

# MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday  
April 26, 2011

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

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President; Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, Vice President; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Dr. S. James Gates, Jr.; Ms. Luisa Montero-Diaz; Mr. Sayed Naved; Mr. Gayon Sampson; Mrs. Madhu Sidhu; Mr. Guffrie M. Smith, Jr.; Donna Hill Staton, Esq.; Dr. Ivan Walks; Ms. Kate Walsh and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. John Smeallie, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Mr. Steve Brooks, Deputy State Superintendent for Finance and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director to the State Board.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grasmick was delayed due to an emergency meeting with the Governor. Dr. Smeallie asked for Board approval of the consent agenda and invited a member of the staff to answer any questions about a personnel appointment. He reported that Dr. Edward Shirley, Superintendent of the Caroline County Public Schools, requested a waiver of the last day of school which falls on Monday, June 13, 2011.

Upon motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Dr. Finan, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the consent agenda as follows: (In Favor – 8; Ms. Staton, Dr. Dukes, Mr. Naved and Mr. Smith had not yet arrived)

- Approval of Minutes of March 22, 2011
- Personnel (copy attached to these minutes)
- Budget Adjustments for March, 2011
- Permission to Publish:
  - COMAR 13A.01.02.05 (NEW)  
Facilities Required in Public Schools
- Caroline County Public Schools Calendar Modification

## **RACE TO THE TOP (RTTT) UPDATE**

Dr. Smeallie introduced Dr. Jim Foran, RTTT Project Manager, to give an update on activities related to the RTTT grant.

Dr. Foran reported that a Monitoring Plan for onsite visits to local education agencies (LEAs) is expected by the US Department of Education (USDE) by Friday. He said that some of the timelines originally set for several projects have been revised and that the additional amendments to the projects will be made over the next several weeks. Dr. Foran reported that an onsite visit from the USDE is scheduled for May 9 which will focus on two sections of the RTTT grant projects. These two sections include A(2) which is "Building State Capacity" and D(9), which is "Support for Teachers and Leaders." He noted that one of the projects that will be specifically highlighted is The Educator Instructional Improvement Academies that will be held this summer regarding the common core standards. Dr. Foran reported that the Maryland Council on Educator Effectiveness (MCEE) has been meeting and is making progress which is another RTTT project. In response to a question by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, Dr. Foran said the deadline for the MCEE completing its assignment is June 30, 2011.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt asked Dr. Foran to clarify how the \$125 million of grant funds administered by the MSDE are being used. Dr. Foran said that the fifty-four projects in the RTTT application will consume these funds, most of which are sub-grants which flow to LEAs. He noted that the training this summer will directly benefit LEAs and that the funds are being used to update the data infrastructure and technology for LEAs as well as funding the Breakthrough Center for low achieving schools.

## **RTTT FEATURED ASSURANCE AREA: BREAKTHROUGH CENTER**

Dr. Grasmick arrived and asked Dr. Foran to introduce his guests to discuss highlights of the efforts to turn around low achieving schools.

Dr. Foran introduced Dr. Robert Glascock, Executive Director of the Breakthrough Center; Dr. Duane Arbogast, Chief Academic Officer, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS); and Dr. Edward Ryans, Director of Turnaround Schools, PGCPS, to discuss the working partnership between the Department and PGCPS.

Dr. Glascock reported that the Breakthrough Center has partnered with Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) and PGCPS. He said they identified sixteen of the lowest achieving schools in the State and will be adding another twenty feeder schools. He reported that district turn-around teams have been created to work directly with the schools.

Dr. Arbogast said there are "a lot of lessons learned." He said that PGCPS had a lack of infrastructure for turning around schools and a lack of human capital to attract teachers to work in these schools. He noted that PGCPS is conversing with its bargaining unit to address working conditions. Dr. Arbogast said they are working to change practices and expectations noting the need for "the right people, the right supports, the right partnerships." Dr. Arbogast said the Breakthrough Center shares responsibility for the improvement of these schools.

Dr. Ryans explained that they have created a partnership with the Breakthrough Center which is impacting what the classroom looks like and that the staff at MSDE has done a wonderful job assisting in these efforts.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates about early “wins” on the horizon, Dr. Ryans said that the schools are improving every day. He said, “We have to attack the culture and climate” in the schools. Dr. Ryans recognized the urgency to address the climate needs and reported that the school system will add three additional positions in each of the four turnaround schools in 2011-2012 to address student behavior and climate needs. He said they have made major gains in reading and mathematics but noted that the most dramatic improvements will be seen next year.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt asked him to provide an illustration of a plan for addressing climate and culture in a school. Dr. Ryans said they are building relationships, replacing eighty percent of the staff and providing the skills the staff needs to be successful. He said the students felt a sense of “abandonment” because they didn’t know anyone in the schools and that the community is now more invested and involved in the schools.

Dr. Arbogast noted the vast amount of support being poured into the communities which is being pulled together to make the schools more productive.

Ms. Staton said, “The most important thing is that you are identifying the problems.”

Mr. Smith thanked the group for their “transparency” and praised them for encouraging partnerships.

Dr. Grasmick said, “The final litmus test is the students.” She said she visited one of the schools and interviewed eighth grade students who expressed that they didn’t like to come to school before because they thought it was “chaotic.” She reported that they now like coming to school and see very dramatic changes.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt said, “The primary hope is that we identify a sustainable turnaround solution to set an example for the rest of the county. I congratulate you.” He asked what happens to the 82 percent of the staff that was changed.

Dr. Arbogast said this is a challenge. He said they encouraged many to go to other middle schools although they are cutting positions in PGCPs. He noted that none of the middle schools made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) last year so there is a need to develop the capacity of the teachers currently in place. He discussed the issues between the bargaining unit, the Prince George’s County Education Association (PGCEA), and PGCPs which involves dealing with compensation and working conditions.

Dr. Grasmick said that regarding educator effectiveness, the Maryland Council on Educator Effectiveness submitted an internal report to the Governor which she will make available to the Board. She assured the Board that the MCEE will complete its mission by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **EXCELLENCE IN GIFTED & TALENTED AWARDS**

The Superintendent reported that the MSDE, in association with the State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented (G&T) Education, initiated the *Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education in Schools Awards Program* to honor those schools which meet and exceed the state's criteria of excellence in G&T programming. She asked Mary Cary, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Instruction, and Dr. Jeanne Paynter, Specialist in Gifted and Talented Education, to introduce the leaders of five schools to be honored with this award.

Ms. Carey thanked the Board and others who have been instrumental in supporting the G&T program in Maryland. She discussed the rigorous application process required by schools to apply for this award noting there were fourteen applications representing eight school systems.

Dr. Paynter introduced the following principals and/or principal representatives from the following schools to briefly discuss what makes their G&T program outstanding:

- Halls Cross Roads Elementary Schools (Harford)
- Montgomery Blair High School (Montgomery)
- Kenmoor Middle School (Prince George's)
- Emma K. Doub Elementary School (Washington)
- Fountaindale Elementary School (Washington)

In response to a question by Ms. Sidhu, Dr. Paynter said that the TAG Program is locally coordinated in Prince George's County but that every school system is required to have a G&T program.

The President and Superintendent provided certificates of recognition to each school representative and congratulated them for their excellent work.

## **ORAL ARGUMENT**

The Board heard oral argument in the following appeal:

*Vicki Harding vs. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners*

Following oral argument, President DeGraffenreidt announced a fifteen minute break.

## **REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING**

Dr. Grasmick reported that in May of 2010, Governor O'Malley signed the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) legislation which established a state task force that was charged with determining how UDL principles could be incorporated in Maryland's education system. MSDE was asked to provide staff to support the work of the task force and that Ms. Staton represented the Board on the UDL Task Force. Dr. Grasmick introduced Dr. Denise DeCoste, Task Force Chair, and High Incidence Accessible Technology Team Leader, Montgomery County Public



Schools, and Dr. Carol Ann Heath, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Special Education, and asked them to provide an overview of the work of the task force and its recommendations.

Dr. DeCoste said there are three principals to implement UDL: representation, action and expression and engagement (multiple measures) to meet the goals. She provided examples to the Board of how UDL is implemented and discussed the task force's recommendations to the State Board, the State Department, local school systems, schools and Maryland Institutions of Higher Education. She said that Maryland is unique in what it has accomplished with this Report and recognized the UDL Task Force members and Ms. Staton for their work.

In response to a question by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, Dr. DeCoste said that UDL is not practiced in all universities but that they are encouraging all professors to model the process. Ms. Staton said it is important that Maryland leaders show the education community that they are embracing UDL and its benefits. Dr. DeCoste explained that it takes three to five years to implement these changes.

In response to a question by Ms. Diaz about studies showing that UDL helps students in test taking, Dr. DeCoste said that it is difficult to measure something this early. She did report that three middle schools in Montgomery County have shown incredible improvement since the inclusion of UDL.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Dr. DeCoste said that a grant application would include UDL language. She described for him how a music teacher would use UDL in his/her classroom.

In response to a comment by Mr. Naved, Dr. DeCoste said that UDL is appropriate not only for middle and high schools but also elementary schools. In response to a question by Mr. Naved about funding, Dr. Heath said they are looking at availability of federal funding to dedicate to this project. In response to another question by Mr. Naved about whether teachers can share their UDL lesson plans, Dr. DeCoste said that other teachers can up-load UDL materials and comment on the usefulness of them.

Dr. Grasmick said that this work can be associated with the area in the RTTT application that deals with education toolkits.

Ms. Staton said that the infusion of UDL is an answer as to how to improve learning. She asked the Board to embrace the recommendations of the Task Force.

Upon motion by Ms. Staton, seconded by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, the Board, with unanimous agreement, accepted the recommendations of the UDL Task Force including but not limited to increasing awareness of the program. (In Favor – 12)

**COMAR 13A.05.01 PROVISION OF FREE APPROPRIATE EDUCATION**  
**COMAR 13A.05.02 ADMINISTRATION OF SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH**  
**DISABILITIES (ADOPTION)**

Dr. Grasmick recommended adoption of amendments to the special education regulations and noted that Dr. Heath was available to answer any questions from the Board.

Upon motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Gates, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted COMAR 13A.05.01 Provision of Free Appropriate Education and COMAR 13A.05.02 Administration of Services for Students With Disabilities. (In Favor – 11 -- Miss Staton was not present when the vote was taken.)

**CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (CTE) REPORT CARD**

Dr. Grasmick reported that the Department receives federal funding to support CTE programs of study. She said that Maryland schools work hard to make students career and college ready and to integrate these efforts with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives. She introduced Kathy Oliver, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Career and College Readiness; and Pat Mikos, Program Manager, Career and Technology Education Student and Assessment Services Branch, to review the accountability measures that are used to assess the effectiveness of the CTE programs.

Ms. Oliver said they have been working to modernize the CTE programs with a focus of changing from the traditional vocational-technical education to a broader skill set. She said that enrollment in a least one CTE course of study is approximately fifty percent of the student body in grades 10-12 and that there are 48 state programs of study.

Ms. Mikos reported on the 2010 CTE Enrollment changes by career cluster and provided data on Maryland CTE graduates. She noted that there are a variety of challenges in obtaining data on CTE placement rates after students graduate from high school.

Ms. Oliver discussed graphs depicting CTE state results in providing college and career readiness to students in Maryland. She noted that her staff continually work s with the LEAs to raise the bar on business management courses by adding finance and business.

In response to a question by Ms. Staton, Ms. Mikos discussed the building and construction courses offered through the CTE program.

In response to a question by Ms. Staton about whether the CTE program teaches students to be good employees, Ms. Oliver said that the focus is on literacy, critical thinking, communication and team work skills.

In response to a question by Ms. Diaz, Ms. Oliver said that students in middle school begin to explore their interests and prepare a high school plan which can include CTE.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Ms. Oliver said that the CTE transportation program includes the technical areas of auto, diesel and aviation manufacturing and design.

## **DUE PROCESS: LONG TERM SUSPENSION & EXPULSION**

Dr. Grasmick reminded Board members that they requested a review of the law and regulations pertaining to the timely processing of appeals from students/parents of students who have received long term suspensions or expulsions from their schools. She introduced Ann Chafin, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student, Family and School Support Services; and Chuck Buckler, Director, Student Services and Alternative Programs Branch, to provide the review and recommendations regarding an appropriate timeline for the appeal process.

Ms. Kameen explained that she and the staff reviewed the statute surrounding suspensions and expulsions to find out where the delays could occur. She said they are proposing *Guidelines for the Timely Disposition of Long Term Discipline Cases* to be provided to LEAs for their input

Mr. DeGraffenreidt thanked the group for working on a “very difficult issue” and noted that they captured the concerns of the Board.

In response to a question by Ms. Sidhu, Ms. Kameen said that the Board should assume that the policy speaks to calendar days rather than school days. She said, however, the suspension period would refer to school days. The President asked Ms. Kameen to note that distinction in the draft policy.

In response to a question by Dr. Dukes, Dr. Grasmick said that this policy could be enacted as a Maryland Regulation in the immediate future and set as law through the legislative process during next year’s session of the General Assembly.

In response to a concern expressed by Dr. Gates, Dr. Grasmick said that LEAs should develop a program to provide data on any discipline procedures being conducted.

In response to a question by Mr. Naved, Mr. DeGraffenreidt said that students may return to school following their suspension regardless of how long the appeals process may take. In response to a second question from Mr. Naved, Mr. DeGraffenreidt said that Mr. Buckler will be providing a review at the June Board meeting of the educational opportunities afforded suspended students in the school districts.

In response to a question by Mr. Naved about notes or recordings of appeal hearings, Ms. Kameen said there is nothing in the statute that requires that meetings with the Superintendent be recorded. She offered to include that recommendation.

Following a question by Ms. Walsh about whether school systems make a distinction between unregistered drugs for pleasure or medication that students may have at school, Dr. Dukes noted that it is important for schools to require students to report any and all medications that are brought into the school environment. Dr. Grasmick noted that all students received a handbook and orientation explaining the dangers of medications shared with other students and the reasons for the requirement of registering of all medications with the school leadership.

Dr. Finan said that the majority of LEAs reported that they do not have a “zero tolerance” policy but rather deal with discipline problems on a case-by-case basis.



The President said that the staff will propose the guidelines to the LEAs and other groups in the education community and report back to the Board with a final proposal for publication. Dr. Gates asked that the amended proposal be provided to the Board prior to its presentation to the education community.

### **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 Ms. Diaz, seconded by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, and with unanimous agreement, the Board met in closed session on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, in Conference Room 1, 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. All board members were present. In attendance were Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools; Dr. John Smeallie, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Steve Brooks, Deputy State Superintendent for Finance; and Tony South, Executive Director to the State Board. Assistant Attorneys General Elizabeth M. Kameen and Jackie La Fiandra were also present. The Executive Session commenced at 12:40 p.m. (In favor – 12)

The State Board approved seven Opinions and two Orders for publication.

- *John Anker v. Harford County Board of Education* – non-renewal of professional teacher – Opinion No. 11-17
- *Michele Bucey v. Harford County Board of Education* – bus driver termination – Opinion No. 11-18
- *Donald & Natalia C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer – Opinion No. 11-19
- *Patrick McSwain v. Howard County Board of Education* – employee issue – Opinion No. 11-20
- *Howard Robinson v. Charles County Board of Education* – employee termination – Opinion No. 11-21
- *Essam I. v. Howard County Board of Education* – student transfer – Opinion No. 11-22
- *Edward Burroughs, III v. Prince George's County Board of Education* – censure – Opinion No. 11-23
- *Yi-Hsien C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer – OR11-05
- *Richard C. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – student discipline – OR11-06

The Board deliberated five cases.

- *Ryan Coleman v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – employee termination
- *Terri Feldman v. Carroll County Board of Education* – bus driver discipline
- *Brenda McAllister v. Prince George's County Board of Education* – non-renewal of professional teacher
- *In the Matter of Montgomery County Board of Education* – Petition for Declaratory Ruling in MOE
- *Erica Pastor v. Howard County Board of Education* – residency



The opinions in those cases will be published at a future Board meeting. In discussing the *Pastor* case, the Board decided to consider further the issue of removing a child from school on the basis of residency late in the school year.

The Board also deliberated and decided *Vicki Harding v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* after hearing oral argument in public session. An Opinion in this case will be issued at an upcoming meeting.

The State Board received legal advice concerning the 2012 MOE waiver requests, school fees, and a charter school/collective bargaining issue.

### Internal Board Management

Board President, James DeGraffenreidt discussed the Candidate Review Committee for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. At 2:00 p.m., all staff persons, except Ms. Kameen, left the meeting and the Board discussed the State Superintendent recruitment process.

The Executive Session ended at 2:35 p.m.

### RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

### ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS

Dr. Grasmick said that this is the first of three meetings at which the State Board will be asked to review and approve Alternative Governance proposals for schools not meeting Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals. She introduced Ann Chafin and Teresa Knott, Supervising Coordinator of School Performance, to review the process and discuss the Alternative Governance plans proposed by two school systems. She noted that Option 1 – Replace all or most of the school staff – is being recommended for all six schools. Dr. Grasmick recommended Board approval of the Alternative Governance Proposals for the six schools identified. The Superintendent noted that no other state school system presents these plans to their boards but that it is important to the Department and school systems in Maryland for the Board to weigh in on these decisions.

The Superintendent noted that these school systems must provide a two-year plan for improving student achievement and that they bear the responsibility for providing assistance for that improvement. She said that the schools reach this point after several years of “missing the mark” and that last year twenty-six schools exited school improvement.

Ms. Knott said that the school leadership has worked very hard to understand the issues that have kept them from moving forward. She discussed the actions that have taken place in each school to implement a two-year school improvement plan.

Ms. Chafin introduced Dr. John Frederickson, Superintendent of the Wicomico County Public Schools, who asked Dr. Margo Handy, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Student Services, and Linda Stark, Coordinator of School Improvement/Strategic Planning, to give a brief update on the Alternative Governance Plan for Wicomico Middle School.

Ms. Stark provided information on the student population and reported that suspensions decreased last year. She discussed the school structure and staff and noted five components needed to comprehensively reform the school. She went over the organizational structure of the school and said that parents and community members are working together to support the school.

Dr. Handy reported that last year the principal and sixteen percent of the school staff changed and that they continue to make staff changes as needed. She said they added a math coach and deployed staff from the LEA to assist in the school.

In response to a question by Mr. Smith, Wicomico Middle School Principal Lillie Giddens reported that small group instruction is the major change made at the school. She also discussed faith-based partnerships in response to a question by Dr. Gates.

Dr. Grasmick introduced Dr. William Hite, Superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), and asked him to discuss the Alternative Governor Proposals for the following five schools:

- DuVal High
- Hillcrest Heights Elementary
- Isaac J. Gourdine Middle
- Ridgecrest Elementary
- Robert R. Gray Elementary

Dr. Hite introduced the principals of the five schools and asked Dr. Duane Arbogast and Sheila Jackson, Director of School Improvement, to answer any questions of the Board. He talked about the mission, vision and goals of the PGCPS and noted the importance of data and targeted professional development. Dr. Hite said they are working to hold staff accountable for their outcomes and asking teachers to develop and implement growth plans. He discussed the reform strategies for each school and the monitoring and evaluation procedures that will take place over the school year.

In response to a question from Mr. Naved, Dr. Hite reported on the numbers of staff who were replaced in each school.

In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Dr. Hite said that the Comer School Development Program has resulted in a growth in student achievement by improving the school's culture and climate.

In response to a question by Mrs. Sidhu, Dr. Hite said that replacement of teachers occurs in identified subject areas and that they are revamping their evaluation system to address ineffective teachers. Dr. Arbogast reported that PGCPS is using the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Educator Effectiveness to monitor teacher effectiveness.

Dr. Hite reported that the school system is working to attract more charter school providers and is collaborating with their labor partners to develop and build capacity in the schools. He said the language in the new evaluation system will be very helpful.

Dr. Frederickson asked Board members to help LEAs with the vast amount of paperwork required and suggested more integration of the required information be incorporated in the master plans. He said that the State can help school systems by integrating data to be used regionally. He also requested that the State help by encouraging more young people to go into the teaching profession.

Upon motion by Dr. Dukes, seconded by Mr. Smith, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Alternative Governance Proposals for the six schools identified. (In Favor – 12)

### **COMAR 13A.12.02.27 SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL AREAS (GRADES 7-12)(NEW)**

The Superintendent introduced Jean Satterfield, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Certification and Accreditation (C&A), and Dr. Joann Ericson, Chief, Certification Branch, to answer any questions about amendments proposed in the certification regulations by the Professional Standards and Teachers Education Board (PSTEB).

There was no discussion by the Board and no action was required.

### **STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET SUMMARY**

Dr. Grasmick introduced Steve Brooks and Renee Spence, Executive Director, Governmental Relations, to report on the State education budget and the State Legislative Session.

Mr. Brooks reported that the State ended the 2011 session with additional funds and a reduction in the structural deficit. He noted that the per pupil state aid will remain the same as FY2011. He reported that a change was made to allow for pre-funding of FY2012 in FY2011 of the Aid To Education Budget and that \$124 million will be distributed in June to pre-fund the Bridge to Excellence. Mr. Brooks reported that the Maintenance of Effort penalty will be recalculated and noted that a requirement was established requiring LEAs to pay a per member administrative fee for members in the State Retirement System. Mr. Brooks also reported that the Cheltenham Facility is being moved under the control of the MSDE with no additional funding being provided. He reported that thirteen staff positions were abolished this past year and sixteen voluntary separations were approved.

Ms. Spence thanked her staff, the Superintendent, and Board members for their diligence and hard work during the 2011 Maryland General Assembly Session. She provided a synopsis of education-related legislation that was proposed and acted upon during the Session. Ms. Spence discussed the following legislation of significance to the Board:

- HB 1 Education – Youth Athletes – Concussions

- HB 127/SB 262 State Board of Education – Financial Literacy Curriculum – Graduation Requirement
- SB 41 – Education – Age for Compulsory Public School Attendance – Exemptions
- SB 167/HB 470 Tuition Charges – Maryland High School Students – Passed Enrolled
- HB 364 Student Participation in High School Sports – Minimum Academic Requirements – Proposed Standards – Passed Enrolled
- HB 869 Education – Maintenance of Effort – Penalty – Returned Passed
- HB 1213 Sales and Use Tax – Alcoholic Beverages – Supplementary Appropriation – Returned Passed

The Board thanked Ms. Spence, her staff and Mr. Brooks for their hard work during the 2011 Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION (DLLR) UPDATE ON GED PROGRAM**

Mr. DeGraffenreidt introduced Alexander Sanchez, Secretary, DLLR; Leonard Howie, Deputy Secretary, DLLR; Paulette Francois, Assistant Secretary for the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning; and Patricia Tyler, to discuss the availability and accessibility of testing sites, delays in assignment of applicants to testing sites and delays in reporting of test results in the GED Program as outlined in a letter he sent last month to DLLR.

Mr. Sanchez said that the significant downturn in the State's economy since 2008 caused a twenty-five percent increase in GED testing requests. He discussed the reasons why several testing sites were closed and noted that one-stop centers are being opened to accommodate GED testing. He said they are working with the Baltimore City Community College to provide space for a GED testing site which should open in June.

Mr. Sanchez said that historically MSDE reported that test takers were provided with test results four to six weeks after testing and that recently wait time has declined. He noted that the average time for reporting test results is now twenty-six days.

He reported that nearly one million Marylander's need adult education and that goals have been identified to provide the needed training.

In response to a question by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, Ms. Tyler said that the turn-around time for GED testing varies widely among states and that Maryland is one of only two states that has centralized testing and that they are looking at decentralizing. Mr. DeGraffenreidt said "Where do you see this headed? Is the problem solved today or June 1? When does this settle down?"

Mr. Sanchez said, "we are in a good spot." Ms. Francois said that they are working on providing more test sites and hiring more staff. She noted that not every area in the state has the same wait time and that this is a high priority. She said they are looking at online payments and that Baltimore City is an area on which the focus is being placed. Ms. Tyler said that this problem is nationwide when the economy of the country is compromised. She noted the amount of time



required to open a testing site and reported that the Pratt Library System has offered space for testing.

Dr. Dukes suggested they look into the Prince George's County Community College and county government buildings. Mr. Sanchez said they are exploring all of these options.

Ms. Diaz provided two examples of her constituents who have waited long periods of time for their GED certificate. Ms. Tyler said they are looking into this issue.

In response to a question by Ms. Diaz about federal grant funding, Ms. Tyler said that federal grant funding was formerly used for testing. Dr. Grasmick said, "that is incorrect. It has never been used for anything but the instructional program."

President DeGraffenreidt thanked the group for their report and asked that staffs of both Departments work together to reconcile differences identified in both current and historical data provided on GED program participation.

### **STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Dr. Grasmick provided the following update:

- The Maryland Higher Education Commission will be relocated on the ground and tenth floors of the State Education Building in the fall but that the two entities will not be merged.
- All state agencies that receive federal funding are audited. She noted that MSDE's audit reflected "not one exception."
- Distributed copies of several important reports and noted the convening of an advisory group to look at how to ensure history and social studies education.
- Reported on the Educator Effectiveness Academies that will be conducted this summer and that there is a classroom edition that will be mailed to all teachers.
- Provided a document on how the common core standards and national assessments are being pulled together.
- Reported that pre-K regulations are being withdrawn and republished to reflect certain changes.
- Reported that Ms. Walsh provided her with a National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAPE) report which shows Maryland as second in the nation in student gains in grades four through eight.

Dr. Grasmick said, "it was a very painful decision to be leaving the Department at the end of June. I will miss the people in the Department. I hope that from now to June 30<sup>th</sup> we can accelerate our efforts. I leave at a time with great appreciation of my work with the Board." Mr. DeGraffenreidt congratulated the Superintendent on all of her accomplishments over the last two decades.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt reported that the State Board is now accepting candidate applications for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners until 5 p.m. on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He also reported that

the Board will be issuing a Request For Proposal (RFP) to solicit bids from search firms to assist in the search for a new State Superintendent of Schools. He said this information will be posted on the Department's website.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. DeGraffenreidt explained procedures by which the Board hears public comments. No comments were received.

**OPINIONS**

Ms. Kameen announced the following Opinions:

- 11-17 *John Anker v. Harford County Board of Education* – non-renewal of professional teacher (affirmed local board's decision)
- 11-18 *Michele Bucey v. Harford County Board of Education* – bus driver termination (affirmed local board's decision)
- 11-19 *Donald & Natalia C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer (affirmed local board's decision)
- 11-20 *Patrick McSwain v. Howard County Board of Education* – employee issue (affirmed local board's decision)
- 11-21 *Howard Robinson v. Charles County Board of Education* – employee termination (affirmed local board's decision)
- 11-22 *Essam I. v. Howard County Board of Education* – student transfer (affirmed local board's decision)
- 11-23 *Edward Burroughs, III v. Prince George's County Board of Education* – censure (affirmed local board's decision)


Ms. Kameen announced the following Orders:

- 11-05 *Yi-Hsien C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer (untimely filing – dismissed)
- 11-06 *Richard C. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – (remanded to local board)

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy S. Grasmick  
Secretary, Treasurer

APPROVED: 5/24/11

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## CLOSED SESSION

On this 26th day of April 2011, at the hour of 12:26 pm, the Members of the State Board of Education voted as follows to meet in closed session:

Motion made by: Nathan Dean

Seconded by: JHD

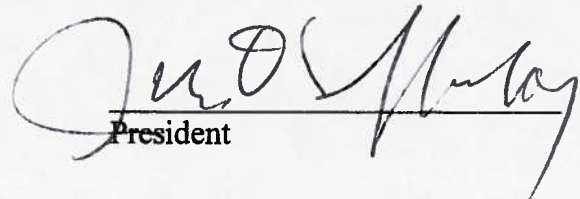
In Favor: All Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_ Member(s) Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

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 or proposal process.

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

1. Discuss 4 legal appeals.
2. Discuss a petition for a Declaratory Ruling
3. Review 5 draft opinions.
4. Consider 3 expedited appeals.
5. Receive legal advice on three issues under review.
6. Discuss 2 personnel matters.

  
President

*Addendum 4/22/2011*

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE April 26-27, 2011 2009 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>
Gonsalves, Deirdre	Education Program Specialist I, Library Grants Coordinator	21	Library Development and Services	TBD

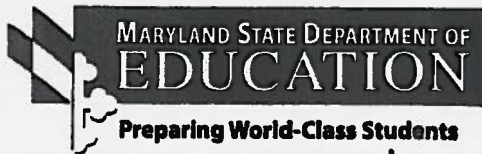
**II. Appointments Grade 18 and below:**

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

**III. Other Actions:**

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





Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools

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April 26-27, 2011

**BOARD LIST**

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

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

**Name:** Deirdre Gonsalves  
**Position:** Education Program Specialist I, Library Grants Coordinator  
**Division:** Library Development and Services  
**Salary Grade:** 21 (\$56,496 - \$90,706)  
**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:**

Possession of a Master's Degree or equivalent 36 credit hours of post-baccalaureate course work. A Master's Degree in Library Information Science from a college or university accredited by the American Library Association (ALA) or closely related field is preferred

**EXPERIENCE:**

Four (4) years of administrative or teaching experience in, or affiliated with an educational program with varied professional library experience. Experience that includes grant writing and management is preferred

**Notes:** (1) Two additional years of experience directly related to the position may be substituted for the required Master's Degree. (2) Possession of a doctorate in a field related to the position may be substituted for one year of the required experience.

**DESCRIPTION:**

This is a professional position responsible for providing leadership and technical assistance for grant administration and coordination in accordance with the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Also this position is responsible for the development of technological solutions for library-related initiatives both within MSDE and Maryland's libraries.

Deirdre Gonsalves  
Page two

**Qualifications:**

**Education:**

Howard University (Washington, DC) 1998 – Master’s Degree in Education

Hampton University Hampton, Virginia) 1988 – Bachelor of Arts in Mass Media

**Experience:**

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2009 – 2011: Education Program Specialist I, Extended Learning and Grants Specialist

Maryland Committee For Children (Baltimore, Maryland)

2007 – Present: Maryland Child Care Resource Network Manager

Howard County Public Schools, Even Start Family Literacy Partnership (Ellicott City, Maryland)

2004 – 2007: Program Manager (Even Start Literacy Program)

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation/Neighborwork (Washington, DC)

2001 – 2004: Staff Development Specialist

The Seed Public Charter School/Center for Student Support Services (Washington, DC)

2000 – 2001: School/Community Resource Coordinator

**Employment Status**

Transfer

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE April 26-27, 2011 2009 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>
Gill, Michial A.	Education Program Manager II, State Aid to Education, Minority Achievement and Governmental Relations	24	Instruction	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>
Adeala, Adedayo	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I	12	Rehabilitation Services, Region III	04/06/2011
Arthur, Andre	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Region III	04/06/2011
Ball, Trina	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Region VI	03/23/2011
Bonner, Annette	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Region VI	03/23/2011
Crawford, Danielle	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Region VI	04/20/2011
Duncan, Sara	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Workforce and Technology Center	03/23/2011
Morales, Flor	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I	12	Rehabilitation Services, Region VI	03/23/2011
Trist, Sarah	Staff Specialist III, Coordinator of Select Nutrition Initiatives	18	Business Services, School and Community Nutrition Programs	04/20/2011
Zimmerman, Burton	Accountant Advanced	16	Disability Determination Services	04/20/2011

**III. Other Actions:**

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



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April 26-27, 2011

**BOARD LIST**

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

**Name:** Michial A. Gill  
**Position:** Education Program Manager II, State Aid to Education, Minority Achievement and Governmental Relations  
**Division:** Instruction  
**Salary Grade:** 24 (\$68,692 – \$110,297)  
**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**Education:**

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

**Experience:**

Six (6) years of related experience in coordinating or administering education programs or services. One year experience must include supervision professional education program staff.

**DESCRIPTION:**

This position is responsible for providing leadership for state-funded State Aided Educational Institutions (SAI) program that supports achievement and school performance and leading the implementation of the African American Male Initiative for the Department by developing and implementing strategies/activities that help to increase African American male achievement in Maryland.



**Qualifications:**

**Education:**

Morgan State University (Baltimore, Maryland) 2005 – Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education/Administration

Webster University (St. Louis, Missouri) 1983 – Master of Arts in Business Administration

University of South Carolina (Columbia, South Carolina) 1982 – Graduate Studies Rehabilitation Counseling; 1981 – Bachelor of Science in Psychology/Counseling Education

**Experience:**

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2007 – Present: Education Program Specialist II, Deputy Director, Governmental Relations and Minority Achievement Specialist

2001 – 2007: Education Program Specialist I, State Aided Educational Institutions (SAI)

2000 – 2001: Staff Specialist, Project Director (GEAR-UP)

Howard University – TRIO Programs (Washington, D.C.)

1998 – 2000: Academic Coordinator, Mathematics and Science Initiative

University of South Carolina - TRIO Programs (Columbia, South Carolina)

1995 – 1998: Coordinator, Opportunity Scholars Program

1991 – 1995: Director, Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Program

1989 – 1991: Coordinator, Opportunity Scholars Program

1984 – 1989: Counselor, Upward Bound Program

Beaufort Technical College – TRIO Programs (Beaufort, South Carolina)

1981 – 1984: Counselor, Special Services Program

**Employment Status**

Promotion

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE April 26-27, 2011 2009 BOARD MEETING**

**I. Appointments Grade 19 and above:**

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*Addendum 4/22/2011*

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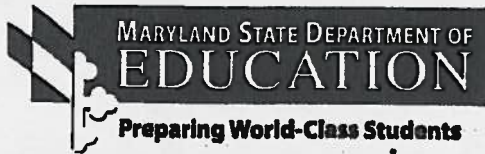
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