

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday
February 24, 2009

Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President; Mr. Blair G. Ewing, Vice President; Mr. Dunbar Brooks; Dr. Charlene M. Dukes; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Ms. Rosa M. Garcia; Mr. Richard Goodall; Dr. Karabelle Pizzigati; Dr. Ivan Walks; Ms. Kate Walsh; and Mr. D. Derek Wu. Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools, was also in attendance.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. John Smeallie, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director to the State Board.

President DeGraffenreidt announced that Brenda Welburn of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) had planned to be in attendance to hear the Governor's comments in order to better assist the Board with the Board's effort to refresh our strategic vision. He reported that Ms. Welburn was not able to be present due to a death in her family. He then introduced Douglas Levin, her deputy, who was present in her place. He also noted that new members of local boards of education were present and asked Kitty Blumsack, Director of Board Development, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, to introduce them. Ms. Blumsack introduced Patricia Nalley, member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

CONSENT AGENDA

The President asked for approval of items listed under Consent Agenda.

In response to a question by Mr. Ewing, Mr. Steve Brooks, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Business Services, explained that items 5 & 6 under major budget realignments represent offsetting adjustments of federal funds where funds were not received.

Upon motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Dr. Dukes, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows: (In Favor – 10; Dr. Walks arrived late.)

Approval of Minutes of January 27-28, 2009
Personnel (**copy attached to these minutes**)
Budget Adjustments for January, 2009
Permission to Publish:

COMAR 13A.05.09.02B(3)(b)(v)(NEW)
Child Awaiting Foster Care Placement

COMAR 13A.08.05 (AMEND)
Informal Kinship Care

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Grasmick noted that she recently attended the P-20 Council Meeting and reported on the release of the College Board's report on Advanced Placement (AP) results which revealed that Maryland now holds first place in the number of students taking AP courses and also scoring three or better on the tests. She said the Council reviewed the MGT Report and the Bohanan Commission Report on Higher Education. She also reported that the Governor launched a comprehensive teacher survey to glean input on education in Maryland.

Dr. Grasmick reported that staff is reviewing the findings contained in the report released by the National Council on Teacher Quality and a national education survey conducted by the Fordham Foundation.

Dr. Grasmick also updated the Board on steps she has taken on the concerns and recommendations raised by the Task Force to Improve Financial Literacy in Maryland. In response to a question by President DeGraffenreidt, Dr. Grasmick said that a discussion of the GED will be addressed during a later portion of the Board meeting. She also noted that she is looking at creating a Task Force to review the physical education facilities in schools in Maryland.

In response to a question by Dr. Dukes regarding the recommendations of the Task Force to Improve Financial Literacy in Maryland, Dr. Grasmick said that a proposed formalized response to the Maryland General Assembly will be provided to the Board at its March meeting to allow time for staff to complete their work on preparation of content standards and course work for local school systems to improve financial literacy among Maryland's students.