

# MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday-Wednesday  
March 25-26, 2008

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

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25-26, 2008, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Dunbar Brooks, President; Ms. Beverly A. Cooper, Vice-President; Dr. Lelia T. Allen (absent – Tuesday afternoon); Mr. Henry Butta; Mr. Blair G. Ewing; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Mr. Renford Freemantle; Ms. Rosa M. Garcia (absent – Tuesday morning); Mr. Richard Goodall; Dr. Karabelle Pizzigati; Mr. David Tufaro and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Charlene M. Dukes was absent.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. Skipp Sanders, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Dr. Ronald Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy; Ms. JoAnne Carter, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction and Academic Acceleration and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director to the State Board.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Dr. Allen, seconded by Dr. Pizzigati, and with unanimous agreement, the State Board approved the consent agenda items as follows: (In favor – 9. Mr. Brooks arrived late)

Approval of Minutes of February 26-27, 2008  
Personnel (**copy attached to these minutes**)  
Budget Adjustments for February, 2008  
Permission to Publish:  
COMAR 13A.08.01.01C (AMEND)  
General Regulations -- Attendance

## SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WINNER FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

Dr. Grasmick explained that the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the highest recognition that can be bestowed on a K-12<sup>th</sup> grade science or mathematics teacher in the U.S. She invited Mary Thurlow, Coordinator, Division of Instruction, to introduce the Maryland teacher who was the most recent recipient of that award.

Ms. Thurlow gave a brief background on the program and its inception and explained that recipients receive a citation signed by the President of the United States, a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend a weeklong series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, gifts from program sponsors and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. She introduced the Award recipient, Wendy Scheleur, a fifth grade teacher at Piney Orchard Elementary School in Anne Arundel County.

Board members congratulated Ms. Scheleur and Ms. Cooper and Dr. Grasmick presented her with a Certificate of Recognition and a gift from the Board.

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Dr. Grasmick reported that although she had hoped to recognize the accomplishments of two employees of the Department for their dedicated and outstanding service, one of the employees, James Tucker, Fine Arts Coordinator, was out of town and will be recognized at a future Board meeting. She asked Kathy Oliver, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning, to present Glennor Shirley, Correctional Education Library Coordinator and discuss her accomplishments.

Ms. Oliver said that Ms. Shirley was honored recently as the recipient of the James Partridge Outstanding African American Informational Professional Award. She reported on Ms. Shirley's many accomplishments in furthering library access to incarcerated individuals and assisting librarians in correctional institutions.

Ms. Shirley noted the importance of the library to inmates and thanked the Board for their recognition of her work.

Dr. Grasmick said that Ms. Shirley was able to secure funding to provide books for inmates to read to their children during their regular visits and thanked her for her excellent services.

Board members congratulated and thanked Ms. Shirley for her dedication.

### **ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS**

The Superintendent asked for Board approval of the Alternative Governance proposals for nine schools in Prince George's County. She introduced Ann Chafin, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student, Family and School Support, and Teresa Knott, Supervising Coordinator, School Performance, to provide background information on the school improvement process.

Ms. Chafin discussed the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act* and reported that nine schools in Prince George's County have submitted Alternative Governance for School Improvement proposals to the Department. For each school Option 1 was chosen. This option calls for the replacement of all or most of the school



staff, which may include the principal, who are relevant to the school's inability to make adequate progress.

Ms. Knott discussed the process used by the Department to approve the proposals submitted today. She reported that the plans have all received approval of the Prince George's County Board of Education and Dr. John Deasy, Superintendent, Prince George's County Public Schools. She introduced Dr. Deasy and asked him to provide an overview of the Alternative Governance proposals.

Dr. Deasy acknowledged the hard work of the staff of his department as well as the staff at the Maryland State Department of Education. He introduced his staff members present, Dr. Williams Hite, Jr., Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Donna Muncey, Chief Accountability Officer, Ms. Debra Mahone, Director of School Improvement and Accountability and the principals of the nine schools under consideration. He noted that there are a record number of schools exiting school improvement in Prince George's County this year.

Dr. Deasy discussed the rationale and systemic components of Option 1 and noted the importance of keeping the community informed about the process and decisions being made about their schools. He reported that all staffing will be completed by June 30, 2008 and that there will be ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the schools by his staff. He discussed the various regional interventions which have been established for all of the schools designated.

Referring to Dr. Deasy's proposals, Dr. Grasmick said, "It is not only projecting what will happen but preparing for what may happen. They are looking at each school to develop a plan to fulfill the school's needs." She thanked Dr. Deasy and his staff for their incredible cooperation.

In response to a question by Mr. Butta, Dr. Deasy said that six of the current principals will be returning and that they will be provided with training through the Maryland Principals' Academy.

In response to a question by Mr. Ewing about the America's Choice and Comer School Development Programs, Dr. Deasy said that the programs promote a strong family engagement in the schools and that he would provide the Board with briefing papers describing each of the programs in fuller detail.

In response to a question by Mr. Tufaro about attendance rates for students and teachers, Dr. Deasy said that PGCPS tracks teacher attendance and that student attendance, by subgroups, is available. He said that student attendance is largely dependent on the climate in the schools and that the school system is taking great strides to improve the climate in all of its schools.

In response to a question by Mr. Tufaro about tracking teachers who are terminated, Dr. Deasy said that "teachers, who don't do their jobs, get fired" and that non-highly qualified teachers are given numerous opportunities to become highly qualified. Ms.

Kameen said that there is no data base on why teachers are terminated. Dr. Grasmick said that there is, however, sharing of information between Personnel Directors in the various local education agencies.

In response to a question by Dr. Pizzigati, Dr. Deasy said that teacher recruitment is done both nationally and internationally. He noted that certification alternatives are extremely helpful in recruitment of highly qualified teachers. When asked by Dr. Pizzigati how the State can help, Dr. Deasy said that assistance with “pay for performance” and tuition abatement would help significantly.

In response to a question by Mr. Goodall about how the State Board can better support administrators in the schools, Dr. Deasy said that he would be pleased to provide the Board with some suggestions. Dr. Grasmick acknowledged the Public School Superintendents’ Association of Maryland (PSSAM) for lobbying the Governor to fund professional development for principals. Dr. Deasy said, “Schools cannot get better without good leadership.”

Mr. Brooks suggested that the principal’s job should be bifurcated into two positions – instructional leader and school manager.

In response to a question by Mr. Brooks on the suspension rate at G. James Gholson Middle School, Dr. Deasy asked Principal Jeffrey Parker, to address this issue. Mr. Parker discussed the efforts being made to address this problem explaining that they have seen a significant drop in suspensions this year.

Upon motion by Mr. Tufaro, seconded by Dr. Finan, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Alternative Governance for School Improvement Proposals for the following schools. All schools selected Option 1 – replace all or most of the staff relevant to the schools not making AYP. (In Favor – 10)

- Buck Lodge ES
- Clinton Grove ES
- G. James Gholson MS
- Greenbelt MS
- High Point HS
- J. Sylvania Woods ES
- James Harrison ES
- Kenmoor MS
- William Wirt MS

### **COMAR 13A.03.02 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND (ADOPTION)**

The Superintendent reminded the Board that in October, 2007, they approved the recommendation that students, beginning with the graduating class of 2009, be required to pass High School Assessments and at the same time providing students who were repeatedly unsuccessful on the exams with an optional way to meet the testing requirement through the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation. She said that based on that action, changes were proposed in the graduation regulations that reflected the actions taken by the Board. She noted that Dr. Ron Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for



Academic Policy, is available to answer any questions of the Board and recommended the Board adopt the proposed amendments to the high school graduation requirements regulations.

Upon motion by Mr. Butta, seconded by Dr. Pizzigati, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland. (In favor – 10)

**COMAR 13A.05.10 (NEW) AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAM IN HIGH SCHOOLS (ADOPTION)**

Dr. Grasmick explained that the 2007 General Assembly enacted legislation requiring county boards of education to develop and implement an automated external defibrillator (AED) program for each high school in its jurisdiction. She introduced Ms. Donna Mazyck, Chief, School Health Issues Section, Division of Student, Family and School Support, to answer any questions from the Board.

Ms. Mazyck stated that the Board has before it a workable set of regulations for this law. She explained that every high school now has an AED available not only during the school day but also during school-sponsored athletic activities.

In response to a question by Mr. Goodall, Ms. Mazyck said that there are many people who are trained to use the devices in the schools.

In response to a question by Mr. Butta, Ms. Mazyck said that the fiscal impact of the law falls on the local education agencies.

