

THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the July 25, 2023 Meeting
200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met on July 25, 2023 at 9:02am 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. Samir Paul, Esq., Ms. Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang, Ms. Rachel McCusker, Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter, Mr. Nick Greer, Dr. Joshua Michael, Ms. Abisola Ayoola, Dr. Monica Goldson, Dr. Irma E. Johnson, Mr. Shawn Bartley, and Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy were in attendance.

Board member Dr. Holly Wilcox and State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury were absent.

Deputy State Superintendent Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Mr. Elliott Schoen (Assistant Attorney General), and State Board Executive Director Mr. Zachary Hands were also in attendance.

MEETING OPENING

Mr. Crawford called the meeting to order at 9:02am and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Schoen declared that a quorum was present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Angelique Vigliotti – Autism Waiver**
- 2. Sharon Saroff – Special Education**
- 3. Kaori Inoue – Autism Waiver**
- 4. Bill Hudson, Executive Director, Family Child Care Alliance of Maryland – Family Child Care Regulations**
- 5. Robert Eccles – Independent Investigation of MSDE**
- 6. Dave Bromwell, Superintendent, Dorchester County Public Schools – Graduation Requirement Regulations**
- 7. Kareem Monib – MCPS Opt-Out Provisions**

8. Zaim Baig – MCPS Opt-Out Provisions
9. Zainab Chaudry – MCPS Opt-Out Provisions
10. Cheryl Bost – Education Support Professionals

NEW BUSINESS

President Crawford offered remarks on conversations with the Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) and lingering pushback on the implementation on the Science of Reading.

- Approval of the Consent Agenda
 - Approval of the June 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - Personnel Actions
 - Budget Adjustments, June 2023

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

ORAL ARGUMENT

In the Matter of Request for Removal of Local Board Member Juanita Miller – Request for Removal from Prince George’s County Board of Education

Mr. Schoen introduced legal counsel for the case and explained the oral argument procedures.

EXECUTIVE SESSION I

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Joan Mele-McCarthy seconded by Shawn Bartley and with unanimous approval, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present. Also in attendance were Executive Director Zachary Hands and Assistant Attorney General Elliott Schoen. The Executive Session commenced at 10:30AM and ended at 11:30AM.

The Board nominated candidates for board leadership and discussed elections for President and Vice President for the next year.

ELECTION AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Upon reconvening, Dr. Mele-McCarthy conducted the voting process for the election of State Board officers. The State Board unanimously re-elected Mr. Clarence Crawford as President and unanimously elected Dr. Joshua Michael as Vice President.

PRIORITIES:

Blueprint Deep Dive: Prekindergarten Sliding Scale Cost Modeling

(Presenter: Mr. Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent, Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy, Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Early Childhood, Mr. Matt Duque, Director of the Office of Research, Planning and Program Evaluation, Mr. Kyle Ashley, Senior Research and Data Specialist)

Mr. Duque provided the legislative background on the Blueprint's requirement for MSDE to implement a Prekindergarten sliding scale for Tier II families by the start of the 2024-2025 school year. He reviewed the four sliding scale options that were presented in MSDE's 2021 Prekindergarten Implementation Planning report. Mr. Ashley provided context on the models for the cost of care to families for each of the four options, and reviewed recommendations for the sliding scale option to minimize the cost of care for Tier II families, particularly for lower-income households.

Mr. Dayhoff reviewed the implementation timeline and next steps for engaging key stakeholders on the implementation of the sliding scale and clarified that the recommendations brought to the Board in this meeting were not for action. Dr. Cook reviewed the impact of federal decisions on childcare costs in Maryland.

Blueprint Deep Dive: College and Career Readiness Update – Interim Qualitative Study

(Presenter(s): Mr. Matt Duque, Director of the Office of Research, Planning and Program Evaluation, Jessica Mason, Lauren Ramsay, Tori Cirks, Jordan Rickles, American Institutes for Research)

Mr. Duque provided the background on the CCR study, including the statutory requirements, what the interim CCR standard is, the two types of studies that are required (quantitative study and a content and standards alignment study), and the process and timeline for completion.

Mr. Rickles gave an overview of what AIR was presenting, which included the process for the conduct of the study and some of the preliminary results and analyses. Ms. Mason reviewed the objectives that AIR set in the beginning of the study, as well as the key stakeholder groups that AIR engaged at the higher education level. Ms. Mason highlighted that the Maryland K-12 content standards, which students should meet by

the end of Grade 10, align to the content expectations of postsecondary course content in ELA and math. Ms. Mason reviewed the research conducted of postsecondary programs that was utilized to build a survey and factored into the study.

