

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD

June 5, 2014

Minutes

The 387th meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) was held at the Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 on June 5, 2014. Mr. Darren Hornbeck called the meeting to order at 9:40.

The following members were in attendance: Ms. Merlyn Bell, Ms. Shirley Brandman, Dr. Lorraine Cornish-Harrison, Dr. Colleen Eisenbeiser, Mr. Ronald Goldblatt, Esq., Dr. Lisa Grillo, Mr. Darren Hornbeck, Dr. Alyssia James, Ms. Maleeta Kitchen, Dr. Mary Ellen Lewis, Dr. Donna Newcomer, Dr. Barbara Martin Palmer, Ms. Dawn Pipkin, Dr. Karen Roe, Ms. Jean Satterfield, Ms. Valerie Saxton Sharpe, Dr. Theresa Stafford and Dr. Jamey Tobery-Nystrom.

The following members were absent: Ms. Cathy Cerveney, Ms. Louise E. DeJesu, Ms. Ayana English Brown, Dr. Bryan Powell, and Ms. Amy Jo Smith.

The following Maryland State Department of Education staff members were present: Dr. Joanne Ericson, Ms. Ruth Downs (Recorder), Derek Simonsen, Esq., Attorney General's Office, Charlene Collaco – Office of the Attorney General, Maryann Hong – Office of the Attorney General, Elizabeth Neal, Elissa Hozore, Mary Voorhees and Michael Linkins.

The following guests were in attendance: Jaime Mulligan (MCPS), Jennifer Cossette (MCPS), Justin Karras (WCPS), Susan Bartels (Towson University), Marilyn Retzler (SMCPS), Chris Rodkey (SMCPS), Ashley Bailer (SMCPS), Barbara Schwartz (AACPS), Cheryl Harrison-Murray (BCPSS), Adrena Prioleau-Womack (BCPSS), and Jonathan Swann (BCPSS).

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

State Board

Mr. Tony South stated that the State Board met on May 20th for a brief meeting. The Teachers of the Year from all 24 counties were introduced to the Board

The Board approved all the actions submitted by the department. The Board approved COMAR 13A.12.02.23 (Blind/Visually Impaired) and COMAR 13A.12.02.29 (Instructional Leader: Elementary STEM). The last action taken was to recognize all 24 teachers of the year.

ACTION

Approval of May 1, 2014 Minutes:

Mr. Darren Hornbeck entertained a motion to approve the May minutes.

MOTION: Ms. Dawn Pipkin/Dr. Mary Ellen Lewis to approve the
May 1, 2014 minutes

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

July 3rd Meeting:

- Approve June 5, 2014 Minutes.
- Continue COMAR Chapter 3&4 Discussion
- Talk about the TELL survey and how schools use it. Will check with Heather Lageman to see if she is available.

Jean stated that the Board needed to discuss whether a July 3 meeting was possible. Darren stated that traditionally the board has not met. Open to the board for discussion.

Mr. Hornbeck entertained a motion that the board will not meet on July 3rd.

MOTION: Ms. Valerie Sharpe/M. Merlyn Bell For PSTEB not to meet on July 3rd.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Any changes to the PSTEB meeting schedule has to be published. A recommendation was made to change the meeting to July 11th. A conference call may also be conducted for the July meeting. Jean informed the Board that COMAR 13A.12.01 General Provisions is being published and that they will receive the information. Mr. Hornbeck suggested that the board table the July meeting discussion to the end of the meeting.

Discussion/ Action

COMAR 13A.12.02.2, Instructional Leader, Elementary STEM.

The State Board approved the regulation unanimously.

A question was presented to Dr. Ericson in regards to the availability of course work in this area. The coursework is available at several of the institutions. The regulation also allows school systems to develop Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses to meet the regulatory requirement. Elissa Hozore and Liz Neal, Race to the Top Project were introduced. This project team has been working for three years to develop programs to enhance teacher preparation in elementary STEM. There are 12 approved preparation programs engaged in this work

Darren Hornbeck entertained a motion to adopt COMAR 13A.12.02.29.

MOTION: Ms. Dawn Pipkin/Dr. Alyssia James to adopt COMAR 13A.12.02.29.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Comar 13A.1202.23 -- Visually Impaired (now Blind/Visually Impaired). The regulation received 7 comments. Six supported the regulation, and one inquired about coursework. The Board discussed the

development of coursework through CPDs. Comments from the National Federation for the Blind included a question about possible tests used for Braille proficiency. The amended regulation says "Department Approved tests". A short discussion ensued related to the relative merits of the tests available.

