

THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the June 27, 2023 Meeting
200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met on June 27, 2023 at 9:05am 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, Dr. Joshua Michael, Ms. Jean Halle, Ms. Merin Thomas, Ms. Gail Bates and Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy were in attendance.

Mr. Shawn Bartley, Esq., was absent.

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

MEETING OPENING

Mr. Crawford called the meeting to order at 9:05am and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Schoen declared that a quorum was present.

Mr. Crawford provided opening remarks and welcomed members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Donna Blaney, MCPS – High School Graduation Requirements**
- 2. Sharon Saroff – Special Education**
- 3. Buzzy Hettleman – Literacy and the Blueprint**
- 4. Derek Simmons, Carolina County Superintendent – Blueprint Implementation Plans**
- 5. Liz Zogby – Students with Disabilities**
- 6. Gabby Fleming – Experience of a Student with Down Syndrome**
- 7. Leticia Isambo – Experience of a Parent of a Student with Down Syndrome**
- 8. Kalif Rose – Experience of a Student with Down Syndrome**
- 9. Cheryl Bost – School Schedules and Low-Performing Schools**

NEW BUSINESS

President Crawford offered remarks addressing recent media reports on MSDE and the Superintendent, and the Board's ongoing engagement with stakeholders around the State. President Crawford indicated that the Board will engage in additional messaging and offered his support of the Superintendent.

- Approval of the Consent Agenda
 - Approval of the May 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - Personnel Actions
 - Budget Adjustments, May 2023

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSION:

Recognition of 2022-2023 Principals of the Year

Presenter(s): Terry Ball, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP), and Addie Kaufman, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)

Mr. Crawford offered opening remarks stressing the importance of school-level leadership in meeting successful outcomes for students. He introduced Ms. Ball, who presented the 2023 Elementary School Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year - E. Rodney Walker (Anne Arundel County) and Heather Moraff (Howard County).

Mr. Crawford introduced Ms. Kaufman, who presented the 2023 Secondary School Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year - James Allrich (Montgomery County) and Dr. Kimberly Culbertson (Baltimore County).

The Board presented commendations to each and took commemorative photos.

PRIORITIES:

National Association of State Boards of Education: Presentation of State Board Self-Assessment Results

(Presenter: Paolo DeMaria, CEO and President, NASBE)

Mr. Crawford welcomed Mr. DeMaria from NASBE, who provided a summary of the findings and feedback from the State Board's self-assessment process conducted with assistance from NASBE. The State Board began a self-assessment process earlier this year

that covered several topics related to Board operations and policymaking. Mr. DeMaria presented the findings of the self-assessment and highlighted key takeaways.

Deep Dive: Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) Schools

(Presenter(s): Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Chandra Haislet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting, Matthew Duque, MSDE's Director of the Office of Research, Planning and Program Evaluation)

Ms. Haislet presented an overview of the Maryland Accountability System and the five-star rating system for schools based on several key performance indicators and other measures. Ms. Haislet reviewed the waivers and flexibilities granted by the United States Department of Education regarding performance targets, growth calculations, and identification of Comprehensive and Targeted School Improvement (CSI/TSI) schools.

Ms. Haislet and Mr. Duque offered a profile and characteristics of the schools that are identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools and reviewed the criteria for the identification of CSI and ATSI.

Dr. Collins reviewed funding and resource allocations for CSI and ATSI schools and support from MSDE for local education agencies (LEAs) to provide technical assistance on school improvement.

School Profile: Lakeland Elementary/Middle School (Baltimore City Public Schools)

(Presenter: Najib Jammal, Principal, Lakeland Elementary/Middle School)

Mr. Choudhury and Mr. Duque introduced the presentation by highlighting the success of Lakeland Elementary/Middle School as a CSI school that significantly improved achievement for students in Math and ELA.

Mr. Duque offered a profile of the school's demographics and its history in the accountability performance system. Mr. Jammal provided an overview of the key practices of his team at Lakeland that have resulted in improved outcomes, including intentional and aligning partnerships with local entities, ongoing staff professional learning, and a focus on instructional strategies. Mr. Jammal outlined the pillars that Lakeland has emphasized since the return to school buildings from the impact of COVID.

Overview: Spring 2023 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) Update and Reporting Timeline

(Presenter: Chandra Haislet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting)

Ms. Haislet outlined the assessment windows and timelines for the administration of the State's assessment program for the 2022-2023 school years and the various facets of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP).

Ms. Haislet outlined the requirements through the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and what reports are available to school systems, as well as what they can do with the data and results from the assessments. Ms. Haislet also emphasized the Department's efforts to ensure that MSDE is protecting personal student information when releasing summary data in public reporting in accordance with federal law.

Multilingual Learner Education Panel and Data Presentation

(Presenter(s): Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Laurel Williams, Coordinator of Multilingual Education, and Ilhye Yoon, Coordinator of EL/Title III)

Dr. Collins, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Yoon presented an overview of English Learner (EL) data in Maryland, English Language development services, academic performance data, long-term outcomes including college and career readiness for EL students, and the recommendations from the Workgroup on English Learners. Dr. Collins reviewed the recommendations of the EL Workgroup.

