

## **MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Thursday, August 26, 2021  
Maryland State Board of Education  
200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education held a special meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. The following State Board members were present at the Maryland State Department of Education, 200 W. Baltimore Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor State Board Room, Baltimore, Maryland: Mr. Clarence Crawford (President); Mr. Charles R. Dashiell, Jr., Esq. (Vice President); Ms. Gail Bates; Ms. Chuen-Chin Chang; Dr. Susan Getty; Ms. Rachel McCusker; Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter; Dr. Holly Wilcox; Mr. Kevin Bokoum, Student Representative; and State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury. Mr. Shawn Bartley, Dr. Mele-McCarthy, and Ms. Lori Morrow participated by phone. Dr. Vermelle D. Greene and Ms. Jean Halle were not present.

The following staff members were also present: Elliott L. Schoen, Assistant Attorney General; Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy State Superintendent, School Effectiveness; Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy State Superintendent, Teaching and Learning; Amalie Brandenburg, Deputy State Superintendent, Finance and Administration; and Dr. Miya T. Simpson, Executive Director, Office of the State Board.

President Crawford called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Schoen declared the presence of a quorum.

President Crawford explained the meeting procedures and provided opening remarks.

### **DISCUSSION OF STATEWIDE MASK REQUIREMENTS FOR MARYLAND SCHOOLS**

State Board members discussed establishing regulatory action for a statewide mask requirement for all Maryland schools. The majority of State Board members expressed strong support for a mandate and moving forward with an emergency regulation to require face coverings in all school facilities. State Board members emphasized the need to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Maryland public schools, prevent public school closures, and limit the number of students required to quarantine out of the classroom during the 2021-22 school year due to COVID-19. Ms. Bates expressed concerns and opposition to having a statewide mask mandate instead of allowing local school systems to establish their own policy(ies) based on their local circumstances and needs.

The regulation was proposed as an emergency regulation because the adoption of standard regulations, which require a notice and comment period, could not be completed in the

timeframe required to prevent public school closures and limit necessary quarantines during the 2021-22 school year.

*ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, and seconded by Mr. Bokoum, the State Board adopted the regulation. (In Favor: 11; Opposed: 1 – Ms. Bates; Abstained: 0)*

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mohammed Choudhury  
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: September 28, 2021