

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

The Maryland State Board of Education met on April 25, 2023 at 9:15am 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. Charles R. Dashiell, Jr., Esq., Ms. Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang, Ms. Rachel McCusker, Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter, Ms. Lori Morrow, Ms. Gail Bates, Dr. Joshua Michael, and Ms. Merin Thomas.

Ms. Jean Halle and Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy participated virtually. Mr. Shawn Bartley, Esq., and Dr. Holly Wilcox were absent.

State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury, Alan Dunklow (Assistant Attorney General), and State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands were also in attendance.

MEETING OPENING

President Crawford called the meeting to order at 9:15am and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Dunklow called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

President Crawford provided opening remarks and welcomed members of the public. President Crawford recognized Dr. Joshua Michael as a new member of the Board and thanked former member Dr. Vermelle Greene for her service.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Jack McKone – Culture in the classroom**
- 2. Cheryl Bost – Education support professionals and Teacher Appreciation Week**
- 3. Sharon Saroff – Special education**
- 4. Marsha Herbert – State support for Carroll County Blueprint implementation**
- 5. Katie Ridgway – Harford County Public Schools budget**
- 6. Olivia Travis – House Bill 119 and student engagement**

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of the Consent Agenda

- Approval of the March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Personnel Actions
- Budget Adjustments, March 2023

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSION: MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARDS RECOGNITION

(Presenters: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Choudhury recognized the 2021 and 2022 Milken Award winners, Ms. Melissa Salkeld (Kindergarten Teacher at Prettyboy Elementary in Baltimore County) and Mr. Dion Jones (Third-grade Teacher at Fairland Elementary School in Montgomery County), respectively. Mr. Choudhury invited school officials to say a few words detailing the work and accomplishments of this year's awardees.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

(Presenters: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools, Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent, Fiscal Planning, Operations, and Strategy, Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy State Superintendent for Organizational Effectiveness)

Mr. Choudhury and Mr. Dayhoff reviewed legislation passed by the General Assembly during the 2023 legislative session but noted that most of the bills tracked that had passed were still pending approval of the Governor. Mr. Choudhury provided information on the passage of House Bill 1219, Maryland Educator Shortage Reduction Act. Mr. Choudhury expressed disappointment that the bill did not end up including provisions for the "Grow Your Own" educator program to provide continuity for the program that is being conducted in a number of local school systems through the Maryland Leads grant program.

Mr. Dayhoff went through several bills that would require regulations that the Board must consider and adopt, including House Bill 206 - Early Childhood Education - Prekindergarten Programs - Montessori Schools and Programs, House Bill 292 - Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions, House Bill 448 - Early Childhood Education - Prekindergarten Programs - Montessori Schools and Programs, and House Bill 525 - Outdoor Preschool License Pilot Program - Establishment.

Board members requested that materials on legislative updates be provided more in advance in future meetings.

PRIORITIES

School Profile: Salem Avenue Elementary School (Washington County Public Schools)

(Presenter(s): Matthew Duque, Director, Office of Research, Planning and Program Evaluation, Thomas Garner, Principal, Salem Avenue Elementary School)

Mr. Choudhury expressed his interest in continuing to highlight schools that overachieve relative to other similarly situated schools in terms of student and community demographics. The Board received a presentation from Mr. Garner highlighting Salem Avenue Elementary School's strategies to engage parents, students, and members of the community, as well as how they approach instructional activities in the school.

Mr. Garner explored the school's focus on building individual relationships with students and families. He noted that the role of funding that the school received to support wraparound programs has been vital to the school's success. Mr. Garner provided several examples of events and activities that the school provides during and after school to engage the community and keep students interested in learning and being apart of the school. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining connections with students throughout the calendar year, including the summer, and demonstrated the programming offered by the school to maintain that continuity.

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

Local Education Agency Calendar Modification Request – Carroll County Public Schools (Presenter: Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy)

Ms. Gable stated that Carroll County Public Schools is requesting a one-day waiver of the 180-day requirement due to their school year calendar ending on a Monday, and that the request is consistent with COMAR.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Dashiell, seconded by Ms. Bates, the State Board granted permission to waive the 180-day requirement for Carroll County Public Schools (In Favor: 12, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

PRIORITIES

Blueprint Deep Dive: College and Career Readiness Exploratory Study Findings

(Presenter(s): Matthew Duque, Director, Office of Research, Planning and Program Evaluation)

Mr. Choudhury provided context for the presentation by explaining that this fall the Board will adopt a new college and career readiness standard to replace the interim standard currently in law. He explored other potential measures for the new college and career readiness standard that do not rely solely on test scores as the interim standard does. Mr. Duque provided an update on the study being conducted to inform MSDE's ultimate recommendation for the new college and career readiness standard. He reviewed the statutory requirements surrounding the long-term study and its current status.