Upon motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Goodall, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted COMAR 13A.05.10 Automatic External Defibrillator Program in High Schools. (In favor – 10)

**COMAR 13A.06.03 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS IN THE STATE (ADOPTION)**

Dr. Grasmick recommended Board adoption of an amendment to COMAR 13A.06.03 Interscholastic Athletics in the State explaining that this amendment standardizes the starting date for the fall athletic season. She introduced Mr. Ned Sparks, Executive Director, Athletics Programs, Division of Instruction and Executive Director of the Maryland Public Schools Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), to provide a brief review of the proposal.

Mr. Sparks explained the issues surrounding the fall athletic season and noted that the amendment was supported by the MPSSAA and the Public Schools Superintendents' Association of Maryland.

Upon motion by Mr. Goodall, seconded by Ms. Cooper, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted the amendment to COMAR 13A.06.03 Interscholastic Athletics in the State. (In favor – 10)

### 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 Dr. Pizzigati, seconded by Dr. Allen, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, March 25, 2008, in Conference Room 1, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. All board members were present except Leila Allen, Rosa Garcia and Charlene Dukes. In attendance were Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, Ron Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy, Skipp Sanders, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration, JoAnne Carter, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction and Academic Acceleration, 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 12:05 p.m. Ms. Garcia joined the session at 1:00 p.m. (In favor – 10)

The Board considered and deliberated the following appeals. Opinions will be issued at an upcoming meeting.

- *Monocacy Montessori Communities, Inc. v. Frederick County Board of Education* - denial of charter application
- *Grace N. v. St. Mary's County Board of Education* - student suspension

The State Board approved five decisions for publication.

- *Mohan G. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - early entry 08-15
- *Maria and Winston I. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - early entry 08-16
- *Lisa L. v. Prince George's County Board of Education* - student transfer 08-17
- *Robert Lawrence v. Calvert County Board of Education* - employee reprimand 08-18
- *Tonya L. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - early entry 08-19
- *Amy M. v. Montgomery county Board of Education* – early entry 08-20

Ms. Kameen provided legal advice concerning the By Laws of the SEED School of Maryland.

Dr. Grasmick updated the Board on a confidential personnel matter affecting a local board.

President Dunbar Brooks and the Board discussed several internal management issues and the recruitment process for new members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.



The Executive Session ended at 1:45 p.m.

### **RECONVENE**

The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Allen was not present.

### **ORAL ARGUMENTS**

The State Board heard oral arguments in the following appeal:

- *Friends of the Bay Arts & Science Public Charter School v. Calvert County Board of Education*

### **STATE PLAN FOR ADULT EDUCATION**

Dr. Grasmick explained that because Maryland has such a high quality adult education program, it is one of the few states to qualify for federal incentive funds under the Workforce Investment Act. The Superintendent invited Kathy Oliver and Patricia Bennett, Program Manager, Adult Education and Literacy Services, to discuss the extension of the Maryland State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy and recommended State Board approval of the revisions to the Plan. Dr. Grasmick explained that the revisions extend the current local grants for one year and incorporate data quality certification required by the United State Department of Education.

Ms. Oliver explained that legislation continuing the Workforce Investment Act has not been reauthorized and that a one-year extension is required to continue receiving grant funding. She explained that the Governor's Office has affirmed this recommendation.

In response to a question by Ms. Garcia, Ms. Oliver said that during the 2006-2007 school year approximately 39,000 adults participated in the adult education program. Dr. Grasmick explained that the limits on providing these services are due to federal and state funding constraints. Ms. Oliver said that the program is not advertised or marketed due to the high demand for these services.

Mr. Butta remarked that, when discussing Maryland's Adult Education Program, members of the Legislature used the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation estimates of 794,000 people in the State needing a high school diploma when noting that only 36,000 adults were served. He said that these figures are very misleading since approximately 41,000 applications were received with more than 36,000 served last year. He noted that the 5,000 applicants left unserved were due to lack of funding of the program.

Upon motion by Mr. Butta, seconded by Ms. Cooper, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the revisions to the Maryland State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy. (In Favor – 10 )

## **PROPOSED CHANGE IN MARYLAND'S NCLB ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN**

The Superintendent explained that the United States Department of Education (USDE) has provided guidance that encourages the Department to submit an additional modification to Maryland's NCLB Accountability Plan that would provide greater accuracy to our Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations for special education students. She asked Dr. Peiffer to discuss the proposed modification and recommended State Board approval of and authorization to submit this proposed State Consolidate Plan revision to the USDE.