Mr. Choudhury explained that 85% of EL students are born in the United States and highlighted the need to address improvements in elementary school programs and services.

Ms. Merin Thomas introduced a panel of EL educators and students, who shared their experiences in Maryland schools and the impact of state and local funding and policy decisions on EL students.

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

COMAR 13A.01.08 Public Information Act Request – Permission to Adopt,
COMAR 13A.01.09 Correction of Amendment of Public Records – Permission to Adopt,

COMAR 13A.08.01 Lawful Absence – Permission to Adopt, COMAR 13A.06.07 Student Transportation – Permission to Adopt

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Morrow, seconded by Gen. Sumpter, the State Board granted permission to adopt COMAR 13A.01.08 Public Information Act Request, COMAR 13A.01.09 Correction of Amendment of Public Records, COMAR 13A.08.01 Lawful Absence, COMAR 13A.06.07 Student Transportation (In Favor: 12, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

COMAR 13A.15 Family Child Care, COMAR 13A.16 Child Care Centers, COMAR 13A.17 Child Care, COMAR 13A.17.16 Child Care-Letters of Compliance – Administrative Hearings, COMAR 13A.18 Large Family Child Care Homes – Permission to Publish Emergency and Standard Regulations
(Presenter: Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood)

The Board discussed the emergency regulations regarding the prohibition of cannabis use on the premises of child care facilities. Ms. McCusker offered an amendment, seconded by Dr. Mele-McCarthy and adopted by the Board to remove language that limited cannabis use prohibitions in a child care facility to those only providing care to children and removed the language in the “immediate presence”.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Morrow, seconded by Dr. Michael, the State Board granted permission to publish standard and emergency regulations under COMAR 13A.15 Family Child Care, COMAR 13A.16 Child Care Centers, COMAR 13A.17 Child Care, COMAR 13A.17.16 Child Care-Letters of Compliance – Administrative Hearings, COMAR 13A.18 Large Family Child Care Homes (In Favor: 12, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

PRIORITIES:

Maryland State Board of Education and Maryland State Department of Education Strategic Plan Release (Phase 3)

(Presenter: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools, Chip Dashiell, Chair, Strategic Planning Subcommittee)

Mr. Dashiell, Chair of the State Board’s Strategic Planning Subcommittee introduced Phase 3 of the State Board’s Strategic Plan. He thanked members of the committee, MSDE staff and the Superintendent for feedback through all three phases and leading to the finalization of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Dashiell highlighted that the plan is aligned with the Blueprint and when fully implemented will lead to improvement in student outcomes.

Mr. Choudhury shared that the plan is designed to support MSDE’s ability to implement the Blueprint with fidelity, but also meeting goals not included in the Blueprint. Superintendent Choudhury presented the takeaways from the stakeholder roundtables,

charettes, and listening sessions conducted throughout the state and with the educational community.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Dashiell, seconded by Ms. McCusker, the State Board adopted the Strategic Plan. (In Favor: 12, 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 of Joan Mele-McCarthy seconded by Holly Wilcox and with unanimous approval, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present except Shawn D. Bartley and Jean Halle. Also in attendance were Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury, Executive Director Zachary Hands, and Assistant Attorney General Elliott Schoen and Jackie La Fiandra. The Executive Session commenced at 4:40 p.m.

At that time, the State Board reviewed and approved three Opinions and one Order.

- *In the Matter of Baltimore City Public Charter Schools Mandatory Blueprint Fee* – application of minimum school funding formula – Opin. No. 23-17. The Board denied the Petition for a Declaratory Ruling.
- *M.A. v. Queen Anne’s County Board of Education* – student discipline– Opin. No. 23-18. The Board declined to exercise its original jurisdiction in the appeal and grant the motion to dismiss.
- *Kari B. v Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – student residency – Opin. No. 23-19. The Board affirmed the local board’s decision.
- *Kellie G. v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – failure to exhaust administrative remedies – Order No. OR23-11. The Board dismissed the appeal for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

President Crawford reported about discussions with agency leadership.

The State Board discussed the upcoming July Board Officer Elections.

The Executive Session ended at 6:00 p.m.

STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Dr. Wilcox mentioned to the Board that there are two more NASBE and American Academy of Pediatrics meetings on mental and behavioral health in the coming months and she will report back upon their completion.

Ms. McCusker mentioned that the “Big Rocks” ad hoc group would meet again the next day to continue discussing the Board’s legislative agenda for the coming year.

LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS

Mr. Schoen announced the following opinions:

- *In the Matter of Baltimore City Public Charter Schools Mandatory Blueprint Fee* – application of minimum school funding formula – Opin. No. 23-17
- *M.A. v. Queen Anne’s County Board of Education* – student discipline– Opin. No. 23-18
- *Kari B. v Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – student residency – Opin. No. 23-19
- *Kellie G. v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – failure to exhaust administrative remedies – Order No. OR23-11

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mohammed Choudhury
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: July 25, 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, July 25, 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.