



Maryland State Board of Education

May 31, 2022

Juanita Miller, Board Chair
Prince George's County Board of Education
14201 School Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Juanita.Miller@pgcps.org

Dear Dr. Miller:

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) received a request for your removal as a member of the Prince George's County Board of Education (local board) containing allegations of misconduct in office, willful neglect of duty, and incompetence. You submitted a response to the allegations through legal counsel. The State Board has reviewed all of the materials and determined that certain allegations are legally and factually sufficient to support charges. Accordingly, on May 24, 2022, the State Board voted to issue charges against you for misconduct in office, willful neglect of duty, and incompetence. These charges are based on allegations concerning conduct involving the procurement of legal services for the local board and allegations concerning withholding from the local board ethics complaints and/or the findings and recommendations of the Ethics Panel on ethics complaints. We describe the charges further below.

The allegations supporting the charges are as follows:

- Failing to sign a contract with Pugh Law Group for legal services that was approved by the local board at its April 28, 2021 board meeting. Engaging the legal services of the law firms Karpinski, Cornbrooks & Karp, P.A. and Bill Shelton Attorney at Law, LLC without local board approval. Inviting unauthorized guests Kevin Karpinski, Esq. and Bill Shelton, Esq. to attend confidential executive sessions of the local board on June 24, 2021 and February 24, 2021, respectively.
- Withholding from the local board seven ethics complaints and failing to timely present to the local board the findings and recommendations of the Ethics Panel on the complaints so that the local board could fulfill its responsibility to make a final decision under Board Policy 0107.

Pursuant to Maryland Education Article '3-1002(i), the State Board may remove a member of the local board on the grounds of misconduct in office, willful neglect of duty, and incompetency. Before removing a member of a county board, the State Board must send a copy of the charges. This letter constitutes the charges against you.

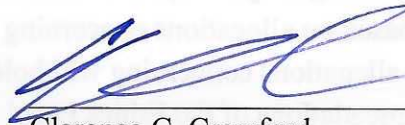
You may request an evidentiary hearing on the charges by filing your request within 10 days of the date of this letter. You may file a hearing request via email by sending it to mphillips@oag.state.md.us or you may file a request for hearing via mail by sending your hearing request to the following:

Michelle Phillips
Office of the Attorney General
Maryland State Department of Education
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

If you request a hearing, the State Board will transfer the matter to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) which shall schedule and conduct the hearing. You may represent yourself or be represented by counsel at the hearing. The individuals who submitted the removal request will also be notified and will be the other party to the hearing.

An administrative law judge (ALJ) at the OAH will issue a Proposed Decision on Removal to the State Board. Any party objecting to the ALJ's Proposed Decision may file exceptions with the State Board within 15 days of the date of the Proposed Decision. The opposing party may respond within 15 days of the date of the filing of exceptions. If exceptions are filed, the State Board will schedule oral argument for the parties to present argument publicly before the Board. COMAR13A.01.05.12.

Sincerely,



Clarence C. Crawford
President, Maryland State Board of Education

cc: Sydney M. Patterson, Esq.