

**THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Minutes of the May 23, 2023 Meeting**  
**200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201**

**The Maryland State Board of Education met on May 23, 2023 at 9:00am in the State Board room located within the Maryland State Department of Education.**

The following Board members were present in the Board room:

Mr. Clarence Crawford (Board President), Dr. Susan Getty (Board Vice President), Mr. Charles R. Dashiell, Jr., Esq., Ms. Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang, Ms. Rachel McCusker, Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter, Ms. Lori Morrow, Dr. Joshua Michael, Mr. Shawn Bartley, Esq., Ms. Jean Halle, and Ms. Merin Thomas.

Ms. Gail Bates and Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy were absent.

State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury, Alan Dunklow (Assistant Attorney General), and State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands were also in attendance.

## **MEETING OPENING**

President Crawford called the meeting to order at 9:01am and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Dunklow declared that a quorum was present.

President Crawford provided opening remarks and welcomed members of the public.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 1. Angelique Vigliotti – Appendix K flexibility**
- 2. Trudy Biddle – Appendix K flexibility**
- 3. Leslie Gray O’Neil – Appendix K flexibility**
- 4. Veronica Hippensteel – Appendix K flexibility**
- 5. Robert Eccles – Leadership and Blueprint Concerns**
- 6. Dr. Mark Bedell, AACPS Superintendent – A Year in Review**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Approval of the Consent Agenda
  - Approval of the April 25 and May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes
  - Personnel Actions
  - Budget Adjustments, April 2023

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSION:  
Proclamation Recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week**

**Mr. Crawford provided brief remarks thanking educators for the work that they do and called upon Mr. Hands to read a resolution formally recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week.**

ACTION: Upon motion by Gen. Sumpter, seconded by Dr. Michael, the State Board adopted a resolution recognizing May 8-12, 2023 as Teacher Appreciation Week. (In Favor: 12, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

**2023-2024 Teachers of the Year Recognition**

(Presenter(s): Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Regina Simpson, Office of Communications and Community Engagement)

Mr. Crawford and Mr. Choudhury welcomed Teachers of the Year from each local school system for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Simpson introduced each teacher, describing their backgrounds and accomplishments as educators. Members of the State Board offered comments commending the work of each teacher of the year, and then gathered with the teachers and other guests for photos.

**Blueprint Deep Dive: College and Career Readiness Standard – Interim Report Findings: Long-Term Research Study by American Institutes of Research (AIR)**

(Presenter(s): Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools, Matt Duque, Director, Office of Research, Planning and Program Evaluation, Dr. Jordan Rickles, American Institutes of Research)

Mr. Crawford welcomed members of the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) to the discussion surrounding the study into the College and Career Readiness standard and thanked them for their willingness to be collaborative. Mr. Choudhury reiterated that determining the College and Career Readiness standard will be a critical function of the Board in the coming months. Mr. Duque described the status of the independent long-term study required by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which includes a study of the necessary competencies to complete college coursework successfully. Dr. Rickles, with the American Institutes for Research (AIR), presented the interim findings of the study and the upcoming next steps. He described the content and standards alignment analysis,

which includes three key research activities, including taking an inventory of course requirements at community colleges, collecting stakeholder feedback, and developing postsecondary CCR conceptual frameworks. He also outlined the predictive validity analysis of high school measures predictive of future success. Dr. Rickles reviewed the results of the preliminary CCR analysis. AIB Chair Ike Leggett expressed concern at communicating changes in the CCR standard to the public and asked about the timing of the qualitative and quantitative analyses. Dr. Rickles explained to representatives of the AIB and the State Board that the study is ongoing, and this is an interim step of providing information to both entities.

## **PRIORITIES**

### **Blueprint Deep Dive: Division of Rehabilitation Services**

**(Presenters: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools, Scott Dennis, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Rehabilitation Services, Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy State Superintendent for Organizational Effectiveness)**

Mr. Choudhury offered initial comments on the importance of and efforts to strengthen DORS within MSDE. Mr. Dennis gave a detailed review of the history and functions of DORS. He noted that DORS employees comprise more than half of MSDE's staff and described various duties and qualifications of employees within DORS. He reviewed the major programs administered by DORS, Disability Determination Services (DDS) and the Vocational Rehabilitation program. He explained that DORS provides vocational training and education for disabled individuals who want to go to work or want to continue to be able to work.

Mr. Dennis discussed concern with the level of state funding being insufficient to qualify for available federal funding. Mr. Dennis also described the work led by Mr. Choudhury to provide salary increases for DORS staff and to enhance recruiting and retention efforts to limit the number of vacancies within DORS.

Mr. Crawford and other members of the Board requested additional information to inform any Board advocacy on requesting additional state resources to qualify for available federal funding to support the work of DORS.