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

COMAR 13A.08.01.17 School Use of Reportable Offenses

(Presenter: Ms. Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment & Educational Policy)

Ms. Gable provided the background on the legislation that precipitated the promulgation of the regulations, the stakeholder input received by the Department in the development phase, and then reviewed the regulatory amendments.

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Getty, seconded by Ms. McCusker, the State Board granted permission to publish regulations under COMAR 13A.08.01.17 School Use of Reportable Offenses (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

COMAR 13A.01.05 Appeals to the State Board

(Presenter: Mr. Elliott Schoen, Assistant Attorney General)

Mr. Schoen reviewed each of the proposed changes to the identified areas of COMAR.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Paul, seconded by Dr. Getty, the State Board granted permission to publish regulations under COMAR 13A.01.05 Appeals to the State Board (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

COMAR 13A.15 Family Child Care

(Presenter: Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood)

Dr. Cook reviewed the revised regulations based on feedback from the legislative AELR Committee and from stakeholders. Dr. Michael commended MSDE for their work to bring these regulations back to the Board.

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Mele-McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Greer, the State Board granted permission to publish regulations under COMAR 13A.15 Family Child Care (In Favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for High Schools in Maryland and COMAR 13A.03.04 Test Administration

(Presenter: Ms. Chandra Haislet, Assistant State Superintendent, Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting)

Ms. Haislet provided background on the origins of these regulations dating back to the High School Graduation Task Force and the changes being proposed to the regulations. Several Board members asked questions regarding feedback from stakeholders and local education agencies, and other policy concerns related to grading requirements of end of course assessment.

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Mele-McCarthy, seconded by Dr. Getty, the State Board granted permission to adopt COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for High Schools in Maryland and COMAR 13A.03.04 Test Administration (In Favor: 9, Opposed: 2, Abstained: 0)

Teacher Certification Assessments

(Presenter: Ms. Kelly Meadows, Senior Advisor, Education Preparation and Quality)

Ms. Meadows explained the purpose of bringing the assessments to the Board for approval. Dr. Michael posed a question regarding the timing of this item coming before the Board.

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Mele-McCarthy, seconded by Dr. Goldson, the State Board granted permission to adopt five Educational Testing Service (ETS) Praxis subject assessments: Biology Content Knowledge (5236), Chemistry Content Knowledge (5246), Earth and Space Sciences (5572), Physics Content Knowledge (5266), and School Psychologist (5403) (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

State of the Science of Reading in Maryland

(Presenter: Mr. Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent, Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy, Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning)

Mr. Crawford mentioned that the Board has been in contact with the AIB on matters pertaining to literacy and would continue the conversations soon. Mr. Dayhoff and Dr. Collins reviewed the work MSDE has done to implement policies to ensure the adoption of evidence-based literacy instruction in local education agencies (LEAs) throughout the state.

2024 State Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Crawford asked that the Board consider moving the April 2024 meeting one week later to avoid a conflict with the first day of Passover.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, seconded by Ms. Ayoola, the State Board adopted meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION II

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Mr. Paul and seconded by Dr. Mele-McCarthy and with unanimous approval, the State Board of Education met for a second closed session in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present except Mr. Bartley, Gen. Sumpter and Dr. Wilcox. Dr. Goldson was not present for the discussion and vote of In the Matter of Request for Removal of Local Board Member Juanita Miller. She returned for the remainder of the closed session. Also in attendance were Assistant Attorneys General Elliott Schoen, Jackie La Fiandra, and Lori Hopkins. The Executive Session commenced at 5:15 p.m. and ended at 6:40 pm.

At that time, the State Board reviewed and approved one opinion.

- *In the Matter of Request for Removal of Local Board Member Juanita Miller* – request for removal of local board members – Opin. No. 23-20. The Board adopted the ALJ’s Proposed Decision and dismissed the charges of removal.

The Board also discussed a personnel matter.

STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

No updates.

LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS

Mr. Schoen announced the following opinions:

In the Matter of Request for Removal of Local Board Member Juanita Miller – request for removal of local board members – Opin. No. 23-20

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mohammed Choudhury
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: August 22, 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, August 22, 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.