

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday
October 30, 2013

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

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Dr. Mary Kay Finan, Vice President; Ms. Luisa Montero-Diaz; Ms. Linda Eberhart; Dr. S. James Gates, Jr.; Mr. Christian Hodges; Mrs. Madhu Sidhu; Donna Hill Staton, Esq.; and Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, State Superintendent of Schools. Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr. joined the meeting late. Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, President; Mr. Sayed Naved; and Mr. Guffrie M. Smith were absent.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Mr. Steve Brooks, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Jack Smith, Chief Academic Officer; and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director, Office of the State Board

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Finan opened the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Upon motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Staton, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows: (In Favor – 7; Mr. DeGraffenreidt had not joined the meeting.)

- Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2013
- Personnel (copy attached to these minutes)
- Budget adjustments for September, 2013

ORAL ARGUMENTS

Ms. Kameen explained the procedures by which the Board hears oral arguments and introduced the following persons:

Tiffany Neal, et.al., Appellant

v.

Tyson Bennett, Esq. representing
Anne Arundel County Board of Education

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT RESULTS, GRADUATION DATA

Dr. Lowery introduced Dr. Henry Johnson, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability, to report on High School Assessment (HSA) results and graduation data.

Dr. Jack Smith reported that staff is taking a close look at the method used to determine School Progress Index. He commended Dr. Johnson and his staff on their work on info-graphics and the variety of ways used to display information.

Dr. Johnson introduced Janice Johnson, Branch Chief in the Office of Accountability to assist in the presentation. He discussed various methods to meet requirements for graduation for 2013 and provided graduation statistics for Maryland students. Dr. Johnson provided information on non-graduates and a breakdown by racial subgroups and services groups on graduates that met requirements from 2009 through 2013. He also discussed data on students provided waivers from passing the High School Assessments for 2012 and 2013 and graduates who met HSA requirements through the Bridge Program.

In response to a question by Ms. Staton about what is learned about students who are successful in completing Bridge projects, Dr. Johnson said that many of those students are currently studying for the test and may return to take the HSA and pass. He said, "They are learning as they go along. There may be weaknesses in their skill sets." Ms. Staton said, "You are learning how they learn."

Dr. Smith said, "This goes to the heart of the discussion – using more project based learning. This goes to the shift to Common Core."

Dr. Lowery said, "We can use these data in a more beneficial way. The Bridge Program will always be an option."

In response to a question by Dr. Finan about how Bridge projects are reflected on a student's high school transcript, Dr. Johnson said he will discuss this issue at a later meeting.

Dr. Johnson provided data on HSA first time taker pass rates for the 2011 – 2013 school years. This data was presented by racial and services subgroups. A summary of local school system data for 2013 was also provided. He noted that this data shows there is more work to be done with Hispanic and African-American students.

In response to a request by Dr. Gates on a breakdown of this data by local school system, Dr. Lowery said, "Districts want to tell their own story." She explained that they want to provide the information to their local constituents first. Dr. Gates asked that the Board be given "access" to the data and Dr. Johnson agreed to provide that access to the Board.

Ms. Staton suggested that staff examine the reasons why some white and Asian students do not pass the tests saying "This might be informative."

Ms. Eberhart said that the State's Longitudinal Data System (LDS) may be of help in that it provides data on attendance and discipline.

Dr. Gates suggested that the data be broken down by gender and Dr. Johnson said that once this report is made public, his staff can work with the local school systems on this request.

Dr. Johnson discussed the changes that will be made in the reporting of data starting in 2014. He then provided information on the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for 2012.

In response to a question by Ms. Diaz, Ms. Johnson explained that racial categories changed in response to federal regulations and students could check more than one category which may have skewed the percentages.

Dr. Johnson provided data on cohort dropout rates noting that students are only counted once at the end of four years. He explained the various features used to calculate dropout rates and noted a slight drop between 2010 and 2012. He said, "Ten percent is still too high for Maryland." He provided data on dropout rates by race and services cohorts.

Dr. Lowery said, "We are looking at a growth model. We are being more realistic in what's achievable not where a student starts."

Dr. Gates commended the staff for providing deeper data and more information.

EARLY CHILDHOOD RACE TO THE TOP (RTTT) GRANT QUARTERLY UPDATE

Dr. Lowery introduced Dr. Rolf Grafwallner, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Development, to provide an update on the strides made as a result of the RTTT Early Childhood Grant.

Dr. Grafwallner introduced Lisa David, Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs with the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) to give the Board a local perspective.

Dr. Grafwallner highlighted the following items:

1. First Year Learning Academy was held with thirty schools in August. He said the feedback was very positive and that the Academies will continue.
2. Language Programs were very successful. Fifty-three programs were conducted during the 2012-2013 school year and an assessment showed significant improvement in vocabulary for English Language Learners (ELLs).
3. He discussed a public/private partnership in which a new Judy Center was established in Baltimore City.
4. He provided a copy of *The Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework: Maryland's Vision for Engaging Families with Young Children*. Dr. Grafwallner brought the Board's attention to page 4 of the document which outlines the goals of the program. He said that the Superintendent is asking for Board approval of this document.

5. He reported that all jurisdictions have Early Childhood Advisory Councils and Council members have participated in a three-step professional development program.

Dr. Grafwallner asked Ms. Davis to discuss the Howard County Public School System's (HCPSS) Early Childhood Program.

Ms. Davis reported that Howard County is a very diverse area and that the HCPSS has developed a campaign for school readiness. She said they have added new early childhood stakeholders to the Early Childhood Advisory Council to bring new perspectives into the room. She said they are focused on the community to see how this affects change in kindergarten readiness.

Dr. Grafwallner said he is expecting twenty-four plans to be submitted by December. These will become the work plans for each jurisdiction.

Ms. Diaz commended the presenters for their work and asked what the implementation plans will look like as well as a timeline for implementation. Dr. Grafwallner said he will provide the Board with more information as it is received and that the Department will provide LEAs assistance through the use of webinars and other strategic tools.

Ms. Davis said that HCPSS staff has learned about the barriers to school readiness by conducting parent workshops.

Dr. Grafwallner said there are materials and approaches to offer parents and said, "next year we can talk about sustainability."

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Dr. Grafwallner said that faith-based stakeholders are involved in the Advisory Councils. Dr. Gates asked, "do we have a sense of best practices in this area?" Dr. Grafwallner said that the key is to have consistency through program accreditation. Ms. Davis said that they have a way to bring faith-based organizations into the conversation. She said, "It is a marketing outreach strategy."

Dr. Lowery recommended Board approval of the *Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework: Maryland's Vision for Engaging Families with Young Children*.

Upon motion by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, seconded by Ms. Eberhart, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved Dr. Lowery's recommendation. (In Favor – 8)

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION'S ANNUAL REPORT ON THE GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA (GED)

Dr. Lowery introduced Leonard Howie, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), to update the Board on the progress of the transition of the GED program to a totally online assessment program and the regulatory changes that are being recommended to facilitate this change. She requested that the Board approve publication of all regulatory changes proposed by DLLR.

Mr. Howie introduced Pat Tyler, Director of Adult Education and Literacy Services and Julie Squire, Assistant Secretary, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, to assist in responding to questions from the Board.

Mr. Howie discussed the passing rates for test takers for both paper-based testing and the computer-based version. He also reported the passing rates for test takers within the State's prisons.

In response to a question by Ms. Staton, Ms. Tyler said that testing programs are separate from training programs and that they are standardizing preparation programs among districts. She said there are a lot of changes coming soon with a massive effort around the new test.

In response to a question by Ms. Diaz, Secretary Howie said that the pass rate for the computer-based test is much higher than that of the paper-based test since test takers are voluntary and are more prepared. He said that computer-based testing is going quite well and has exceeded expectations.

Ms. Tyler said that feedback is very positive on computer-based testing.

Ms. Squire noted that test results can be delivered much faster through electronic testing.

Ms. Tyler said that there will be a new test in January which will be more rigorous and which may result in declines in the pass rates.

In response to a question from Ms. Eberhart, Secretary Howie said that DLLR is a part of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) and data is therefore being collected on student dropouts who take the GED test.

In response to a question by Ms. Sidhu, Ms. Tyler reported that students do take a practice test.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates about test security, Ms. Tyler said that test security begins at the registration process and that all testing is done at a secure testing site.

In response to a question by Ms. Staton about accommodations, Secretary Howie said the computer testing meets the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance standards. He said they are devising strategies to meet the needs of everyone who is eligible to take the GED test.

In response to a question from Ms. Staton about whether the test will be provided in Spanish and French, Secretary Howie said, "We will be visiting this issue."

Upon motion by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, seconded by Ms. Staton, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the publication of all regulatory changes proposed by DLLR. (In Favor – 8)

Mr. Howie reported on the contract proposal with testing sites. In response to a question by Ms. Diaz, Mr. Howie said it is difficult to determine if the new system will cost more or less than the prior system. He said, "there may be some cost shifting."

In response to a question by Ms. Sidhu about who owns the testing centers, Ms. Tyler said they are reaching out to help communities find test sites and that most of the sites are community colleges. Ms. Tyler asked Board members to let them know of any sites that they are aware of.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Mr. Howie said the GED computer-based test is mandatory starting January 2014.

Ms. Tyler said, "This is the right change at the right time." Ms. Tyler told Board members that they welcome any comments and suggestions for inclusion in the DLLR report that is scheduled to be provided to the General Assembly in December, 2013.

Upon motion by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, seconded by Ms. Sidhu, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved forwarding the GED testing services contract by DLLR to the Board of Public Works. (In Favor – 8)

SCHOOL PROGRESS/SCHOOL PROGRESS INDEX: HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

The Superintendent asked Dr. Henry Johnson and Ms. Janice Johnson to provide a summary and overview of the components, calculation, and School Progress and School Progress Index results for 2013.

Dr. Johnson discussed the high school components – proficiency progress, participation rate and graduation rate – and how Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) are established. Ms. Johnson reported that, beginning in 2013, school systems are required to measure subgroup graduation rates. Dr. Johnson provided examples of achievement targets for 2011 through 2017 and data showing the 2012 and 2013 school progress results for high schools.

Dr. Johnson provided a chart depicting how school progress is determined for grades preK-8 and grades 9-12. He also provided data reflecting high school indicators – achievement, gap reduction and college and career-readiness. Dr. Johnson reported on the state AMO status for high schools for the 2012 and 2013 school years.

Dr. Johnson provided graphs depicting strands for support, intervention and recognition for high schools comparing the 2012 and 2013 school years. He provided a local system strand summary and a chart outlining the various strands and the supports and interventions they provide.

Board members thanked the presenters for an excellent presentation of the data.

In response to a question by Ms. Staton, Dr. Johnson said, "any time there is a decrease, we have a lot of conversation about it. We go back and ask what happened. What can we do to support this."

Dr. Lowery said, "We are committed to being in the districts. We use this to inform teaching and learning. These data are informing our resources and professional development."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to § 10-503(a)(1)(i) &(iii) and § 10-508(a)(1) & (7), of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, seconded by Mr. Hodges, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Wednesday, October 30, 2013, in Conference Room 1, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. All board members were present except Charlene M. Dukes, Sayed Naved, and Guffrie Smith. In attendance were Lillian Lowery, State Superintendent; Steve Brooks, Chief Administrative Officer; Jack Smith, Chief Academic Officer; and Tony South, Executive Director, Office of the State Board. Assistant Attorneys General, Elizabeth M. Kameen, Jackie LaFiandra, and Derek Simmons were also present. The Executive Session commenced at 1:35 p.m. (In favor – 8)

The State Board approved six Opinions for publication.

- *Tavon Eades v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – terms of reinstatement/back pay – Opin. No. 13-54
- *Marlear Powell v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – employee termination – Opin. No. 13-55
- *Yasmean W. v. Howard County Board of Education* – class exemption – Opin. No. 13-56
- *Nicole B. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer – Opin. No. 13-57
- *Israel and Mirtha B. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer – Opin. No. 13-58
- *Angela F. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – student transfer – Opin. No. 13-59

The Board deliberated seven cases. They will be published at a later date.

- *Sandra A. v. Prince George's County Board of Education* – denial of request for certification of completion
- *Howard/Carroll Officials Association v. Howard County Board of Education* – bid protest
- *In the Matter of Scott Jones* – Petition for Declaratory Ruling
- *William M. and Corona S. v. Worcester County Board of Education* – suspension/expungement
- *James McKee v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – teacher termination
- *John Price v. Somerset County Board of Education* – bus driver decertification
- *Tiffany Neal, et al. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* - redistricting

At 2:10pm, as an administrative function, the Superintendent briefed the State Board on a PARCC procurement matter within the Superintendent's purview. No formulation of substantive policy occurred. No action by the Board was required. That segment of the meeting ended at 2:30pm.

Thereafter, the State Board discussed one internal board management issues - - the directions to and agenda for the Board Retreat. The Board postponed the discussion of the review committee for candidates for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

The session ended at 2:40 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Dukes explained procedures by which the Board hears public comments. The following individual provided public comments:

- Cheryl Bost/Stan Truman – discipline regulations
- Sarah Blair – Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation
- Jessica Clark – discipline regulations
- David Beard – discipline regulations
- Anne Miller – Common Core Standards
- Maleeta Kitchen – discipline regulations
- Katherine Rabb – discipline regulations
- Nicole Joseph – discipline regulations

PROPOSAL TO ENACT EMERGENCY REGULATIONS IN MATHEMATICS

Dr. Johnson discussed language that had been drafted for an emergency regulation pertaining to the courses that students could enroll in to meet new requirements in mathematics. The emergency regulation responds to legislation enacted by the 2013 General Assembly (Senate Bill 740) requiring students to take four years of mathematics in high school. The reason the regulation is being proposed for emergency action is to enable incoming ninth graders to know the list of courses that they can enroll in to meet the new mathematics requirements. Dr. Johnson concluded by informing Board members that they will be asked to approve the regulations at the December meeting.

COMAR 13A.08.01 SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PROPOSED REGULATIONS -- ERRATUM

The Superintendent asked Ms. Kameen to report on COMAR 13A.08.01 School Discipline Proposed Regulations – Erratum.

Ms. Kameen explained that, due to an oversight, two amendments to the School Discipline Regulations were omitted. She reported that an Errata Notice was published on October 18, 2013

and that there was no need to withdraw or republish the regulations. She provided the correct wording.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt said that although these changes are not substantive, due to the importance of the regulations he suggested that they be republished and that the comment period be extended.

Upon motion by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, seconded by Dr. Finan, and with unanimous agreement, the Board voted to withdraw and republish COMAR 13A.08.01 School Discipline Proposed Regulations, as amended, and extend the comment period. (In Favor – 8)

**REGULATORY ACTIONS PROPOSED BY THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD (PSTEB)
COMAR 13A.12.02.23 VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

Dr. Lowery asked Jean Satterfield, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Educator Effectiveness, to discuss COMAR 13A.12.02.23 Visually Impaired. The Superintendent noted that the PSTEB granted permission to publish the regulations in the *Maryland Register* and that the Board has the option of requesting that a joint Conference Committee meet to discuss the proposal prior to its publication and that publication would be delayed until the Conference Committee meets.

Ms. Satterfield reported that the current proposed regulation, COMAR 13A.12.02.23 Visually Impaired, requires changes due to required legislative review, current needs, and recommendations of a Work Group comprised of key constituents.

The Board took no action on these amendments.

**REGULATORY ACTIONS PROPOSED BY THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD (PSTEB)
COMAR 13A.12.01 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Dr. Lowery asked Ms. Satterfield to discuss COMAR 13A.12.01 General Provisions. She reported that PSTEB granted permission to publish these regulations in the *Maryland Register* and explained that the Board has the option of requesting that a joint conference committee meet to discuss the proposal prior to its publication and that publication would be delayed until the Conference Committee meets.

Ms. Satterfield reported that the Final Report of the Work Group on Certification Restructuring proposed six recommendations for changes to the current certification regulations, COMAR 13A.12.01 General Provisions.

In response to a question by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, Ms. Satterfield said that the issue of a proposed alternative path to the Advanced Professional Certificate (APC) was considered by the Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review Committee (AELR) and was vetoed. She

reported that PSTEB has not reconsidered the issue since data has not been collected on highly effective, effective or ineffective teachers in this State.

In response to another question by Mr. DeGraffenreidt about whether data has been collected on the results of teachers holding a Master's Degree and student growth, Ms. Satterfield said, "As we build data systems, that data will tell us some interesting facts."

The Board took no action on these amendments.

RACE TO THE TOP (RTTT) UPDATE

Dr. Lowery reported that MSDE was contacted by leaders of the Alaska State Department of Education to discuss Maryland's RTTT initiatives. She stated that Penelope Thornton Tally, Chief Performance Officer and several other staff members are in Alaska to discuss Maryland's successful RTTT initiatives. She introduced Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Academic Policy, to provide an RTTT update.

Ms. Gable reported that MSDE received approval on five additional amendments which will enable the Department to move the work on several Projects forward. She noted that a new staff member will be on board tomorrow to deal with RTTT fiscal issues. Ms. Gable said that a monthly conference call is held with members of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) to discuss accomplishments and challenges related to RTTT projects. She noted that there are twenty-two liaisons to LEAs and that year three of the RTTT grant is closing. She said, "Our focus is looking forward to finishing our work for this year and looking back to make sure we conducted our work with quality and effectiveness."

Ms. Gable reported that Project 2.1 Program Evaluation is on track and that a timeline was completed for a Break-Through Center and a summary completed on the Educator Effectiveness Academies.

Dr. Donnell Josiah, RTTT Program Director, discussed Project 15.07, Expand Instructional Toolkit, reporting that a vendor was acquired and a Request For Proposal (RFP) was released with a response date of November 8.

Dr. Josiah reported on the progress of Project 21.42 Implement a Statewide System to Support Student Instructional Intervention. He said that an amendment was approved and the first conference call with LEAs was held. He noted that grants to LEAs are scheduled to be dispensed and that responses will be received from LEAs in December, 2013.

Beth Perlman, Chief Information Officer, reported on 17.32 Implement a Test Item Bank System, and Project 20/35, Adaptive Testing Units for High Schools, stating that amendments are pending at the USDE. Dr. Henry Johnson said that staff is building formative assessments and that training for teachers will continue. He said, "We do have a platform if that doesn't go through."

Dr. Lowery reported that the issue of hiring a vendor and purchasing test items was found to be very costly and that staff is looking for ways to shift funding. She reported that Dr. Johnson would like to hold another Academy after a full year of implementation.

Ms. Gable reported that the amendment process requires an explanation from all Project Managers of how the funding is allocated.

In response to a question by Ms. Eberhart, Dr. Johnson said that some test items will be purchased but will be vetted by teachers.

Maria Lamb, Interim Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student, Family and School Support, reported on Project 46/57, Extend Student Learning and Improve School Culture, Climate, and Support. She said that a Project Manager has just been hired and that this Project will see some movement. Dr. Jack Smith said that a committee of stakeholders, from across the state, have met twice and set up subcommittees to address this Project.

Steve Brooks discussed a conference call with leaders in Alaska about Maryland RTTT successes and that they are very interested in Maryland's policies regarding a continued vision for improvement as well as Maryland's Early Childhood Education Program. He said they are fascinated by the Bridge to Excellence Program and accountability for student achievement.

Dr. Lowery said that her office has also been contacted by leaders in West Virginia and Illinois about the contributions made by the Thornton Commission. She reported that Maryland is the only state in the PARCC Consortium that is field testing every school. She noted that PARCC, Inc. has asked Maryland to become the fiscal agent for the Consortium. She told the Board that she would keep them updated on this request.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Hodges reported that he, along with six other Board members, attended the Maryland Teacher of the Year Dinner and thanked Dr. Darla Strouse for this excellent program. He also reported that he attended the Governor's Education Forum and an Oyster Restoration Program.

Dr. Gates reported that he attended the Governor's Roundtable Discussion on Digital Learning and noted that the Governor has a lot of interest in this area.

Ms. Eberhart said that she attended the Education Trust – Eliminate the Achievement Gap National Conference at which the focus was on Common Core and Teacher Evaluation. She said the conference was "outstanding."

Dr. Lowery reported that Mr. DeGraffenreidt was recently honored by the Open Society Institute-Baltimore as an "audacious individual." Mr. DeGraffenreidt said, "That was for the work of this Board on school discipline."

OPINIONS

Ms. Kameen announced the following Opinions:

- 13-54 *Tavon Eades v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – terms of reinstatement/back pay (dismissed)
- 13-55 *Marlear Powell v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – employee termination (affirmed the local board's decision)
- 13-56 *Yasmean W. v. Howard County Board of Education* – class exemption (affirmed the local board's decision)
- 13-57 *Nicole B. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer (affirmed the local board's decision)
- 13-58 *Israel and Mirtha B. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer (affirmed the local board's decision)
- 13-59 *Angela F. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – student transfer (remanded for further action by the local board)

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Finan announced that the Board will hold its annual Retreat tomorrow at the Maryland Science Center. With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT

Thursday
October 31, 2013

Maryland Science Center
Harbor Terrace Room
601 Light Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT

The Maryland State Board of Education convened in public session on Thursday, October 31, at 1:10 p.m. in the Harbor Terrace Room within the Maryland Science Center. The following members were in attendance: Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, President; Dr. Mary Kay Finan, Vice President; Ms. Luisa Montero-Diaz; Ms. Linda Eberhart; Dr. S. James Gates, Jr.; Mrs. Madhu Sidhu; Donna Hill Staton, Esq.; and Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, State Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Hodges arrived late.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Mr. Steve Brooks, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Jack Smith, Chief Academic Officer; Penelope Thornton Talley, Esq., Chief Performance Officer; and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director, Office of the State Board.

Special Guest: Kristen Amundsen, Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education

REPORT OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Graduation Requirements

Dr. Lowery introduced Dr. Henry Johnson, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability, and Janet Bagsby, Chief, Planning and Assessment Branch. Dr. Johnson reminded the Board of the discussion the previous day regarding the proposed adoption of emergency regulations identifying the courses that high school students would be eligible to take to satisfy the requirements of Senate Bill 740. This legislation specifies that "Beginning with the 9th grade class of 2014, each student shall enroll in a mathematics course in each year of high school that the student attends high school." The legislation furthermore states that the fourth year options must be "non trivial" mathematics courses.

Dr. Johnson said that some concerns have been raised regarding the inclusion of Computer Science as one of the student options for meeting the fourth year requirement for mathematics. These concerns relate to some new information that the Department has received related to the University of Maryland Board of Regents' entrance requirements. According to this information the requirements specify that to be accepted by the University of Maryland System, fourth year high school mathematics courses must include Algebraic concepts.

In the discussion that ensued, Board members questioned whether or not this was a Regents' requirement which applied to the entire University of Maryland System or a requirement restricted to some institutions within the University System such as the University of Maryland College Park. Professor Gates said that it was difficult for him to imagine a serious Computer Science course that did not include Algebraic concepts. The Board asked Dr. Johnson to pursue clarification on this issue.

Dr. Johnson indicated that the Department was planning to propose that AP Computer Science be counted as a course satisfying the fourth year mathematics requirement. He said the Department has polled the local school systems and found that 19 of the 24 systems offer AP Computer Science. Board members requested that the proposal prepared for action on this topic at the December Board meeting clarify what is the meaning of "non trivial course" specified in the law.

Review of High School Assessment Schedule and Transition to PARCC

Dr. Johnson asked Ms. Bagsby to review the current HSA testing schedule. Ms. Bagsby noted that there are currently five test administrations each year: one in October which is for all re-takers; one January which is both for 1st time test takers as well as re-takers; one in April which is for Seniors only; one in May for 1st time test takers as well as re-takers; and one in the summer. She went on to say that students have the option to retake the assessment one time to pass all tests or to achieve the combined required combined score. Students who are not successful after taking the assessment two times can choose to meet the requirement by successfully completing Bridge Projects.

Dr. Johnson then described the preliminary plans that staff have drafted for introducing the PARCC high school assessments in mathematics and English language arts. These plans call for the final administration of the HSA tests in algebra/data analysis and English II to occur in the summer of 2015. Dr. Johnson went on to say that students who entered grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year who do not achieve the passing score for algebra/data analysis will have four opportunities in the 2014-15 school year to retake the assessment or after two unsuccessful attempts at passing the test, can move to the Bridge Plan. Students who entered grade 9 in 2012-13 will take the HSA English II in 2013-2014. Students who do not achieve a passing score will also have the four opportunities to re-take the assessment in 2014-15.

In response to a question from Ms. Eberhart regarding the readiness of high school students to take the PARCC Assessments in 2014, Dr. Lowery pointed out that teachers will be teaching to the Common Core Standards this year and that students should be prepared to transition to the new assessments. Dr. Johnson said that when he meets with the local assistant superintendents of instruction, they attest to the fact that the local systems are ramping up to make this transition.

Dr. Johnson reminded the Board of a request that the Board had made several months ago regarding the reporting of High School Assessment Results on student transcripts. He said that he had conducted a survey of school systems regarding this matter and received responses from 21 systems. Those responses reveal that 14 LEAs report HSA scores on student transcripts and do not reveal bridge status; 8 systems do not report HSA scores on student transcripts; and 3 systems report "Pass" by Bridge program on transcripts. Board members expressed concern that the HSA scores were being reported on student transcripts by a majority of the school systems. The Board asked that steps be taken to prevent this practice with the implementation of the PARCC assessments. Dr. Johnson said that staff will research what will be required to be changed in regulations to implement the PARCC assessment program and as part of that research will consider how success on PARCC will be reported on transcripts.

Dr. Johnson pointed out that the purpose of the field testing of the PARCC this year is to test the test items. He noted that students who take the PARCC assessment will take the assessment in only one subject, e.g. a student taking the PARCC assessment in English language arts would take the MSA mathematics assessment. At the high school level, students would be permitted to take the PARCC assessments two times to pass the assessments. Under Senate Bill 740, beginning in 2015-2016 school year, students who have not achieved college and career readiness by the end of 11th grade, will be offered transition courses to prepare them to be college and career ready.

Technology Requirements

Dr. Johnson reported that the Department is continuing to survey local school systems regarding their readiness to implement computer online assessment and at the present time 70-80 percent of schools are ready for computer testing. Dr. Johnson went on to say that by 2014 all systems will have to be ready. Field testing of online assessments will begin in January 2014.

Flex Waiver

Dr. Smith reminded the Board that Maryland currently has an Elementary and Secondary Education Act Waiver. The waiver became effective in 2012 and will expire in 2014. Dr. Smith went on to say that this past summer Secretary Duncan announced the states would have the option of freezing their waiver application for two more years. He then asked for a sense of the Board as to whether or not the Department should move forward to develop this second waiver application. The sense of the Board was that the Department should proceed to develop the application.

USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Kristen Amundsen, Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education, shared with the Board an informal survey which was conducted among state boards of education across the country regarding the use of social media. Survey revealed that there are few state boards that have a policy on the use of social media and that most boards, like Maryland's, have access to social media through their state departments of education.

Several Board members expressed concern about pursuing a policy relating to or the use of social media by the State Board. Ms. Montero-Diaz said that, rather than spend time and resources examining the use of social media in support of Board communications, she would like to continue to work to improve the MSDE/State Board website. Ms. Staton stated "you need to very clear on why you want to use it (social media)." Mr. Hodges said that he thought social media, such as Twitter, provides a more effective way to reach younger audiences. Dr. Dukes closed the discussion by suggesting that the new Chief of Staff who will be joining the Department in the next few weeks should look into this topic and provide some recommendations.

WRAP UP

Ms. Amundsen reviewed the status of the subjects and topics that the Board and/or Board members have identified as possible agenda items for future Board meetings. Included in the topics either completed or underway were student/school discipline, charter schools, and teacher certification. Dr. Dukes reviewed the list of other items suggested and noted the topic of special education was slated to be on the Board's agenda in December 2013. She asked if there were other topics. Mr. Hodges indicated his interest in examining the practice of some school systems assessing student fees such as the graduation fee in Anne Arundel County. Ms. Staton asked that the Board take a deeper look at the implementation of Universal Design for Learning in the local jurisdictions. Ms. Eberhart asked for a review of teacher certification requirements and Ms. Montero-Dias suggested an examination of what is meant by Career Readiness.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Dukes then closed the meeting by thanking Ms. Amundsen for leading the Board's retreat and thanked the members of the Board for their attendance and participation.

Respectfully submitted,



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: 12/16/13

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CLOSED SESSION

On this 30th day of October 2013, at the hour of 1:15 am/pm, the Members of the State Board of Education voted as follows to meet in closed session:

Motion made by: Mr. DeGruenewald

Seconded by: Mr. Hodges

In Favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Member(s) Opposed: _____

The meeting was closed under authority of §10-503 (a) (1) (I) and §10-508 (a) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland for the following reason(s): (check all which apply)

- (1) To discuss: (I) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.
- (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business.
- (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.
- (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.
- (5) To consider the investment of public funds.
- (6) To consider the marketing of public securities.
- (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
- (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.
- (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.
- (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (I) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.
- (11) To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination.
- (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct.
- (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.
- (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding proposal process.

