

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

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2024

The 489th meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) was held, via Zoom, on March 8, 2024. Ms. Maleeta Kitchen called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

The following members were in attendance: Ms. Joy Bacon, Janill Bobbitt, Dr. Jacob Bauer- Zebley, Dr. Sean Bulson, Ms. Melissa Carpenter, Dr. Dionne Curbeam, Ms. Stephanie Farmer, Dr. Debi Gartland, Dr. Kristine McGee, Ms. Kelly Meadows, Ms. Maleeta Kitchen, Ms. Amy Poirier, Ms. Sandra Skordalos, Ms. Joy Lee Spain, Dr. Winona Taylor

The following members were absent: Dr. Keisha Allen, Ms. Monifa McKnight, Dr. Ebony Terrell-Shockley, Ms. Monica Roebuck, Ms. Karen Yoho,

The following Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff members were present:

Dr. Juanita Ashby-Bey, Alexandra Cambra, Tamara DeShields-Burns, Ms. Nichole Crowder (Recorder), Keith Krempel,

The following Attorney General Staff members were present: Mr. Elliot Schoen, Esq. - Assistant Attorney General.

Recognition of Guests

Laurel Cratsley, MSDE Education Policy Analysis

Public Comments

None

Preliminary Items

State Board Update

Mr. Hands shall provide State Board update in writing.

Approval of March Minutes

March Minutes approved with the necessary corrections.

Announcements

Ms. Meadows announced the arrival of baby girl Julia Ray born to Mr. Sean Fitzgearld and his wife Ashley. Mom and baby are doing well.

Communication Update

-Ms. Kitchen wanted to advise the board that the communication update segment of this meeting is for the board members to give updates on things happening in their jurisdictions and to relay information back from their stakeholders.

-Ms. Kitchen asked Ms. Meadows to explain to the board the charge and responsibilities of the board.

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-Ms. Meadows stated that the board focus is educator preparation and licensure. Making sure that educators that are prepared for the classrooms are licensed appropriately based on research and best practices. This is done through the law and regulation.

-Dr. Bulson asked what the distinction between the traditional roll and the role outlined in The Blueprint was.

-Ms. Meadows explained The Blueprint outlines that the Professional Standards & Teacher Education Board will participate in consultation, along with the State Board adopting the language having to do with many sections of the blueprint where it's not educator preparation. She stated that s regulations are drafted for other parts of the blueprint this board will be apart of consulting with State Board on the regulations.

Legislative Update

Ms. Laurel Cratsley, Education Policy Analysis continued to discuss the Senate Bill and House bill that MSDE was in support of and opposed.

- [House Bil 75/Senate Bill 377](#) - Higher Education - Teacher Retention and Development Program
MSDE's Position: **Support**
- [Senate Bill 143](#) - Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems - Reemployment
Update (3/6/2024): ***SB 143 was passed through the Senate (46-0) with amendments and has been referred to the House Appropriations Committee for its first reading.***
- [Senate Bill 84/House Bill 116](#) - Teacher Degree Apprenticeship
MSDE's Original Position: Letter of Information Submitted – **No Position**
Update (3/6/2024): ***MSDE worked with the bill sponsor and offered additional amendments, which were accepted by the Committee.***
- [Senate Bill 771/House Bill 945](#) - Education - Initial Teacher Certification – Requirements
Update (3/6/2024) - MSDE's Position: ***Support with Amendments.***
- [Senate Bill 937/House Bill 1157](#) - Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program – Established
Update (3/6/2024) - MSDE's Position: ***Support with Amendments***
- [House Bill 1191](#) - Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact
MSDE's Position: **Support**
- [SB1102/HB 1426](#) – Education – Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Alterations
MSDE's Position: **Support.**
- [HB 1326](#) – Primary and Secondary Education - Teachers - Retention and Support Policies, Guidelines, and Training
MSDE's Position: **No Position**

Communication Update Cont'd

Ms. Spain asked School Social Workers meeting special education requirements. She stated in the old regulations a Social Worker received a Standard Professional Certificate (SPC) and was given 5 years to meet the special education requirements. The new regulations now state that a School Social Worker is not given a license until that meet that requirement. Ms. Spain feels that this will be a huge detriment in getting School Social Workers. She was asking for clarifications.

-Ms. Meadows wanted to clarify that this requirement is not just for Social Workers but for every Specialist, Supervisor, and Administrator area. Ms. Meadows stated in the regulations that were previously in place, the requirement was that each one of those licensure areas have three semester hours of special education course

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work to earn licensure. That was in place for decades because at that time it was difficult to hire. She stated those individuals do not typically have 3 credit courses of special education when they come into the education field. The decision was made to issue a policy memorandum for those Specialists and Administrators to get the professional credential and at their first renewal cycle; they are required to provide that course work. She expressed that policy cannot trump regulation. She stated we went against regulation and allowed initial requirements to be presented at renewal. During this round of repeal and replacement we have stripped that requirement for the Specialist and Administrators because in the renewal requirements we have some of the content to incorporate working with students with special needs. During the October 2022 meeting the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board asked MSDE to put that requirement back in. Ms. Meadows stated that there will be issues and barriers. She stated that MSDE is working internally to create an asynchronous course that will be online. MSDE has also put together a list of every single course in every college and university in Maryland that will suffice for this requirement. As well as our Continuing Professional Development Credits that are getting ready to be published. She stated the MSDE has taken steps knowing this would be a barrier.

Discussion Items

Military Reciprocity

Ms. Meadows explained The Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA), codified at 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901—4043, provides service members and their families with a wide variety of financial and housing protections. On January 5, 2023, President Joseph Biden signed the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (H.R. 7939) into law. Section 19 of this law amends the SCRA by adding provisions for portability of professional licenses of service members and their spouses.

This new SCRA provision, codified at 50 U.S.C. § 4025a, allows service members and their spouses to use their professional licenses and certificates in certain circumstances when they must relocate due to military orders. For a license to be considered valid in a new location, a service member or their spouse must satisfy the following five criteria:

1. Have moved to a location outside the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license or certificate because of orders for military service;
2. Provide a copy of the military orders to the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction;
3. Have actively used the license or certificate during the two years immediately preceding the move;
4. Remain in good standing with:
 - a. the licensing authority that issued the covered license or certificate; and
 - b. every other licensing authority that issued a valid license or certificate for a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the new jurisdiction; and
5. Submit to the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.
6. If these five criteria are met, the service member or their spouse's covered license or certificate "shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the [new] jurisdiction" for the duration of military orders, in addition to the expedited credentialing for service members and their spouses.
7. Some states are members of interstate licensure compacts, which allow licensed practitioners to

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work in other compact-member states without needing a new license or certificate. The new SCRA provision requires that service members or their spouses who are relocating between two states that are governed by the same interstate licensure compact are subject to the requirements of that interstate compact, rather than the new SCRA provision. If, however, a service member or their spouse with a license or certificate issued by a state involved in an interstate licensure compact is relocating to a state not involved in the same interstate compact, the new SCRA provision applies. Additionally, if a service member or their spouse has a license not covered by any interstate licensure compact, the new SCRA provision applies.

Response from MSDE

This federal law provides professional licensure and certification reciprocity for service members and their spouses applies to Maryland. Accordingly, MSDE will immediately update its policies and procedures for processing applications for these service members and their spouses. MSDE will also update its statutes and regulations for alignment with this federal law.

MSDE is currently working with its technology vendor to allow service members and their spouses to apply for reciprocal educator certification in Maryland and submit requisite documentation of eligibility directly through. The Educator Application and Certification Hub (TEACH). Once these changes have been made in TEACH, MSDE will provide training to its local education agency (LEA) certification partners.

To ensure compliance with 50 U.S.C. § 4025a in the meantime, MSDE and the LEAs will implement a temporary process through which service members and their spouses can apply for reciprocal educator certification in Maryland. To apply, applicants will submit the following documentation with their TEACH application:

1. Verification of Experience and Certificate Status for Military Service Members and Spouses form;
2. Out of State License or Certificate(s);
3. Attestation of Certificate Status for Military Service Members and Spouses form;
4. Military Orders; and
5. Marriage License (if applicable).

BREAK

Blueprint Priorities

Ms. Meadows walked the board through the priorities of the PSTEB Board

Statutory Language

§6-120 - The State Board and PSTEB shall adopt regulations, in consultation with the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB), implementing the requirements surrounding the teacher training practicums as outlined in this subsection. This governs the duration of the practicum, the content required for alternative teacher prep programs, and defines the role of mentor teachers in the teacher preparation process. [COMPLETED- COMAR 13A.07.06- Programs for Professionally Licensed Personnel]

§6-121 - The State Board and PSTEB shall adopt regulations, in consultation with the AIB, establishing the requirements for teacher preparation programs, to include components of instruction and use of certain assessments. [COMPLETED- COMAR 13A.07.06- Programs for Professionally Licenses Personnel]

