

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

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD**

**April 7, 2016  
Minutes**

The 405<sup>th</sup> 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 March 3, 2016. Mr. Darren Hornbeck called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**The following members were in attendance:** Mr. Peter Baily, Ms. Merlyn Bell, Ms. Jennifer Berkley, Dr. Lorraine Cornish-Harrison, Mr. Charles Hagan, Dr. Kandace Hoppin, Mr. Darren Hornbeck, Dr. Alyssia James, Mr. Philip Kauffman, Ms. Maleeta Kitchen, Dr. Mary Ellen Lewis, Mr. Christopher Lloyd, Dr. Barbara Martin-Palmer, Dr. Donna Newcomer, and Ms. Sarah Spross.

**The following members were absent:** Ms. Louise DeJesu, Ms. Kathleen Kelbaugh, Ms. Dawn Pipkin, Ms. Debra Poese, and Dr. Jamey Tobery-Nystrom.

**The following Maryland State Department of Education staff members were present:**

Ms. Kelly Meadows, Ms. Michelle Dunkle, Ms. Miya Simpson, Ms. April Wade, Ms. Tamara Deshields-Burns, Ms. Ruth Downs (Recorder), and Mr. Derek Simonsen, Esq., Attorney General's Office.

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**Recognition of Guests**

Ms. Geraldine Duval, MSEA  
Ms. Shannon Litton, ETS

**Public Comment**

Ms. Karleen Spitulnik – Decoding Dyslexia Maryland/Right to Read Maryland

This fall Maryland was given a wake-up call when both the NAEP and PARRC testing results showed that approximately 60% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders are not proficient in reading. We can make all the excuses we want about the test, the curriculum, the unprepared students –but the stark reality is that over half of our students are not reading at grade level.

As you know, MSDE has a Workgroup to review the requirements for Teachers of Reading. The workgroup is looking at the four required reading courses elementary school teachers are required to take to determine if the courses prepare teachers to teach to the new College and Career Ready Standards. As a Decoding Dyslexia state leader, I hear from teachers that they are not prepared to teach struggling readers, so we know that many of Maryland's schools of higher education continue to offer reading courses that either do not meet the state reading requirements or lack the content, practice and mentoring required to ensure that teachers have the depth of knowledge needed in the classroom. Reading is a complex process and most students need to be taught explicitly how to read. I ask that you take a close look at the workgroup report to see where you can influence regulation and certification standards to endure that teachers are getting the training they need in our colleges and universities to be successful teachers. I also wanted to make you aware of the efforts of the Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI), a subsidiary of the International Dyslexia Association.

This organization is reviewing and accrediting university teacher preparation programs for their alignment with the International Dyslexia Association's knowledge and Practice Standards for Teacher of Reading. Any day now, CERI CERI will begin offering an exam certifying teachers, who have appropriate training in the knowledge and practice standards and can pass the exam.

I suggest that Maryland consider using this new certification exam to improve reading instruction. It could be used on an anonymous, random basis to test the knowledge of students after they have completed the four reading courses. This would give us a better understanding of students after they have completed the four reading courses. This would give us a better understanding of whether Maryland teacher preparation programs are giving our teacher candidates the knowledge they need. And individual school districts could require this certification exam for their elementary school teachers and reading specialists to ensure that they have the deep knowledge they need to teach reading.

### **State Board**

Ms. Miya Simpson, Executive Director gave a summary of the March 21 and March 22 meetings of the Maryland State Board of Education.

During the **Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** Information Session, the Board was provided an overview and discussion on the following topics. As a reminder, these meetings are for informational purposes only and no action is taken.

- PARCC Results and Mode of Delivery (Mode Effect)
  - Analysis of the 2014-2015 PARCC results by mode of delivery (online v. paper)
- Bridge Plan for Academic Validation
  - Update on the plan as referenced in COMAR 13A.03.02.06
- Maryland Science Program
  - Information regarding the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which have been adopted as the Maryland State Science Standards

During the **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** meeting:

The following action was taken:

- Granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.07.11 –Standards for Professional Learning

The following items were presented for information and discussion:

- Assessment and Accountability Update
  - continued discussion of graduation assessment requirements for Alg I and Eng 10
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  - overview of Title I, Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
- Fine Arts
  - information and update on the Governor's P-20 Leadership Council Task Force on Arts Education in Maryland Schools Final Report
- Updates on: 2016 Legislative Session and State Superintendent Search

In addition, one oral argument was heard and three opinions were rendered.

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Orders can be found at: [www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard)

**The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016,** at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. (The Board Information Session will take place on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the MSDE Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 6/7)

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.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Amanda Conn gave a brief legislative update to the Board via telephone.

**House Bill 617 is the Anne Arundel County Public Schools – Adjunct Instructor Program.** This bill would potentially have a big impact on PSTEB. During the 2015 session, Senate Bill 635, which was Washington County's bill about certification was introduced and was similar in nature. HB617 is Anne Arundel County's bill concerning local certification and what this bill is proposing would authorize Anne Arundel County Public Schools to establish an adjunct program where individuals with specific knowledge, skills and experience in a specialty area or hard to fill area as determined by the County Board could provide local school system recognized but not State recognized certification to those individuals who meet the criteria. This bill reads very differently from SB635, but it is the same concept. They are looking to have their own certification for teachers that may have specialized knowledge. **Ms. Conn stated that this bill has not moved.**

**Senate Bill 1126 is the Linking Youth to New Experiences (LYNX) High School – Pilot Program.** This bill is a new pilot high school based on individual learning. Ms. Conn stated that there is a provision in the bill that requires the State Board to grant a waiver of personnel requirements for the teachers and other personnel staff in this school. This bill would have allowed the pilot school in Frederick County to use non-certified teachers. As the bill moved out of the Senate and is now in the House, the provision was removed from the bill. The bill as it stands now, actually says that the State Board may not grant a waiver of any of the personnel requirements in COMAR. Everyone in the school has to comply with the standard COMAR certification regulations.

Ms. Conn stated that she does not know what will happen to that bill in the House. The bill went to hearing on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Again, this was just another attempt to by-pass certification.

**House Bill 921 – Primary and Secondary Education – School Personnel – Training Program.** This bill is for the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to require certain school personnel to complete training in, by a method determined by the State Board after consultation with the Professional Standards and Teacher Board, certain knowledge and skills required to understand and respond to the social, emotional, and personal development of students.

Ms. Conn stated that this new bill that has not been seen before. The bill has not moved out of the House.

### **COMAR 13A.12.01.14B (Amended) – Waivers and Special Certification Provisions**

Ms. Sarah Spross introduced Ms. Kelly Meadows to discuss the proposed changes in Waivers and Special Certification Provisions for COMAR 13A.12.01.14B.

#### **Purpose:**

Ms. Meadows stated that the purpose of this item is to provide the opportunity for discussion regarding a proposed change to the regulations governing a superintendent's ability to request a waiver of the renewal requirements for any professionally certificated employee who is 55 years of age or older; or who has been employed for at least 25 years. The current regulations contain ambiguous and conflicting information, which requires alignment [COMAR 13A.12.01.14B (1) and COMAR 13A.1201.14B (2) (a)]. Furthermore, past practice has been to allow approved nonpublic schools to request this waiver and this regulatory change would clarify the regulation to expand it to all nonpublic schools.

#### **Summary:**

This revision to the regulation, governing a superintendent's ability to request a waiver of the renewal requirements for any professionally certificated employee who is 55 years age or older; who has been employed for at least 25 years, is being proposed to align the regulatory language with current MSDE policy and allow for all nonpublic school employees to apply for the waiver.

Ms. Spross proposed that since several definitions have been reviewed thus far, we should pull them all together into what a formal definitions section would look like in regulations and highlight the definitions that have been approved so that the Board does not revisit them.

Action:

This item is presented for discussion only. Ms. Spross asked for permission to bring COMAR 13A.12.01.14B back to the Board in May for permission to publish.

**COMAR 13A.12.01.02 - Definitions**

Ms. Sarah Spross introduced Ms. Kelly Meadows to continue with the discussion on the definitions for COMAR 13A.12.01.02 (23).

Ms. Meadows asked the Board to look at #23 which currently is #22 under the definitions for Institution of Higher Education (IHE). She stated that the reason that they were bringing this definition forward was because the national accrediting body NCATE, which is referred in the current definition, is no longer in existence. It has morphed into the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and will be CAEP in the future. So, we thought that instead of putting CAEP in the definition, we should just simply stick with more general terms. The proposed definition that is going to replace NCATE will be “It participates in the Interstate Certification Compact (ICC) or a Department-recognized national accreditation program.” This is the only change.

Mr. Hornbeck agreed that the definition looked good and we’re on the right track. Ms. Spross stated that this definition can be added to the list of the other definitions that have been agreed upon.

**Proposed Definition:**

| <b>Term</b>                           | <b>Current Definition</b>   | <b>Proposed Definition</b>   | <b>Comments</b>  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Institution of higher education (IHE) | Means an accredited college or university that meets one of the following standards:<br><br>a) It is accredited by an accrediting commission in one of the regional associations of colleges and schools;<br><br>b) It participates in the ICC or the NCATE programs, or<br><br>c) Its course work is accepted by the state in which the institution is located for teacher certification purposes. | Means an accredited college or university that meets one of the following standards.<br><br>a) It is accredited by an accrediting commission in one of the regional associations of colleges and schools.<br><br>b) It participates in the <b>Interstate Certification Compact (ICC) or a Department-recognized national accreditation program</b> ; or<br><br>c) Its course work is accepted by the state in which the institution is located for teacher certification purposes. | The old definition specified NCATE, which is no longer the national accrediting body. Would like to leave this open for change in name/organization of accrediting body. |

**BREAK**

**COMAR 13A.12.04.04B (3) (a) (Amend) - Administrator 1**

Ms. Spross introduced Mr. Dave Volrath to discuss COMAR 13A.12.04.04B (3) (a).

Purpose:

Mr. Volrath stated that the purpose of this action is to provide the opportunity for discussion regarding the move from the Maryland instructional leadership framework for the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders as it pertains to the regulation for the Administrator I certificate.

Executive Summary:

Revision to the regulation pertaining to the requirements for Administrator I certificate is being proposed to validate Maryland's rich history of educational leadership and will provide Maryland school systems with guidance and consistency in offering high quality school and central office leadership based upon the most recent research.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only. Ms. Spross asked for permission to bring COMAR 13A.12.04.04B (3) (a) back to the Board in May for permission to publish.

### **COMAR 13A.12.01.05C (3) (Amend) – Acceptable Credit**

Ms. Spross introduced Ms. Kelly Meadows to discuss COMAR 13A.12.01.05C.

#### Purpose

Ms. Meadows stated that the purpose of this item is to provide the opportunity for discussion regarding a proposed change to the regulations governing the period in which acceptable credit can be earned. The current regulations prevent an individual from earning acceptable credits when those credits are earned outside of the validity dates of the certificate. However past practice has been to accept credits earned following an expired certificate for the purpose of reinstatement.

#### Summary

This revision to the regulations governing the period in which acceptable credit can be earned is being proposed to clarify the regulatory language and align it with current MSDE policy.

#### Action:

This item is presented for discussion only. Ms. Spross asked for permission to bring COMAR 13A.12.01.05C (3) back to the Board in May for permission to publish.

### **Legal Update: Senate Bill 1083 – Secretaries of Principal Departments – Supervision and Review of Decisions and Actions by Units within Department**

Mr. Derek Simonsen, Esq., Attorney General's Office spoke to the Board in regards to SB1083. This bill is for the purpose of essentially putting checks on independent Boards and is primarily dealing with the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene and the Department of Labor, License and Regulation. This bill will give the Secretary of those departments that have those Boards within the Maryland Code the ability to be an extra check on the work that the Boards do. Really looking to see that any actions taken are aligned with policy and that there is nothing anti-competitive about what they want to do.

Mr. Simonsen stated that this all came, in part, with advice and consent from the Office of the Attorney General. The Attorney General's Office has been working with the General Assembly on crafting this legislation and working with the department on how to implement it. He stated that he had a brief discussion with the anti-trust chief because PSTEB is a very unique entity and it is not covered by the current legislation. It is not entirely clear if PSTEB would fall into that type of situation for a number of reasons, because the State Board has a check on the regulations passed by PSTEB.

Mr. Simonsen stated that as a caution he just wanted to bring this to the attention of the Board. All the various state agencies will be putting regulations into place to implement this. So as that happens, he will keep the Board updated if it looks like something that will impact the PSTEB.

### **Action Items**

#### Approval of March Minutes

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Donna Newcomer/Dr. Alyssia James To approve the March 3, 2016 minutes.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

#### Approval of Proposed Agenda Items for May

- Approval of April Minutes

- Legislative Session Recap
- Continued Discussion of COMAR 13A.12.01
- Discussion of COMAR 13A.12.01.10
- Discussion of COMAR 13A.12.02.27
- Note Assessment

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Charles Hagan/Mr. Philip Kauffman To approve the May Agenda.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

**Meeting Adjourned**

Mr. Darren Hornbeck entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Dr. Donna Newcomer/Dr. Alyssia James To approve the adjournment of the meeting.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

**Meeting adjourned 11:50**