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VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 4



A MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO THE HAPPENINGS AT

# THE MSDE PULSE

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

PREPARING WORLD CLASS STUDENTS

### Special points of interest >>>

- JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
- STATE BOARD UPDATES
- TEACHER OF THE YEAR
- CLASSIFIEDS

### WE WANT YOU!!!!!!

Have an event, suggestion, idea or photo you'd like to see in the next edition of **THE PULSE**? Send us your ideas— We are always looking for new and exciting pieces to add and your idea could be featured! Please note that all information must be submitted no later than the 10th of each month, please plan ahead for any time sensitive materials!

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH! MSDE is proud to announce our June 2017 Employee of the Month:

### Boyd Pusey!



Boyd Pusey, June 2017

Boyd is an Education Program Specialist with the Division of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, Autism Waiver and Health Related Services. He was nominated by his Branch Chief, Carmen Brown.

Boyd was excited to receive the news during a surprise meeting with Marcella Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, Carmen Brown, Program Manager for the Agency Collaboration Branch, Steven Serra, Director, Office Human Resources, and a very enthusiastic group of colleagues from this branch!

The nomination submitted on Boyd's behalf highlighted the following:

*Boyd Pusey's dedication to the children and families of Maryland is displayed in his daily work at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS) where he supports the Maryland Autism Waiver as an Autism Waiver Specialist. This Waiver is a critical component of service delivery to 1,000 children and their families in Maryland. Children often wait 10 years to access the services available through the Autism Waiver, and Boyd's support to each and every family, school system staff, and service agency staff is unfaltering.*

*He has received numerous satisfaction survey comments speaking to his knowledge, support, honesty, and willingness to support families who have the opportunities to work with him. He is kind, considerate, thoughtful and helpful.*

*Boyd seeks to find solutions for families and their children who are in daily need of understanding and assistance. Boyd is a critical member of the Autism Waiver and DSE/EIS team, and plays an even more critical role in supporting Maryland's vulnerable children and families. Thank You and Congratulations Boyd!*

CONTACT SAMANTHA FOLEY

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR EMPLOYEE NOMINATION FORM](#)

# State Board Meeting Actions: May 23, 2017



The following actions were taken at the May 23, 2017 meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education:

- Granted permission to adopt amendments to regulation .01 under COMAR 13A.03.01 Standards for Kindergarten Programs. Beginning September 1, 1994, COMAR 13A.03.01.01 Standards for Kindergarten Programs Operated by Public Institutions of Post-Secondary Education is to be reviewed every five years. Since the last review, one of the instructional program requirements was changed: COMAR 13A.04.06 was changed from Program in Reading to Program in Instruction of Personal Financial Literacy. The amendments to regulation .01 will reflect that change.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to regulation .03 under COMAR 13A.12.01 General Provisions. These amendments formalize the process for denying certification to individuals who have a disqualifying cause that would result in a suspension or revocation if the individual already held a Maryland certificate. The proposed amendments would provide the same notice and opportunity for a hearing that is provided to current certificate holders.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to regulations .15 and .16 under COMAR 13A.12.02 Teachers. These amendments expand the pool of potential applicants for local school systems by adding the ability to use teaching experience for the

professional and technical education regulations and revising the number of hours of work experience an individual may present for certification for the work-based learning coordinator.

- Recognized the 2017-2018 Teachers of the Year from Maryland's 24 local school systems. These 24 teachers will represent their school systems in the Maryland Teacher of the Year Program. The Maryland Teacher of the Year will then represent the state and compete for National Teacher of the Year.

The following Opinions and Orders were rendered on May 23, 2017:

- *Tynetta H. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student suspension – Opin. No. 17-18
- *Jon N. v. Charles County Board of Education* – participation in extracurricular activities and athletics – Opin. No. 17-19
- *Douglas Meilander and Carrollton Ridge Community Association v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – Opin. No. 17-20
- *Beverly Beard v. Maryland State Department of Education* – teaching certificate revocation – Order No. 17-07

*Meeting materials, Opinions, and Order can be found at:*  
[www.msde.maryland.gov/stateboard/index.html](http://www.msde.maryland.gov/stateboard/index.html)

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days notice prior to the event is required.

Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.



Check This Out >>>



## Stretching Toward a Better Workplace: MSDE Yoga

The MSDE yoga group was created as part of the Community of Practice (COP) formed by DCAA to get staff to collaborate with each other across teams (Curriculum, Accountability, and Assessments). The first class was held last June and while the intent had originally been to run the class until interest waned, interest has never waned. Rather, attendance became consistent. Osh Oshitoye teaches the course and has practiced yoga for about 27 years and began teaching yoga in 2009.

In her experience the biggest benefit of yoga, as it relates to practicing in the workplace, is its ability to reduce stress, anxiety and relieve musculoskeletal pain, primarily back pain. Numerous studies have shown that yoga at the workplace can actually help reduce absenteeism, boost company morale, and improve communication skills among employees. More productivity, clearer heads, better moods, enhanced creativity, lower

stress, and prolonged mental stamina can help any company in the long run, including MSDE.

If you are new to yoga and are considering taking a course for the first time Osh says to, "Come to your practice with an open mind, understanding that many poses you won't be able to do at first. Don't compare yourself to others. Be patient and stick with it." Osh says her additional advice is to find a teacher that doesn't simply call out names of poses, but actually helps you to approach the pose with proper alignment. Proper alignment will keep the yoga practitioner safe and serve you well for years to come.

*MSDE's yoga class is held every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. on the 8th floor in conference Room 1. Bring your yoga mat and props if you have them! See you there!*

# Check out the photos from our 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year Celebration!

In May we proudly recognized and welcomed our 2017-2018 Local Teachers of the Year! Our TOYs came to Baltimore City from every county across the state and spent the day being honored by the State Board of Education. Twenty-four representatives from each county and Baltimore City came to enjoy a day of recognition and celebration.