§6-1002 - The State Board, in consultation with PSTEB, shall approve a program of study for teacher pursuing the “master’s equivalent” option in level two of the career ladder. [COMPLETED- COMAR 13A.12.02.02D(2)(b), Advanced Professional License]

§6-1006 - The State Board, in consultation with PSTEB, shall establish the criteria that a teacher shall meet to achieve the licensed principal tier of the career ladder and establish a process through which an individual may receive a waiver to serve as a licensed principal if they are not a Nationally Board-certified teacher, but

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meet other qualification determined by the SBOE (in consultation with PSTEB). [IN PROGRESS- workgroup planned for May 2024]

§6-1013 - The State Board, in consultation with PSTEB and the AIB, shall adopt regulations to carry out this subtitle. This encompasses the establishment of the career ladder as specified in 6-1002, and the criteria that accompanies each level therein. [ONGOING]

§6-1013 - The State Board, in consultation with PSTEB and the AIB, shall adopt regulations to carry out this subtitle. This encompasses the establishment of the career ladder as specified in 6-1002, and the criteria that accompanies each level therein. [ONGOING]

Overview of Subtitle

The various provisions include the breakdown of teacher time depending on their status within the career ladder, the criteria necessary to maintain position and advance on the career ladder, and the coordination within MSDE and at the local school system level to assist teachers in obtaining National Board certification.

This subtitle also specifies the teacher salary increases that accompany various steps on the career ladder, and the minimum teacher salary required by 2026. MSDE must develop and design a system of professional development that is tied to the career ladder.

Finally, teacher evaluation systems used in connection with the career ladder shall be aligned with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) core propositions, include a peer assistance and review model, and use observations to make various evidence-based determinations to evaluate teachers.

COMAR Corrections and Clarifications

Ms. Meadows walked the board through all the corrections and clarifications made to COMAR 13A.12.01. She stated that if the board agrees with corrections and changes, they could request permission to publish.

Approval of Proposed Agenda Items for May

- Call to Order
- Recognition of Guest
- Public Comment
- State Board Update
- Legislative Update
- Communication Update
- Announcements
- Approval Of April's Meeting Minutes
- Detail discussion of Bill 771
- Permission to Publish
- Morgan/Baltimore City Collaborative Grant Presentation
- Practicum Requirements
- The option for the special education credits

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Motion to Close the Meeting

Recorded vote to close the meeting:

Date: April 11, 2024

Time: 11:53am

Location: Virtual

Motion to close meeting made by: Dr. Taylor Seconded by Dr. McGee

Members in favor: Ms. Spain, Ms. Skordalos, Dr. Bulson, Ms. Poirier, Dr. Gartland, Ms. Meadows, Dr. McGee, Dr. Zebley, Ms. Roebuck, Ms. Carpenter, Dr. Taylor, Ms. Bobbitt, Ms. Farmer, Hornbeck, Ms. Bacon, Dr. Curbeam, Ms. Kitchen

Opposed: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Dr. Allen; Dr. Terrell Shockley, Karen Yoho Monica Roebuck

Meeting Closed

Executive Session

Time of closed session: 12:05 PM – 12:20 PM

Place: Virtual

Purpose(s): To consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice as to the definitions of “moral turpitude” and “misconduct” under Maryland law in the context of educator licensure and the legal authority for summary suspensions of educator licenses under State Government Article § 10-226(c)(2)

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Ms. Spain, Ms. Skordalos, Ms. Yoho, Dr. Bulson, Ms. Poirier, Dr. Gartland, Ms. Meadows, Dr. McGee, Dr. Zebley, Ms. Roebuck, Ms. Carpenter, Dr. Terrell Shockley, Dr. Taylor, Ms. Bobbitt, Ms. Farmer, Hornbeck, Dr. Curbeam, Ms. Kitchen

Persons attending closed session: Ms. Spain, Ms. Skordalos, Dr. Bulson, Ms. Poirier, Dr. Gartland, Ms. Meadows, Dr. McGee, Ms. Roebuck, Ms. Carpenter, Dr. Taylor, Ms. Bobbitt, Ms. Farmer, Mr. Hornbeck, Dr. Curbeam, Ms. Kitchen.

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: §3-305(b)(7), “To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice”

Topics discussed: *The definitions of “moral turpitude”; and “misconduct” under Maryland law and the legal authority for summary suspensions of educator licenses under State Government Article § 10-226(c)(2).*

Actions taken: None