MSDE staff will convene a workgroup to look at the available test to determine what test best meets the needs of our students and teachers.

Blind and visually impaired students comprise a very small percentage of students in the state with educational disabilities. The major revision to this regulation was deleting the need to be certified in special education. Most teachers who work in this area come from other states and out-of-state preparation programs do not require special education certification, this requirement has been a barrier to employment.

Darren Hornbeck entertained a motion to adopt COMAR 13A.12.02.23.

MOTION: Ms. Dawn Pipkin/Dr. Mary Ellen Lewis.

To adopt COMAR 13A.12.02.23.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

COMAR - CHAPTER 3

School Counselor:

Mike Linkens, MSDE staff, presented information related to the School Counselor regulation. Over the last year, Mr. Linkens has received phone calls from school counseling coordinators who would like to hire qualified counselors from other states, but the candidates they wish to hire did not meet the requirements. These are candidate who graduated from programs from other states and who also hold a certificate from that state.

Dr. Ericson reviewed the current requirements for school counselors. There are five options for obtaining initial certification. Dr. Ericson discussed possible changes to the current regulation to allow more out-of state candidates to be certified in Maryland

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Dr. Susan Bartels (Towson University) and Dr. Barbara Schwartz (Anne Arundel County Public Schools) spoke to the Board regarding the qualification for school psychologists

Dr. Ericson explained that the national requirements have changed and that the regulations should be reviewed in light of the changes.

Dr. Susan Bartel discussed the specialist degree requirement. Maryland Higher Education Commission does not recognize a specialist degree in the state of Maryland. Dr. Ericson stated that there is a disconnect between what is in COMAR and some of our preparation programs. The National Association of School Psychologist is not requiring a specialist degree.

Dr. Barbara Schwartz from Anne Arundel County Public schools discussed hiring pathways in school systems. A discussion took place regarding the merits of a program of study that is comprehensive and accredited. This type of preparation program results in a better outcome for the students. Dr. Schwartz suggested that the Board allow a workgroup to convene this summer to review the current regulation and to make recommendations to the PSTEB.

Darren Hornbeck entertained a motion for the board to ask MSDE to convene a workgroup to explore significant changes in the regulation for School Psychologist.

MOTION: Dr. Donna Newcomer/Dr. Lorraine Cornish-Harrison

For the Board to ask MSDE to convene a workgroup to explore significant changes the regulation for School Psychologist.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Break until 11:00

Teacher Panel: Preparation for Differentiation

Panel: The panel was comprised of teachers from Montgomery, Washington, and Saint Mary's Counties and Baltimore City Public Schools.

The question posed to the panel was "How well prepared were you in your teacher preparation program for differentiation?"

There was a variety of responses from the panel including:

- Several teachers felt that they had a lot of text book knowledge but no experience with instruction. They stated that to be effective at differentiation you really need to have practice at it and understand what it really means. College is good preparation for the basics but there needs to be a greater focus on diversity.
- One first year teacher said that she felt pretty well prepared for differentiation, the coursework was very helpful. She also had virtual classroom experience. She also said that her classroom mentor during her first year was very helpful.
- Your skillset depends on your internship and experience. Teachers need to know their students and figuring out what works and what does not work. Dual certification in General and Special Education is helpful.
- Some teachers on the panel felt that their undergraduate work did prepare them for the reality of the classroom.
- Many said that until you see students and have your own classroom you will not have an idea of how to differentiate for your students. It is very helpful to understand the home environment.
- Several of the teachers discussed the professional development courses they took to support differentiation. Differentiation strategies have to be developed over time.
- Consistent professional development is a must.

- A more realistic approach of what you will face in the schools is needed. Just having an idea that this is the reality of the situation would be helpful.
- A strong support system is helpful.
- One panelist said she saw a range of students during her teaching internship experience.

The discussion continued until 11:55.

Darren thanked the panel for their honesty. He stated that he heard what the panel said and that the board needs to think about what changes can be made to support teachers in differentiation.

Darren entertained a motion that PSTEB conduct conference call meeting on July 10, 2014 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

MOTION: Ms. Dawn Pipken/Dr. Mary Ellen Lewis for the July 10, 2014 PSTEB meeting be done by conference call.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Darren Hornbeck entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Dawn Pipkin/Dr. Theresa Stafford to adjourn the June 5, 2014 PSTEB meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.