Mr. Duque explained that MSDE has worked with the Maryland Assessment Research Center (MARC) at the University of Maryland to complete a short-term quantitative study to explore the relationship between high school state and national standardized tests, and other potential predictive metrics. For the statutorily required long-term study, MSDE contracted with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to conduct a two-part study.

Reducing Overidentification and Narrowing Achievement Gaps Case Study: Lexington Public Schools (Lexington, MA)

Mr. Choudhury introduced former Lexington Public Schools' Superintendent Dr. Paul Ash to begin a briefing on steps that Lexington took to reduce overidentification in special education and the results of those efforts. Dr. Ash explained that the school system needed to address the disproportionate rates of African American students who were who were being identified as needing special education services.

Dr. Ash discussed the comprehensive efforts undertaken by the school system, how the school system built a coalition of support from stakeholders to buy into the policies, and how the school system's efforts led to providing students the appropriate resources and services that they needed with improved student performance. Dr. Ash also provided information on building a professional learning model and supports for teachers.

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

COMAR 13A.05.14 Adult High School Pilot Program - Adoption

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

Ms. Gable stated that the purpose of this item is to request permission to adopt amendments to regulations under COMAR 13A.05.14 Adult High School Pilot Program. No public comments were received.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bates, seconded by Mr. Dashiell, the State Board granted permission to adopt COMAR 13A.05.14 Adult High School Pilot Program (In Favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

COMAR 13A.15.02.02 Family Child Care - Registration Application and Maintenance, COMAR 13A.16.02.02 Child Care Centers - License Application and Maintenance, COMAR 13A.17.02.02 Child Care—Letters of Compliance - Letters of Compliance Application and Maintenance, and COMAR 13A.18.02.02 Large Family Child Care Homes - Registration Application and Maintenance – Permission to Publish (Presenter: Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood)

Dr. Cook explained to the Board that the proposed regulations are being amended to be more inclusive of those who do not have a social security number (SSN) but do have an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Dr. Cook noted that MSDE also considered the feedback from its fact-finding conversations with stakeholders to draft language that supports the goal of increasing the number of licensed or registered early care and education programs.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Bates, seconded by Gen. Sumpter, the State Board granted permission to publish COMAR 13A.15.02.02 Family Child Care - Registration Application and Maintenance, COMAR 13A.16.02.02 Child Care Centers - License Application and Maintenance, COMAR 13A.17.02.02 Child Care—Letters of Compliance - Letters of Compliance Application and Maintenance, and COMAR 13A.18.02.02 Large Family Child Care Homes - Registration Application and Maintenance (In Favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Gen. Sumpter, seconded by Mr.

Dashiell, and with unanimous approval, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present except Mr. Bartley, Ms. McCusker, and Dr. Wilcox. Also in attendance were Superintendent Choudhury, Zachary Hands, Executive Director, and Assistant Attorneys General, Alan Dunklow, Jackie LaFiandra and Lori Hopkins. The Executive Session commenced at 2:55 p.m.

At that time, the State Board reviewed and approved three Opinions and two Orders.

- *Christine Betley v. Queen Anne's County Board of Education* – local board's dismissal of ethics panel complaint – Opin. No. 23-09. The Board dismissed the appeal for lack of jurisdiction.
- *Erin Bowling v. Harford County Board of Education* – retiree health benefits – Opin. No. 23-10. The Board affirmed the local board's decision.
- *Melissa Powell v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – evaluation and non-renewal of contract for school social worker – Opin. No. 23-11. The Board adopted the ALJ's proposed decision and affirmed the local superintendent.
- *S.F. and K.F. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – Order No. OR23-09. President Crawford dismissed the appeal because it is not ripe for review.
- *Mr. and Mrs. Stephan L. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – Order No. OR23-10. President Crawford dismissed the appeal for untimeliness.

The State Board also approved an update to its Governance Manual and Superintendent Choudhury gave the Board a personnel update.

The Executive Session ended at 5:00 p.m.

STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Ms. Morrow attended the MSDE Literacy Lab and commended the Department for the work they have done on the topic. Mr. Dashiell provided an update on the ongoing work on the Strategic Plan Subcommittee and how the group continues to make progress on the development of Phase 3 of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Crawford commended the Achieving Academic Equity and Excellence for Black Boys (AAEEBB) convocation hosted by the Department for the number of students that

participated and the conversations that he had with a number of attendees at the convening.

LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS

Mr. Dunklow announced the following opinions and orders:

- *Christine Betley v. Queen Anne's County Board of Education* – local board's dismissal of ethics panel complaint – Opin. No. 23-09
- *Erin Bowling v. Harford County Board of Education* – retiree health benefits – Opin. No. 23-10
- *Melissa Powell v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – evaluation and non-renewal of contract for school social worker – Opin. No. 23-11
- *S.F. and K.F. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – Order No. OR23-09
- *Mr. and Mrs. Stephan L. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – Order No. OR23-10

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mohammed Choudhury
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: May 23, 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, May 23, 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.