

Professional Standards and Teaching Education Board  
Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2023

The 483rd Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) meeting was held on October 5, 2023. Ms. Meadows called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

**The following members were in attendance:** Dr. Keisha Allen, Ms. Joy Bacon, Dr. Jacob Bauer-Zebley, Ms. Janill Bobbitt, Dr. Sean Bulson, Ms. Melissa Carpenter, Dr. Dionne Curbeam, Ms. Stephanie Farmer, Dr. Deborah Gartland, Mr. Darren Hornbeck, Dr. Kristine McGee, (virtual), Ms. Maleeta Kitchen, Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Ms. Amy Poirier, Ms. Monica Roebuck(virtual), Dr. Ebony Terrell Shockley, Ms. Sandra Skordalos, Ms. Joy Spain, Dr. Winona Taylor, Ms. Amy Wilson, Ms. Karen Yoho

**The following member was absent:** Dr. Monifa McKnight

**The following Attorney General Staff members were present:** Mr. Sean Fitzgerald, Esq. -Assistant Attorney General (virtual)

**The following Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff were present.**

Ms. Alexandra Cambra, Ms. Nichole Crowder (Recorder) Ms. Tamara Deshields-Burns, Ms. Sophia Fitzpatrick, Ms. Kelly Meadows

**Recognition of Guests**

Mr. Frank Skinner – Maryland State Educators Association

Ms. Diamont'e Brown – Baltimore Teachers Union

Mr. Robet Eccles

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

**MOTION** - Ms. Meadows entertained a motion to conduct the annual election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB). Dr. Taylor made a motion to conduct the election, which was seconded by Ms. Yoho.

Ms. Meadows called for nominations for Chair of the PSTEB. Dr. Zebley nominated Ms. Maleeta Kitchen. There were no other nominations for Chair. Ms. Meadows closed nominations. The board voted in favor of Ms. Kitchen holding the seat of Chair for the next 12 months.

Ms. Meadows called for nominations for Vice Chair of the PSTEB. Dr. Taylor nominated Mr. Darren Hornbeck. There were no other nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Meadows closed nominations. The board voted in favor of Mr. Hornbeck holding the seat of Vice Chair for the next 12 months.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Robert Eccles gave oral and written public comments regarding the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.12 *Educator Licensure*.

### **State Board of Education Update**

The members reviewed a written summary of the September State Board of Education meeting. No questions were asked.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Terrell Shockley announced that the Maryland Association of Colleges of Teacher Education will be having a workshop on October 11, 2023.

### **Communication Update**

Ms. Kitchen indicated that there is a lot of communication between the State Board President and herself. She reported that more information would be provided at the November PSTEB meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Approval of August 3rd and September 14th Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to approve the August 3, 2023, minutes.

**MOTION:** Dr. Winona Taylor and seconded by Ms. Karen Yoho to approve the August 3, 2023, minutes. The minutes were approved without objection with noted corrections.

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to approve the September 14, 2023, minutes.

**MOTION:** Dr. Winona Taylor and seconded by Ms. Karen Yoho to approve the September 14, 2023, minutes. The minutes were approved without objection with noted corrections.

### **COMAR 13A.07.06, Programs for Professional Licensed Personnel: Public Comment**

Ms. Meadows explained to the new board members how to follow the public comment chart that was provided to summarize all the comments received for COMAR 13A.07.06. She noted that the full version of each comment was included in the supplementary packet. Ms. Meadows reminded the board of their options:

1. Adopt the regulatory language as is;
2. Make substantive changes to the language and begin the promulgation process again; or
3. Make non-substantive changes to the language of the regulations and adopt them.

Additionally, Ms. Meadows reminded the board that it has always been the intention of the PSTEB to promulgate additional changes to both COMAR 13A.07.06 and 13A.12 in a “round two” of amendments. Should PSTEB identify changes that should be made during round two or promulgation, they may note those changes now.

Ms. Meadows went through each public comment received regarding COMAR 13A.07.06 Programs for Professionally Licensed Personnel. She cited the concerns of each comment from the various constituents and gave a detailed explanation as to why MSDE agreed with the recommendations or why they did not concur with said recommendations.

There was a discussion amongst the board regarding using both the words, “disabilities” and “exceptionalities” when describing students with disabilities. After discussion, the board asked that non-substantive changes be made to specific lines in the regulation where “disability” is more appropriate than “exceptionality.”