## **REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**COMAR 13A.15.13 Family Child Care – Inspections, Complaints and Enforcement – Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.15.14 Family Child Care - Administrative Hearings – Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.16.17 Child Care Centers – Inspections, Complaints, and Enforcement – Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.16.18 Child Care Centers – Administrative Hearings – Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.17.15 Child Care-Letters of Compliance – Inspections, Complaints and Enforcement - Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.17.16 Child Care-Letters of Compliance – Administrative Hearings -Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.18.14 Large Family Child Care Homes - Inspections, Complaints and Enforcement - Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.18.15 Large Family Child Care Homes – Administrative Hearings – Permission to Publish Amendments  
(Presenter: Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood)**

Dr. Cook explained to the Board that these regulations allow the child care regulatory office to take action to immediately close an individual classroom that is deemed in major violation of regulations during an investigation instead of suspending the entire program, potentially displacing children unnecessarily.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Dashiell, seconded by Dr. Michael, the State Board granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.15.13 Family Child Care – Inspections, Complaints and Enforcement – Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.15.14 Family Child Care - Administrative Hearings – Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.16.17 Child Care Centers – Inspections, Complaints, and Enforcement – Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.16.18 Child Care Centers – Administrative Hearings – Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.17.15 Child Care-Letters of Compliance – Inspections, Complaints and Enforcement - Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.17.16 Child Care-Letters of Compliance – Administrative Hearings -Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.18.14 Large Family Child Care Homes - Inspections, Complaints and Enforcement - Permission to Publish Amendments, COMAR 13A.18.15 Large Family Child Care Homes – Administrative Hearings – Permission to Publish Amendments  
(In Favor: 12, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

**COMAR 13A.02.06 General Financial Aid to Local School Systems – Permission to Publish Amendments  
(Presenter: Mr. Gabriel Rose, Director, Pupil Transportation and Emergency Management)**

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, seconded by Gen. Sumpter, the State Board granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.02.06 General Financial Aid to Local School Systems (In Favor: 12, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

**COMAR 13A.01.07 Nondiscrimination in Education – Permission to Publish  
(Presenter: Mr. Justin Dayhoff)**

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Michael, the State Board granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.01.07 Nondiscrimination in Education (In Favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 2)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Charles Dashiell seconded by Rachel McCusker and with unanimous approval, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 in Conference Room #6, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present except Gail H. Bates and Joan Mele-McCarthy. Also in attendance were Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury, Executive Director Zachary Hands, and Assistant Attorney General Alan Dunklow. The Executive Session commenced at 2:45 p.m.

At that time, the State Board reviewed and approved five Opinions.

- *F.W. v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – exercise of State Board’s original jurisdiction – Opin. No. 23-12. The Board denied the local board’s motion to dismiss, asserted jurisdiction, and directed the parties to brief the case on an expedited basis to include the applicability of Md. Code Ann., Educ. §§7-303 and 7-305 to the case.
- *L.W. v. Prince George’s County Board of Education* – involuntary disciplinary transfer to an alternative school – Opin. No. 23-13. The Board reversed the local board’s decision.
- *Edmond Saint-Jean v. Prince George’s County Board of Education* – restitution for unearned wages – Opin. No. 23-14. The Board affirmed the local board’s decision.
- *Joseph Steiner v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – failure to hire – Opin. No. 23-15. The Board affirmed the local board’s decision.
- *V.A. v. Worcester County Board of Education* – exercise of State Board’s original jurisdiction – Opin. No. 23-16. The Board denied the local board’s motion to dismiss but declined to assert jurisdiction and instead remanded the appeal back to the local board for Appellant to exhaust available administrative remedies.

The State Board also reviewed personnel matters consistent with Section III, Subsection F of the State Board of Education Governance and Operations Manual.

Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury, Executive Director Zachary Hands, and Assistant Attorney General Alan Dunklow were not present for this portion of the meeting; however, former Board member Vermelle Greene joined.

The Executive Session ended at 4:00 p.m.

## **STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

Ms. Morrow provided information to the State Board on the committees that she continues to serve on through NASBE and let the Board know that she serves on the awards committee for national awards and that nominations are due by June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Dashiell provided an update on the ongoing work through the Strategic Planning subcommittee pertaining to phase 3 of the Strategic Plan and how the group hopes to conclude its work in June outlining the flagship strategies for implementation and bring that product to the full Board.

Ms. McCusker provided an update on the Big Rocks ad hoc committee. The group met for the first time to consider an initial list of priorities and will continue to meet throughout the summer to begin considering legislative priorities for the next legislative session.

Dr. Wilcox described her experience representing the State Board at a NASBE and American Academy of Pediatrics convening in Chicago called “Building Bridges” to facilitate conversations on student mental health. There were some concrete ideas from the meeting that Dr. Wilcox will share with the Board, and she will keep everyone apprised of the activities through this initiative.

## **LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS**

Mr. Dunklow announced the following opinions:

- *F.W. v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – exercise of State Board’s original jurisdiction – Opin. No. 23-12
- *L.W. v. Prince George’s County Board of Education* – involuntary disciplinary transfer to an alternative school – Opin. No. 23-13
- *Edmond Saint-Jean v. Prince George’s County Board of Education* – restitution for unearned wages – Opin. No. 23-14
- *Joseph Steiner v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – failure to hire – Opin. No. 23-15

- *V.A. v. Worcester County Board of Education* – exercise of State Board’s original jurisdiction – Opin. No. 23-16

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mohammed Choudhury  
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: June 27, 2023

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented. The video recordings of the meetings are the official record and can be located at:

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2023.aspx>

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Orders can be found at:

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default.aspx>

The next Maryland State Board of Education meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 27, 2023.**

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.