

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, January 25, 2021
Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met via videoconference on Monday January 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. The following members participated on the video conference call: Mr. Clarence Crawford (President); Ms. Jean Halle (Vice President); Mr. Shawn Bartley; Ms. Gail Bates; Mr. Charles R. Dashiell, Jr., Esq.; Dr. Susan Getty; Dr. Vermelle D. Greene; Dr. Rose M. Li; Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy; Ms. Rachel McCusker, Ms. Lori Morrow; Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter (Ret.); Dr. Holly Wilcox; Mr. Jason Wu, Student Representative; and State Superintendent Dr. Karen B. Salmon.

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

President Crawford called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Simpson to conduct the roll call. Mr. Schoen declared the presence of a quorum.

President Crawford explained the virtual meeting procedures.

President Crawford provided opening remarks and thanked Governor Hogan for his proposed budget and the funds directed toward education. He also reiterated support for returning students to the classroom safely and shared that the State Board is working toward resuming in-person meetings in a hybrid process, which would have some members on-site in the MSDE building (within appropriate safety protocols) and some participating remotely in the virtual meeting room.

Ms. McCusker provided remarks on behalf of teachers, noting appreciation of recent efforts at the federal level to bring new funding and guidance to schools to assist with reopening plans, and the hope that the coming state legislative session provides the additional state funding needed. Ms. McCusker also highlighted the efforts and hard work of educators on a daily basis to meet the educational needs of their students, and also expressed the hurt, frustration and anxiety felt by teachers as they do their best to navigate through this difficult time. Ms. McCusker emphasized the importance of everyone working together during these challenging times to do what is in the best interest of Maryland's students.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

(Presenters: Jan Greenwood, CEO Greenwood/Asher and Associates, LLC; Julie Holley, Senior Executive Search Consultant, Greenwood/Asher & Associates, LLC)

President Crawford and Ms. Bates (who serve as search committee chair and co-chair, respectively) provided opening remarks and thanked the search consultants for their efforts to date. President Crawford introduced Ms. Greenwood and Ms. Holley, who reviewed the input/data gathered through surveys, interviews, and public forums. This feedback was used to inform the development of a position profile outlining the desired professional qualifications, skills, and personal attributes for the next State Superintendent. Ms. Greenwood and Ms. Holley also shared a draft of the position profile.

State Board members and consultants discussed the competitiveness of the market, the impact of the pandemic on the candidate pool, and considerations for attracting highly qualified candidates to Maryland, as well as the potential impact of proposed legislation, Maryland's governance structure, and the statutory contract terms on the search process and recruitment of exceptional candidates.

BOARD SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021 PRIORITIES

➤ **Dashboard and First Quarter Performance Metrics**

(Presenter: Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Dr. Dara Shaw, Executive Director for Research and Strategic Data Use)

Dr. Shaw reviewed the dashboard and first quarter performance metrics gathered from local school systems. The presentation included updates on the following: student enrollment, student attendance and participation/engagement, learning modes, equity in technology for learning, and personal protective equipment in schools (PPE).

State Board members inquired about data updates and breakdowns by gender and homeschooling v. public schools; trend data on synchronous and asynchronous learning; and information regarding cleaning of school facilities and verification that cleanings are being done regularly. Board members also asked about the rationale behind the change in language from "accelerated learning loss" to "disruptive instruction." Dr. Salmon explained that the shift in terminology is designed to describe the approach in a different way that takes the focus off of students.

Dr. Williamson provide background and an overview of research on tutoring and group size, the greatest areas of need, and guidance and support for teachers.

State Board members discussed the need to remain attentive to the social and emotional learning needs of students and establishing this as a Board priority. The discussion also focused on engaging stakeholders and the availability of parent training.

ACTION: *None. For information and discussion only.*

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm.

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: February 23, 2021

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented and actions taken during the meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education. The video recordings of the meetings are the official record of the meetings and can be located at:

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2021.aspx>

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

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2021.aspx>

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. 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.