Mr. Hornbeck asked if Ms. Meadows could walk the board through what phase two of the promulgation process will entail. Ms. Meadows did indicate that the board would not normally repeal and replace such a large quantity of regulations at one time. She indicated that it was decided long ago that the board would first tackle the requirements for teacher licensure, renewal requirements for all educators, general provisions, disciplinary action against licenses, and clean up language that was outdated. When the Blueprint was adopted, it was important that the regulations be aligned to the legislation. Requirements for all of the specialists, administrators, and supervisors, as well as the PSTEB chapter, will be amended during phase two of promulgation. Ms. Meadows explained that going into phase two, each regulation will be amended separately, which is a much easier process.

Ms. Kitchen asked Ms. Meadows if she could briefly walk the board through what the technical assistance would entail for educator preparation programs and local education agencies. Ms. Meadows stated that it is one of the biggest responsibilities of the Department to provide technical assistance and guidance regarding laws and regulations. This technical assistance could be in the form of formalized training, presentations, workshops, 1:1 phone calls, emails, and virtual meetings with constituency groups. A combination of formal and informal, as well as in-

person and virtual technical assistance and training will occur over several months and continue as part of the regular support offered by the Department.

**DEFINITION OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE:**

**Substantive change according to Maryland Code, State Government § 10-101** *“a manner affecting the rights, duties, or obligations of: (1) a member of a regulated group or profession; or (2) a member of the public.*

BREAK

**COMAR 13A.07.06, Programs for Professional Licensed Personnel: Public Comment**

Ms. Meadows continued to review the public comments received for COMAR 13A.07.06 and addressed each concern of the board and constituents.

Dr. Keisha Allen asked if she as a new member could get a brief history of the In-District Training pathway to licensure, including the history of its inception. Ms. Meadows explained the genesis of that pathway that started in 2017 when both the State Board and PSTEB agreed that we should remove the pathway to licensure referred to as transcript analysis or credit count. Both boards decided that transcript analysis was not in line with the rigor wanted in Maryland and decided to remove it from the regulations. Recognizing that Maryland is an import state that has always relied on career changers to some extent, to staff our classrooms. As a result, the Department developed an alternative pathway based on something that Massachusetts had implemented. Ms. Meadows stated that the pathway was a portfolio pathway to licensure, where an individual would come in with content expertise and have a bachelor’s degree in the content they wanted to teach. That individual would be placed on a conditional certificate. During that process, an independent organization identified by the Department would come in and assess a portfolio of their work to determine whether they should receive a professional license. After receiving public comment in 2022, MSDE started really looking hard at that pathway and it grew into what you see now, which is the In-District Training pathway. The current form of the regulation is quite different from the original version, requiring an extensive induction period, professional coursework, and a demonstration of teaching reading using scientific methods. The current version also requires several stakeholders to attest that the candidate is ready for licensure.

Mr. Hornbeck voiced concern about what he believes the biggest challenge would be for the In-District Training pathway- that this pathway would be a “shortcut” that would not be as rigorous. Ms. Kitchen opened the floor for the higher education board members to give their thoughts on the In-District Training pathway. Each Higher Ed board member shared their thoughts and concerns.

Ms. Kitchen stated that because of the amount of robust discussion around the In-District Training pathway, as well as the fact that there is additional public comment to review, the board is not able to consider a motion to adopt in October. The board stopped at public comment fourteen and will continue the discussion during November's meeting.

Ms. Kitchen suggested that the meeting for November be virtual due to the lack of space in the boardroom.

### **Proposed Agenda Items for November**

- Call to order
- Public comment
- Announcements
- Legislative Update
- Communication Updates
- Approval of October Minutes
- Public comments discussion continued
- Adoption of New Regulations
- Regulation implementation

### **Items for November's Meeting**

Ms. Kitchen announced that the November board meeting would be held from 9 am – 2 pm on November 2, 2023.

The 2024 calendar was discussed, and meeting dates were identified. A draft calendar will be provided during the November meeting. Ms. Kitchen explained that PSTEB follows the Baltimore County Public School schedule for closures due to inclement weather. If Baltimore County Schools are closed, the meeting will automatically be held on the following Thursday for months that an inclement weather day is scheduled.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm