

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday
February 27, 2017
Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met in special session on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 10 a.m. at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Andrew R. Smarick, President; Dr. Chester Finn Jr., Vice-President; Ms. Laurie Halverson; Ms. Barbara J. Shreeve; Mrs. Madhu Sidhu; Mr. Guffrie M. Smith; Ms. Laura Weeldreyer and Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Michele Jenkins Guyton, Dr. Rose Maria Li, Ms. Stephanie Iszard and Mr. David Edimo were absent.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. Miya Simpson, Executive Director to the State Board, Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of School Effectiveness, Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy State Superintendent, Division of Teaching and Learning and Kristy Michel, Chief Operating Officer.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan Discussion

President Smarick distributed a letter from the Governor in response to Maryland's Draft State Plan for Implementation of ESSA and opened the floor for discussion.

The Superintendent asked Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Academic Policy and Innovation, and Danielle Susskind, Lead Academic Policy Specialist, to update the Board on the progress of Maryland's ESSA State Plan.

Ms. Gable reported on the ESSA Listening Tours that were conducted during the month of January and provided survey response percentages representing all stakeholders. She reported that a Survey analysis was completed by the Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center at WestEd and provided feedback on long-term goals regarding student growth and whether targets should be set to reach one hundred percent proficiency by a set date. She provided graphs depicting assessment and accountability feedback and noted that the majority of respondents opposed a summative rating of schools.

In response to a request by Dr. Finn, Ms. Gable agreed to disaggregate the response from educators and non-educators.

In response to a question by Ms. Weeldreyer, Ms. Susskind reported that they did get feedback on the value of parental involvement. Ms. Gable said that groups discussed parental engagement as a very important part of student success.

Ms. Weeldreyer urged that parental engagement be listed as a criterion under School Quality/Student Success (SQ/SS) noting that there are ways to measure this.

President Smarick discussed adding Parental Satisfaction as a measure of school climate.

Ms. Sidhu stressed the need for parents to be supplied with a person to call when they need help with their student's work.

Dr. Finn suggested a parental survey, which could be part of the SQ/SS.

Board members all agreed on the importance of parental satisfaction with the schools.

Ms. Gable reported that local education agencies (LEAs) offered to partner with the Department on creating a school climate survey.

Ms. Sidhu commented on the lack of time for teachers to build a school curriculum. She said, "How do we build in more time?"

Ms. Gable reported that regarding school quality, answers included more access to fine arts education and other courses and the importance of professional development for teachers.

Ms. Shreeve expressed concern that parents are fed what courses their students should be taking each year and urged that parents should have more involvement in this process.

Ms. Gable provided a visual depicting how Maryland can support low performing schools.

In response to a comment by Dr. Finn, Ms. Gable said that the law is very specific about what states' responsibilities are for their lowest performing schools.

Ms. Sidhu said, "We have been doing these things. What are we doing differently?" Ms. Gable said, "That is hard, we are going to get to that." She discussed preparation and professional development for teachers.

In response to a request by Ms. Weeldreyer, Ms. Gable agreed to provide the Board with letters received from organizations around the State.

Ms. Gable provided a Maryland Accountability Framework of Indicators as well as state examples depicting weighting of indicators. She explained that the Board is asked to develop consensus on the measures and weights.

In response to a question by Dr. Finn, Dr. Salmon said that we have always focused on completers since not all career path programs provide certification before graduation.

Ms. Gable said, "We need to continue to explore these areas. We need to define dual enrollment." She provided charts depicting the measures outlined in the Framework and the results of the survey, listening tours and external committee.

Board members weighed in on these items and Ms. Gable said the staff is going to investigate the provision of surveys of students, teachers and parents to determine how schools are faring in Maryland.

Ms. Gable asked the Board for its thoughts on the Measures.

In response to a question by Dr. Finn, Dr. Salmon explained that there are standards for schools to provide counselors for students at a rate of 1/250 students.

Board members discussed the need to add Career Readiness measures by adding certification or articulated credit.

Dr. Lynn Gilli, Assistant State Superintendent, reported that there are more than forty approved programs in the Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs but that the state relies on vendors who provide certain programs to determine whether students passed the course. She noted that there are also local programs and agreed to provide the Board information on the programs and the number of students enrolled in those programs.

The Board discussed measures and weights for elementary/middle and high schools and will have further discussion with the full Board at tomorrow's regular Board meeting.

In response to a question by President Smarick, Ms. Gable agreed to provide the Board with the number of states that have a Summative Rating System for their schools.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

Secretary/Treasurer

Date: 3/28/17