Dr. Peiffer explained that the modification would provide flexibility to include in AYP calculations for schools, school systems, and the State the scores of students who were previously identified with a disability under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), but who no longer receive special education services. The scores of these students would be included in the specific AYP calculations for two years after the students stop receiving special education services.

Dr. Grasmick explained that local superintendents welcome this flexibility.

In response to a question by Mr. Ewing on available data on students who no longer receive special education services after two years and their graduation rates, Dr. Grasmick said that the majority of students exiting special education are in the elementary grades. She said that most students in middle and high school who are in special education programs do not usually leave special education programs.

Ms. Garcia requested data on the number of students who are both English Language Learners and special education students in the schools in Maryland. Dr. Peiffer agreed to provide this information.

Upon motion by Dr. Pizzigati, seconded by Dr. Finan, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the change in Maryland's NCLB Accountability Plan and authorized the Superintendent to submit the revision to the USDE. (In Favor – 10)

## **SEED SCHOOL ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS**

Dr. Grasmick reminded the Board that in December they were briefed on the proposed operations of the SEED School of Maryland, a statewide boarding school for students facing environmental and academic challenges. She said that representatives of the SEED School will be discussing the proposed Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and introduced Ms. Carol Beck, Director of New Schools Development – Maryland, SEED Foundation.

Ms. Beck explained that the SEED School was Incorporated in January 2007. She said that following approval by the State Board, it would establish a twenty-five member Board of Trustees, of which five members would be appointed by the Governor with the



advice of the State Superintendent and the advice and consent of the Senate and the other twenty members would be determined in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation.

In response to questions by Mr. Tufaro, Ms. Beck said that Trustees would serve three-year terms renewable for up to three terms. She explained the levels of authority set up in the Articles of Incorporation with the SEED Foundation set up as the parent organization and the SEED School of Washington and the SEED School of Maryland falling under that umbrella of authority.

In response to Ms. Cooper's concern about the phrase "targeted at inner-city children" in the Statement of Purpose, Ms. Beck agreed that the phrase should be eliminated since the SEED School is not targeted solely to inner-city children but to all children in Maryland. Ms. Cooper also expressed concerns about a provision stating that meetings can be held in or out of the State of Maryland and the fact that the Board of Trustees' Meetings do not fall under the Open Meetings Law.

In response to a question by Mr. Ewing about the phrase "admission to the finest colleges and universities" in the Statement of Purpose, Ms. Beck named several prestigious colleges and universities which accepted students from the SEED Public Charter School of DC.

In response to Mr. Brooks' request to include language about the need for geographic diversity, Ms. Beck said she will provide language to address his concerns and described the efforts being made to recruit students from all parts of the State.

Ms. Kameen summarized the questions and concerns of Board Members and Ms. Beck agreed to bring the item back to the Board's April meeting with appropriate amendments and inclusions. She noted that the Foundation has raised \$24 million of the \$30 million needed to proceed. Dr. Grasmick requested that Ms. Beck also provide the Board with the benchmarks that have been established for the SEED School of Maryland.

The Board thanked Ms. Beck for her presentation.

### **STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Superintendent introduced Ms. Renee Spence, Executive Director, Governmental Relations, to provide a legislative update and status report of issues relative to education that are currently before the 2008 Maryland General Assembly.

Ms. Spence explained that with more than 400 education/education related bills introduced in this Legislative Session, the staff of the Department has been extremely busy compiling fiscal notes to be attached to those bills. She provided the Board with the status of Departmental bills before the Assembly noting that all passed before their respective Houses and will cross over in the next week.

She then provided the Board with a synopsis of the various bills being considered during the last few weeks of the legislative session.

The Board thanked Ms. Spence for her diligence in keeping them informed on the actions of the Maryland General Assembly.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Brooks went over the procedure by which the Board hears public comments. He introduced the following persons who gave comments:

- Robert Harlan – HSAs
- Tom Carr/Garrett County Board of Education – Legislative Highlights/MABE
- Jerome Dancis -- HSAs

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to § 10-503(a)(1)(iii) and § 10-508(a)(7) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Butta, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, March 25, 2008, in Board Room, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. All board members were present except Leila Allen and Charlene Dukes. In attendance were Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, Ron Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy, Skipp Sanders, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration, JoAnne Carter, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction and Academic Acceleration, and Tony South, Executive Director to the State Board. Assistant Attorney General, Elizabeth M. Kameen, was also present. The Executive Session commenced at 4:20 p.m. (In favor – 10)

The Board met in closed session to deliberate and decide *Friends of the Bay Arts and Science Public Charter School v. Calvert County Board of Education* after hearing oral argument on the issues in the public session. The Board issued Order No. 08-03, vacating its previous Order No. 08-02 in *Friends of the Bay Arts and Science Public Charter School v. Calvert County Board of Education*. An Opinion in the case will be issued forthwith.

The Executive Session ended at 5:15 p.m.

### **RECONVENE**

The State Board Meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2008.

### **2008-2009 STUDENT MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD**

Dr. Grasmick reported that each year a new Student Board Member has joined the State Board in July. She praised past members for their excellent service to the students in



Maryland and introduced Ann Chafin, Nora Murray, Specialist, Student Leadership and Outreach; Renford Freemantle, current Student Member; and Madiba Dennie, President, Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) to introduce the two finalists for this year's Student Member of the State Board.

Ms. Murray stated that she has had the opportunity to work with the best and brightest students this year.

Ms. Dennie explained the open and deliberate process that is used to select the Student Member and introduced Jasmine Adams of Northern High School in Calvert County and Derek Wu of James M. Bennett High School in Wicomico County, as the two finalists. Ms. Dennie announced that Derek Wu was selected as the next Student Member of the State Board for the 2008-2009 term.

Ms. Adams thanked everyone who supported her candidacy and congratulated Mr. Wu.

Mr. Wu said that this honor is not about winning but about representing the students in Maryland. He said that he looks forward to working with the State Board over the next year.

Board members congratulated both students for their accomplishments. Mr. Brooks said that, like Mr. Freemantle and all former student members of the State Board, Mr. Wu will be an integral part of the Board.

Dr. Grasmick recognized Mr. Wu's and Ms. Adam's parents and principals. She also congratulated Ms. Dennie on her outstanding leadership of MASC.

### **U.S. YOUTH SENATE PROGRAM DELEGATES**

The Superintendent asked Nora Murray to remain at the dais to introduce the students who were chosen to represent Maryland as delegates to this year's United State Youth Senate Program and to provide some background on the Program.

Ms. Murray explained that the program began in 1962 and involves the selection of two high school juniors or seniors from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia to participate in a brief introduction to the functions of the United States Senate. She said the Program is funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and provides a \$5,000 scholarship to each student selected to participate. She introduced Derek Wu and Julia Chang of Richard Montgomery High School in Montgomery County.

Ms. Chang described her exciting visit to Washington, D.C. and thanked and recognized her mother and principal for their support.

Mr. Wu said that this experience has reinforced his commitment to public service and thanked and introduced his parents and principal.

Mr. Freemantle congratulated both students for being selected for this Program.

Dr. Grasmick and Mr. Brooks presented each student with a Certificate of Recognition and a gift from the Board.

### **STATE PLAN FOR CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

Dr. Grasmick explained that Maryland receives significant funding under the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act. She reported that as a condition of that funding, the State is required to submit a five-year plan detailing how it will meet the requirements of that Act. She asked Kathy Oliver and Jeanne-Marie Holly, Program Manager, Career and Technology Education Systems Branch, to brief the Board on the State Plan for FY 2008-2012 and answer any questions Board members may have. She recommended State Board approval of the Maryland Career and Technology State Plan for FY 2008-2012.

Ms. Oliver reviewed the data on the participation rates of students in Maryland in Career and Technology Education during the 2006-2007 school year. She noted the significant increase in the percent of CTE students who completed course requirements for admission to the University System of Maryland, rising to 51 percent this past year from only 14 percent in 1993. She explained that Department staff work closely with members of the business community to provide well trained students to fill the workforce in Maryland. She discussed the ten career clusters offered to students and noted the importance of stakeholder involvement. She reported that the program has placed an emphasis on improving access for students with disabilities. Ms. Oliver said that accountability has been increased and noted the Core Indicators of Performance for secondary students.

In response to a question by Ms. Garcia, Ms. Oliver said that there is data on the career programs of all CTE students. She explained that ensuring diversity among minority populations and women in the program is a major goal in the State Plan. Ms. Oliver reported that Dr. Grasmick has been extremely aggressive in securing funding through Congress for CTE Programs.