Maryland has participated in the National Teacher of the Year Program for 27 years. The National Program is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers. The Maryland program is sponsored by MSDE along with its presenting partners- Comcast, the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, McDonalds Family of Greater Baltimore and Northrup Grumman. As well as our platinum sponsors: BGE, Lockheed Martin, NTA Life and Whiting Turning Contracting. Thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors and our Teachers of the Year!



# Everyone Has Something to WRITE

## The DSE/EIS proves **Everyone Has Something to WRITE!**

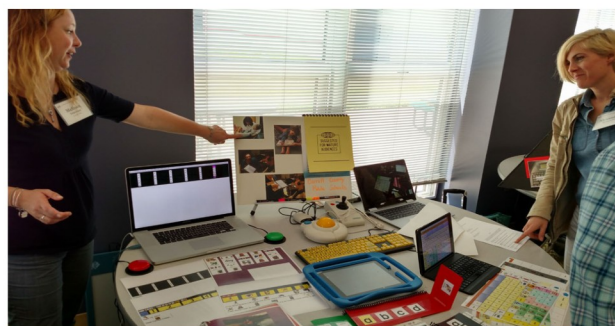
On June 1, **Dr. Gretchen Hanser**, a national expert in assistive and instructional technologies for students with disabilities, delivered a keynote address and set the stage for the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services communicative competence conference: **Everyone Has Something to WRITE!**

More than **100 professionals** from across Maryland participated in sessions and presentations focused on the writing process for students with the most significant disabilities. The June 1 conference was the third installment in the DSE/EIS professional learning series related to **communicative competence**, a set of behaviors that students must have to communicate what they know and how to get their needs met in the academic setting.

Dr. Hanser and local school system partners from Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Prince George's and Worcester Counties, demonstrated **strategies that are being used to increase written language skills** school-wide in local school systems. The Maryland Deaf-Blind Project and the Assistive Technology Steering Committee also presented the work that they are doing locally to improve communication skills in their most complex learners.

The next conference in the series will take place next spring. Until then, the DSE/EIS will provide customized technical assistance tracks to local school systems, through the **DSE/EIS Strategic Plan Regionalization for Results** framework.

Stay tuned!



**To learn more about the DSE/EIS Everyone Has Something to WRITE** professional learning conference, please contact Nancy Schmitt, Assessment Specialist in the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS): [nancy.schmitt@maryland.gov](mailto:nancy.schmitt@maryland.gov).

# MSDE CLASSIFIEDS

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Say Hello >>>

**Who's new to MSDE? Check back each month for an updated list!**

**Audrey Codner-Gibson**, Teacher APC Math (Juvenile Services Education)

**Hyacinth Facey-Palmer**, Administrative Officer II (Juvenile Services Education)

**Maria Jison**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services)

**Malkia McLeod**, Staff Specialist II (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Marjorie Miles**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services)

**Janeille Shorts**, Human Services Specialist IV (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Likivu Speaks**, Fiscal Services Administrator III (Division of Business Services)

**Michelle Spencer**, Administrative Specialist III (Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs)

**Jonathan Turner**, Education Program Specialist II (Division of Student, Family, and School Support)

**Lisa Washington**, Management Associate (Library Development Services)

**Beverly Whaley**, Office Secretary III (Library Development Services)

**Nathan Klewin**, V. R. Specialist II (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

**Brittany Lee**, Office Secretary III (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

**Elyse Sedlander**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II (Division of Rehabilitation Services)



## CUSTOMER SERVICE CORNER

As part of a state-wide initiative to improve customer service, check out our Customer Service Corner for monthly updates, tips, tricks and highlights on responses to our Customer Service Survey!

### Reminder >>

The deadline for completing the on-line Customer Service Training course was June 15, 2017. If you did not complete the training, please go to The HUB, the State-wide Learning Management System (LMS), and complete the course. It has been added to your Transcript in The HUB. This will allow us to track each employee's completion of this requirement. This request is part of our next phase of Governor Hogan's Customer Service Initiative (CSI), a continuous program designed to foster improvements in customer service across Maryland state agencies.

### Did you know? >>

- From January through April, 2017, 748 Customer Service Surveys have been completed by MSDE customers.
- From January through April, 2017, MSDE had the third highest volume of completed surveys of the 35 state agencies participating in Governor Hogan's Customer Service Initiative.
- Of the 748 completed surveys, 83.5% of respondents were, overall, very satisfied or somewhat satisfied.
- With an overall satisfaction rate of 83.5%, MSDE ranks 16th of the 35 participating state agencies.

### Best Wishes! >>>

**Sharing staff members that have recently retired! Best Wishes!**

**Barbara Bice**, Chief, School Facilities Branch (School Facilities)

**Elizabeth Neal**, Ed. Program Spec II (Office of School, Teacher, and Principal Evaluation)

**Jo Ellen Pratt**, Office Secretary II (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Lori Rogers**, Office Secretary II (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Jayne Turpin**, Office Secretary III (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Karen Simonik**, Program Manager I (Disability Determination Services)

**Joyce Castora**, Vocational Rehabilitation. Spec. Supervisor (Disability Determination Services)

**JoAnne Materkowski**, V.R. Director III (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

**Eric Wissel**, V.R. Technical Supervisor (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

**Mary "Betsy" Sims**, Staff Specialist III (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

**Ronald Brooks**, Building Services Worker (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

**Robert Moulden**, Program Manager II (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

**Catherine Dabney**, VR Specialist Supervisor (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

**Hollye Loverde**, Admin. Spec. II (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

**Miles Fitzgerald**, Staff Specialist II (Division of Rehabilitation Services)