The topics to be addressed during this closed session include the following:

1. Discuss 10 legal appeals.
2. Review 3 draft opinions.
3. Discuss 3 internal Board management matters.


President

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE October 29, 2013 BOARD MEETING**

I. Appointments Grade 19 and above:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
Benjamin, Monica D.	Program Manager II, Chief Local Financial Reporting and Policy	20	Business Services, Office of Local Financial Reporting and Policy	TBD
Creed, Brianna B.	Education Program Specialist I, High School English Language Arts	21	Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability	TBD
Smith, Jr., Murdux Jacques	Academic Program Coordinator, Juvenile Services Education	IEPP	Career and College Readiness, Juvenile Services Education Program	TBD

II. Appointments Grade 18 and below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
Peter-Olakiigbe, Gbemisola	Registered Nurse	16	Workforce and Technology Center	10/30/2013
Rankin, Tenaeya S.	Teacher, Special Education	IEPP	Career and College Readiness, Juvenile Services Education Program	10/16/2013
Skonicki, Elizabeth	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Workforce and Technology Center	10/16/2013

III. Other Actions:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
None				



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

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October 29, 2013

BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

Name: Monica D. Benjamin
Position: Program Manager II, (Chief Local Financial Reporting and Policy)
Division: Business Services, Office of Local Financial Reporting and Policy
Salary Grade: 20 (\$\$54,009-\$86,718)
Effective Date: TBD

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

Bachelor's Degree in Management, Business, Finance, Accounting, Management Information Systems, or a related area is required. A Masters Degree or equivalent 36 credit hours of post baccalaureate course work is preferred.

Experience:

Seven years of professional experience in education program financial management. Experience at the lead or supervisory level is desirable.

NOTE: Two years of additional experience as defined above may be substituted for the Master's Degree.

DESCRIPTION:

This position will manage the Office of Local Financial Reporting and Policy (OLFRP) in developing, collecting, reviewing, evaluating, editing, reporting and publishing local school systems financial data.

Maryland Public Schools: **#1 in the Nation Five Years in a Row**
www.MarylandPublicSchools.org

Qualifications:

Education:

Strayer University (Washington, D.C.) 1996 - Bachelor's Degree in Accounting

Experience:

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2010 – Present: Accountant Supervisor II

Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Baltimore, Maryland)

2008 – 2010: Accountant II

Immediate Systems Resources (Baltimore, Maryland)

2007 – 2008: Administrative Assistant

Bank of America (Baltimore, Maryland)

2006 – 2007: Proof Operator

Campbell and Company, Inc. (Baltimore, Maryland)

1998 – 2001: Staff Accountant

Legg Mason Wood Walker (Baltimore, Maryland)

1998: Fund Accountant

Connie Lee Insurance Company (Baltimore, Maryland)

1996 – 1998: Staff Accountant/Investment/Tax

1994 – 1996: Compliance Clerk

Employment Status

Promotion



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October 29, 2013

BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

Name: Brianna B. Creed
Position: Education Program Specialist I, English Language Arts
Division: Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability
Salary Grade: 21 (\$57,626 - \$92,521)
Effective Date: TBD

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

A Master's Degree or 36 hours of post baccalaureate coursework in Education, Educational Administration/Supervision, Secondary Reading/English Language Arts or a closely related field. Certification in Reading and/or English Language Arts is required.

Experience:

Four (4) years of professional administrative, accountability or teaching experience in or affiliated with an education program including two (2) years of experience in coordinating or administering an education program or service directly related to the position. Experience with a Secondary English Language Arts Education program is preferred.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is a professional position responsible for providing technical assistance to local school systems for developing effective initiatives for improving high school student performance in English Language Arts (ELA) programs.

Maryland Public Schools: **#1 in the Nation Five Years in a Row**
www.MarylandPublicSchools.org

Qualifications:

Education:

University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland) 2002 – Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction; 2001 – Bachelor’s Degree in British and American Literature

Experience:

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2012 – Present: Education Program Specialist I- English Language Arts (Contractual)

Jiangsu Education Services International Exchange (Nanjing, China)

2011: Teacher Trainer

Howard County Public Schools (Ellicott City, Maryland)

2012: Instructional Team Leader of English Department

2010 – 2012: Professional Development Coordinator and Teacher Development Liaison

2002 – 2012: High School English Teacher

Employment Status

Contractual Conversion



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State Superintendent of Schools

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October 29, 2013

BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

Name: Murdux Jacques Smith, Jr.
Position: Academic Program Coordinator, Juvenile Services Education
Division: Career and College Readiness
Juvenile Services Education Program
Salary Grade: IEPP (\$85,216-\$100,709)
Effective Date: TBD

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

Master's Degree in Education with a specialty in Curriculum and Instruction or a related field. Possession of or eligible for a Maryland Administrator II or Principal Certificate preferred.

Experience:

Five years of satisfactory teaching experience in K-12 or alternative education school and 3 years of satisfactory administrative or supervisory experience. Special education and grant administration experience preferred.