In response to questions by Dr. Pizzigati, Ms. Oliver discussed the efforts being made to address CTE student achievement.

Mr. Ewing stated that this Plan is innovative and congratulated the staff for their excellent leadership. In response to a question by Mr. Ewing, Ms. Oliver said that she and her staff have worked closely with the Governor's Workforce Office on the State Plan.

In response to Mr. Ewing's interest in verifying the graduation rates of CTE students, Dr. Grasmick said this area is an on-going challenge to the Department.

The Board thanked Ms. Oliver and her staff for a job well done.



Upon motion by Dr. Allen, seconded by Ms. Cooper, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Maryland Career and Technology State Plan for FY 2008-2012. (In Favor – 11)

### **SCHOOL READINESS REPORT**

The Superintendent explained that the Department has been assessing school readiness of children entering kindergarten for the past seven years and that there has been improvement in the readiness in all student subgroups. She introduced Dr. Rolf Grafwallner, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Development and Eileen Kaplan, Program Manager, Judy Hoyer Family Learning Centers in Adelphi, Maryland to provide the Board with an overview of the Readiness Results for students who entered kindergarten last fall.

Dr. Grafwallner discussed Maryland demographics on prior care and kindergarten enrollment noting that 95 percent of the early childhood population has been assessed for school readiness. He said that the achievement gap in reading has narrowed since 2003. He provided data on the improvements across all domains of learning and noted that the unique student identifier will help track student progress beginning with kindergarten. Dr. Grafwallner provided data on the significant gains made by children from all ethnic backgrounds. He noted, however, the challenges of providing for the needs of special education students.

Ms. Kaplan reported that of the 293 children in the Judy Hoyer Family Learning Centers in Adelphi, Maryland, 81 percent are Spanish speaking. She discussed the efforts made by the Centers to address the needs of these children explaining that parental involvement and teacher training are crucial. She reported that there are many excellent community partners involved in the program as well.

In response to a request by Dr. Pizzigati on composite results of school readiness by jurisdiction for the past five years, Dr. Grafwallner said he would provide the Board with that data.

In response to a question by Dr. Pizzigati, Ms. Kaplan said that there is no waiting list for children since no child is ever turned away from the Centers.

In response to a question by Ms. Garcia about efforts to close the readiness gaps, Dr. Grafwallner said that the key is providing high quality programs and increasing parental involvement. He said that there is a major effort being made with the immigrant population to get children into high quality programs. Dr. Grasmick said that the Department is placing a very deliberate focus on early childhood education for children with special needs.

Mr. Ewing stressed the need to get public support for Pre Kindergarten programs and suggested that a longitudinal study using the unique student identifier may generate more support among the public.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Brooks thanked the presenters for their dedication and hard work.

### **ORAL ARGUMENTS**

The State Board heard oral arguments in the following appeal:

- *Anne Livingston v. Talbot County Board of Education*

### **OPINIONS**

Ms. Kameen announced the following Opinions:

- 08-15 *Mohan G. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – early entry (remanded to local board)
- 08-16 *Maria and Winston I. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – early entry (affirmed the local board’s decision)
- 08-17 *Lisa L. v. Prince George’s County Board of Education* – student transfer (affirmed the local board’s decision)
- 08-18 *Robert Lawrence v. Calvert County Board of Education* – employee reprimand (affirmed the local board’s decision)
- 08-19 *Tonya L. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – early entry (affirmed the local board’s decision)
- 08-20 *Amy M. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – early entry (affirmed the local board’s decision)

Ms. Kameen then announced the following Order:

- 08-03 *Friends of the Bay Arts & Science Public Charter School v. Calvert County Board of Education (vacating Order #08-02)*

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

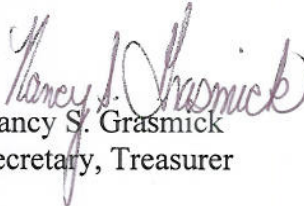
Pursuant to § 10-503(a)(1)(iii) and § 10-508(a)(7) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Dr. Pizzigati, seconded by Mr. Goodall, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, in Board Room, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. All board members were present except Charlene Dukes. In attendance were Ron Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy, Skipp Sanders, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration, JoAnne Carter, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction and Academic Acceleration, and Tony South, Executive Director to the State Board. Assistant Attorney General, Elizabeth M. Kameen was also present. The Executive Session commenced at 11:40 a.m. (In favor -11)



The Board meet in closed session to deliberate and decide *Anne Livingstone v. Talbot County Board of Education* after hearing oral argument in public session. An Opinion in this case will be issued at an upcoming meeting.

