Joint Conference Committee to discuss perceived differences in the proposed regulatory changes to COMAR 13A.12.01, General Provisions, which were recommended in the Final Report of the Work Group on Restructuring Certification. As a result of the joint meeting, it was recommended to explore another option for obtaining the Advanced Professional Certificate which did not rely on course work but rather on demonstrated teacher effectiveness.

ACTION:

I am presenting this item for your information.

BJS: jes