

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thursday
February 11, 2016

Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Guffrie M. Smith, President; Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr.; Ms. Linda Eberhart; Dr. Michele Jenkins Guyton; Ms. Stephanie R. Iszard (by phone); Mrs. Madhu Sidhu; Ms. Laura Weeldreyer and Dr. Jack Smith, Interim State Superintendent of Schools. Dr. S. James Gates, Jr., Vice-President; Dr. Chester Finn, Jr.; Mr. Larry Giammo; Mr. Andrew R. Smarick; and Ms. Quinn Wandalowski were not present. (NOTE: This informal informational session provided Board members an opportunity to have more time to hear about MSDE departments, programs and services. No action was taken. Attendance for the information sessions is optional.)

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Ms. Kristy Michel, Deputy State Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Dr. Miya Simpson, Executive Director to the State Board, Dr. Henry Johnson, Interim Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Karen Salmon, Deputy State Superintendent for School Effectiveness.

Dr. Simpson opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. and asked Dr. Jack Smith, Interim State Superintendent of Schools, to introduce the first presenter. The following topics were discussed:

OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION PROCESS

Interim State Superintendent Smith introduced Amanda Conn, Esq., Director of Government Relations, to provide an overview of the Legislative Session process.

INTERSECTION OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING MARYLAND PUBLIC EDUCATION -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Interim State Superintendent Smith introduced Dr. Henry Johnson who provided and discussed a chart depicting the two pathways for student graduation from high school noting that the mandates are found in federal and state law. Interim State Superintendent Smith talked about the flexibility of high school courses and assessments.

DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES (DORS) OVERVIEW

Interim State Superintendent Smith introduced Suzanne R. Page, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to give an overview of her Division's responsibilities. Ms. Page reported that DORS manages a \$105 billion budget and administers two programs: The Public Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program and Disability Determination Services. She explained that the Division receives funds from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) along with a State match of 21.3 percent. She said the VR Program assists students, youth and adults with disabilities to achieve education, training and employment goals. Ms. Page reported that her staff is reaching students earlier than in the past and noted that students are provided services until they get a job.

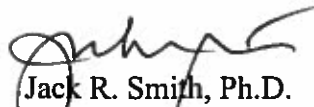
ADJOURNMENT

President Smith thanked the presenters and said, "This sets us on the path of priorities."

Interim State Superintendent Smith asked the Board to make a determination of priorities for discussion topics and whether they prefer an oral or written report.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.
Interim Secretary/Treasurer

Date: 2/23/16