

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD

Maryland State Department of Education

200 West Baltimore St.

Baltimore, MD 21201

Meeting Minutes

January 09, 2025

The 497th meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) was held on January 12th, 2025. Mr. Hornbeck called the meeting to order at 9:33.

The following members were in attendance: Ms. Joy Bacon (virtual), Ms. Leslie Boyadjian Stanton, Ms. Garima Bhatt Handley, Ms. Melissa Carpenter (virtual), Mr. Joshua Davidson (virtual), Dr. Cheryl Dyson (virtual), Ms. Stephanie Farmer (virtual), Dr. Debi Gartland (virtual), Mr. Darren R. Hornbeck, Ms. Kimberly Moore (virtual), Dr. Kristine E. McGee (virtual), Ms. Kelly Meadows, Ms. Amy Poirier (virtual), Ms. Sandra Skordalos (virtual), Ms. Joy L. Spain (virtual) Dr. Winona M. Taylor (virtual), Ms. Karen Yoho, Dr. Nikki Woodward (virtual)

The following members were absent: Dr. Keisha Allen, Dr. Sean Bulson, Dr. Dionne N. Curbeam, Dr. Ebony Terrell Shockley,

The following Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff members were present: Dr. Juanita Ashby-Bey, Ms. Alexandra Cambra (virtual), Ms. Nichole Crowder (Recorder), Tamara Deshields-Burns (virtual) Ms. Sophia Fitzpatrick, Dr. Jason Keys, Mr. Keith Krempel.

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

Guest

Frank Skinner - Maryland State Education Association

Public Comments

Ms. Alita-Geri Carter made public comment on the following:

- Special education students' rights to free, appropriate public education as guaranteed by IDEA, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of ADA are not being upheld and, at times, are blatantly violated because the school systems and the state seem to understand the lack of oversight
- The harm that occurs when students are placed in the least restrictive environment without ensuring sufficient training, supports, services, and accommodations are in place to support meaningful inclusion in the general education program
- PGCPs has developed harmful hiring practices of not vetting educators to ensure they maintain their certifications, obtain their certifications; and failing to hire individuals for special education leadership who have obtained a degree in special education to understand theory and the science to translate research into the classrooms of General education teachers are not equipped nor supported in a meaningful way to teach special education students
- PGCPs Professionals requires training to understand the purpose of Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavioral Intervention Plans and when they are to be utilized.

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- Refusals by school administrations to provide a 504-plan stating that a student cannot have both and then failing to understand how the two pieces of legislation (IDEA and the Rehabilitation Act differ and intersect)
- Failure to provide accommodation to students for Iready and Dibels and then using those results without considering data that addresses student's specific needs or failing to use the data when it reflects atypical performance
- Failure to follow the manufacturer's instructions concerning the administration and the need to exclude children with certain disabilities like hearing disorders, severe phonological disorders, and others as listed by the manufacturers
- Knowledge deficits among compliance leadership and staff
- Misconduct of education staff at IEP meetings and the lack of leadership can disrupt the collaborative environment and lead to a lack of empathy.”

State Board Update

Hannah Oakley gave an update on The State Board’s December meeting. She stated that The State Board has accepted the final report and recommendations that were present by the Assessment and Accountability Task Force. The State Board has adopted the Foundation of Reading Assessment as an option for demonstrating proficiency in teaching reading. The State Board has also adopted guidelines for the availability of student participation in telehealth. The State Board voted not to adopt the proposed definition related to the teacher working time. Ms. Oakley stated that The State Board along with the Accountability and Implementation Board will give an update on National Board. She stated that also along with the Education Policy Committee, they will be voting to adopt regulations that have been previously submitted for permission to publish. The State Board will also be voting to publish the Induction program Regulations.

Communications Update

July 10, October 10, and November 13th PSTEB Meetings will be held virtually in 2025

COMAR 13A.12.05.05 Administrator Licensure - Permission to Publish

Ms. Meadows reviewed, with the board, all amendments made to this Administrator Licensure regulation. All recommendations regarding regulations and amendments were discussed in detail.

MOTION

- Mr. Hornbeck entertained a motion for permission to publish COMAR 13A.12.05.05 Administrator Licensure.
- Dr. Yoho moved that the board grant permission to publish COMAR 13A.12.05.05 Administrator Licensure. Seconded by Dr. Taylor.
- COMAR 13A.12.05.05 Administrator Licensure was unanimously voted to grant permission to publish

Career Ladder: Licensed Principal Tier Criteria – Consultation

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Ms. Meadows reviewed the Licensed Principal Tier Criteria and discussed how they established the criteria. Ms. Meadows allowed for any questions, concerns and recommendations from the board concerning the License Principal Career ladder. Recommendations were given.

Art Licensure- Update

Ms. Sophia Fitzpatrick stated the charge for the Art Licensure Workgroup is to explore possible alternative pathways, which could include transcript analysis, for fine arts educators. At this time, Maryland-approved programs for areas of licensure in the fine arts are limited, which unfortunately does not provide many options towards professional licensure for our fine arts educators with degrees and who do not qualify for licensure under the Specialized Areas of Fine Arts covered under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.12.03. The Office of Licensure in the Division of Educator Effectiveness is working with the Office of Teaching and Learning Instructional Supports and Services, and the Director of Comprehensive Arts, Ms. Elizabeth Devereaux, to convene the workgroup beginning in February. Invitations for attendees were sent, with a deadline of January 24, 2025, to respond. We are hoping to have updates for the board in March, and at the latest in April.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hornbeck entertained a motion to adopt the December meeting minutes. Dr. Taylor moved to adopt the December meeting minutes and they were seconded by Ms. Yoho. December meeting minutes were adopted.

February Agenda

Proposed Agenda Items for February

- Call to order
- Public comment
- Announcements
- Legislative Update
- Communication Updates
- Approval of January Meeting Minutes
- Career Ladder: Licensed Principal Tier Criteria – Consultation

Mr. Hornbeck adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm