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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: February 23, 2010
SUBJECT: Teacher Certification – Panel Presentations

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to provide the State Board of Education with information about certification from various stakeholders. Local school systems, Maryland Approved Alternative Program provider groups and Maryland Approved Program providers from higher education will be represented as a part of a panel discussion. After brief presentations, a question and answer period will follow.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In response to Board member interest, the State Board of Education has undertaken a review and examination of Maryland's requirements for the certification of teachers and other education professionals. Specific time has been dedicated for this purpose on the agendas for the January, February, and March 2010 meetings of the State Board. The panel discussion this month is the second in a three-month sequence. The Board asked in this second meeting that stakeholders provide the board with their input on what may be problematic in reference to certification and what is working.

Three school systems will be represented, as will several alternative preparation programs and program providers from higher education, with the goal of providing a broad spectrum of views. Presentations will focus on Maryland's certification and preparation of teachers as they pertain to the experience and mission appropriate to each panel. The following individuals (listed in order of presentation) will comprise the three panels:

Local Superintendents of Schools:

- Dr. Elizabeth Morgan
Superintendent, Washington County Public Schools, former President of the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, and recently selected National Superintendent of the Year
- Dr. Andres Alonso
Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools
- Dr. William Hite
Superintendent, Prince George's County Public Schools

Approved Alternative Program Providers:

- Mr. Omari Todd
Executive Director of the Baltimore Regional Team, Teach for America
- Ms. Debra Poese
Director of Education, Montgomery College
- Mr. Roger Shulman
Senior Partner, The New Teacher Project

Traditional Preparation Programs:

- Dr. David Imig, Professor of Practice
Department of Curriculum & Instruction, College of Education, University of Maryland, former Executive Director, American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
- Sr. Sharon Slear, Dean
School of Education, College of Notre Dame of Maryland: Past Chair, Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board
- Dr. Kenneth D. Witmer, Dean
College of Education, Frostburg State University; President, Maryland Association of Colleges of Teacher Education

Panelists have been asked to consider three questions:

1. What do you see as strengths of teacher certification and preparation in Maryland?
2. What modifications or improvements for teacher certification and preparation might you suggest to better serve preK-12 students?
3. What issues do you encounter in identifying candidates to teach science, technology mathematics, and other areas of teacher shortage?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Leaders in education, from across Maryland, with expertise and experience in their fields of endeavor will provide information about teacher certification and preparation in Maryland through a format of three panel presentations. Perspectives of these panels will be those of local school systems, alternative teacher preparation, and traditional undergraduate/graduate teacher preparation. The panel format will include time for questions and discussion.

ACTION:

This item is presented for information and discussion only.

NSG: jhe

Attachments