DESCRIPTION:

This is a professional position serving as the Academic Program Coordinator responsible for providing leadership and management for the academic Juvenile Services Education Program including Middle School, High School, or General Educational Development (GED) level instruction.

Maryland Public Schools: **#1 in the Nation Five Years in a Row**

www.MarylandPublicSchools.org

Murdux Jacques Smith, Jr.

Page two

Qualifications:

Education:

The Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Maryland) 1975 – Master's Degree in Education – Administration and Supervision

University of Maryland (Baltimore, Maryland) 1970 – Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

Possesses a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with endorsement for English 5–12; Secondary Principal/Supervisor.

Experience:

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2011 – Present: Site Coordinator – Advanced Placement Incentive Program -Consultant

2010 – 2011: Education Program Specialist I (RTTT) Professional Development-Contractual

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (Annapolis, Maryland)

1989 – 2010: Principal

1979 – 1988: Assistant Principal

1970 – 1979: Teacher/English

Employment Status

New Hire

Addendum 10/28/2013

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE October 30, 2013 BOARD MEETING**

I. Appointments Grade 19 and above:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
Hook, Laura M.	Education Program Specialist I, English Language Learners	21	Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability	TBD
Howlett-Brandon, Mary A.	Education Program Specialist II, Lead Equity and Cultural Specialist	22	Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability	TBD

II. Appointments Grade 18 and below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
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None

III. Other Actions:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
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None



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October 30, 2013

BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

Name: Laura M. Hook
Position: Education Program Specialist I, English Language Learners
Division: Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability
Salary Grade: 21 (\$57,626 - \$92,521)
Effective Date: TBD

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

A Master's Degree or equivalent 36 post baccalaureate credit hours of course work in Education, Education Administration/Supervision, English Language Learning, or a related field.

Experience:

Four (4) years of professional administrative or teaching experience in or affiliated with an education program. Administrative experience in an area related to English Language Learning programs is preferred.

NOTE: Two years of additional experience as defined above may be substituted for the Master's Degree.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

This position serves as a specialist for the English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) Program responsible for providing leadership and technical assistance to local school systems regarding the development and support of programs for curriculum and instruction for English Language Learners (ELL).

Maryland Public Schools: *#1 in the Nation Five Years in a Row*
www.MarylandPublicSchools.org

Qualifications:

Education:

The Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Maryland) 2005 – Certification in Administration and Supervision

University of Maryland (Baltimore, Maryland) 2003 – Masters of Arts in Instructional Systems Development

Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) 1999 – Bachelor's Degree in Education

Experience:

Howard County Public Schools (Ellicott City, Maryland)

2009 – Present: Curriculum Coordinator – English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

2005 – 2009: ESOL Resource Teacher

1999 – 2005: Teacher, Special Education and ESOL

College of Notre Dame of Maryland and University of Maryland-Baltimore County (Baltimore, Maryland)

2009 – 2010: Adjunct Professor (Part-time)

National Geographic School Publishing (Carmel, California)

2008 – 2010: Consultant for the Elementary School Literacy Program

University of Maryland – The National Foreign Language Center (College Park, Maryland)

2004 – 2006: Subject Matter Expert (Part-time)

Employment Status

New Hire



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October 30, 2013

BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

Name: Mary A. Howlett-Brandon
Position: Education Program Specialist II, Lead Equity and Cultural Specialist
Division: Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability
Salary Grade: 22 (\$64,496 - \$98,745)
Effective Date: TBD

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

A Master's Degree or equivalent 36 post baccalaureate credit hours of course work in Education, Education Administration/Supervision, Multicultural Education, Equity, World Languages, or a related field.

Experience:

Four (4) years of professional administrative or teaching experience in or affiliated with an education program. Administrative experience in an area related to Equity, Diversity, Multicultural Education, or World Languages is preferred.

NOTES:

1. Two years of additional experience as defined above may be substituted for the Master's Degree.
2. Possession of a Doctorate in a field related to the position may be substituted for one year of the experience requirements.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is a professional position serving as the lead technical specialist for educational equity, world languages, and multicultural education responsible for providing leadership and technical assistance to the State, the Department of Education, and local school systems regarding program implementation, training, and program development.

Mary A. Howlett-Brandon

Page two

Qualifications:

Education:

Old Dominion University (Richmond, Virginia) 2001 – Master’s Degree in Secondary Education

Park University (Parkville, Missouri) 1996 – Bachelor’s Degree in History

University of Mississippi (Oxford, Mississippi) 1983 – Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work

Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, Virginia) 2013 – 71 credits toward Ph.D. in Education Leadership

Experience:

Bedford County Public Schools (Bedford, Virginia)

2009 – 2012: Principal

Stafford County Public Schools (Stafford, Virginia)

2008 - 2009: Assistant Principal

2007 - 2008: Acting Principal

2003 - 2007: Assistant Principal

2003: Principal Intern (Teacher on Administrative Assignment)

1999 – 2003: Teacher-Department Chair

Employment Status

New Hire