The Executive Session ended at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy S. Grasmick  
Secretary, Treasurer

NSG/rms

APPROVED: 4/29/08

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## CLOSED SESSION

On this **25th** day of **March 2008**, at the hour of 11:30 am~~pm~~, the Members of the State Board of Education voted as follows to meet in closed session:

Motion made by: Dr. Pizzigati

Seconded by: Dr. Allen

In Favor: 10 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 or proposal process.

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

1. Discuss two legal appeals.
2. Review six draft opinions.
3. To receive legal advice on issues involving the SEED School of Maryland.
4. Discuss four internal Board management matters.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President



**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**CLOSED SESSION**

On this **25th** day of **March 2008**, at the hour of 4:20 ~~am~~ pm, the Members of the State Board of Education voted as follows to meet in closed session:

Motion made by: Ms. Cooper

Seconded by: Mr. Butta

In Favor: 10 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.
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- (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 discussed during this closed session include:

To discuss the legal argument that was heard today.



\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**CLOSED SESSION**

On this **26th** day of **March 2008**, at the hour of 11:40 am/pm, the Members of the State Board of Education voted as follows to meet in closed session:

Motion made by: Dr. Pizzigati

Seconded by: Mr. Goodell

In Favor: 11 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 or proposal process.

The topics to be discussed during this closed session include:

To discuss the legal argument that was heard today.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE March 25-26, 2008 BOARD MEETING

I. Appointments Grade 19 and above:

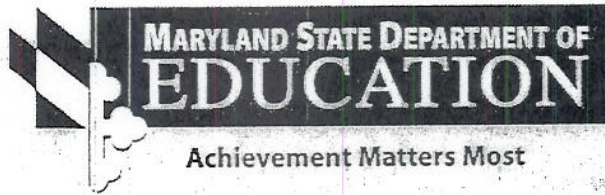
<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
Chester, Sharon E. (Promotion)	Child Care Licensing Regional Manager	19	Early Childhood Development, Office of Child Care, Region IV	TBD

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

200 West Baltimore Street · Baltimore, MD 21201 · 410-767-0100 · 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD

March 25-26, 2008

BOARD LIST

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

**Name:** Sharon E. Chester  
**Position:** Child Care Licensing Regional Manager  
**Division:** Early Childhood Development  
**Salary Grade:** 19 (\$48,664 - \$71,083)  
**Effective Date:** TBD

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

**Education:** A Bachelor's Degree in Child Development, Education, Social Work or Psychology from an accredited college or university.

**Experience:** Five year(s) 5 of experience inspecting, licensing and monitoring child care centers, and family day care homes.

**NOTES:**

1. Possession of an associate's degree in Early Childhood Development, Teacher Education, Sociology or Psychology and two years work experience inspecting, licensing and monitoring child care centers, and family day care homes may be substituted for the bachelor's degree.
2. Applicants may substitute graduate education in Child Development curriculum at an accredited college or university at the rate of 30 semester hours per year for up to two years of the required experience.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is a professional Special Appointment position serving as the Regional Manager of Region IV, Office of Child Care responsible for providing direction, management, and supervision of child care regulatory activities and operations to ensure the protection of children in out-of-home childcare facilities and non-public nursery schools.



**Qualifications:**

University of Maryland (Princess Anne, Maryland) 1980 – Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education

**Experience:**

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2005 – Present: Child Care Licensing Supervisor

Maryland State Department of Human Resources/Child Care Administration (Baltimore, Maryland)

1995 – 2005: Child Care Licensing Supervisor

1992 – 1995: Child Care Licensing Specialist

Hyattsville Hills Child and Family Center (Hyattsville, Maryland)

1987 – 1992: Child Care Program Director

Silver Spring YMCA/Calverton (Silver Springs, Maryland)

1984 – 1987: Education Program Director

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS:**

Promotion

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE March 25-26, 2008 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>
Seaman-Crawford, Lisa A.	Capital Projects Assistant Manager (School Facilities Architecture)	20	Business Services, School Facilities Branch	TBD

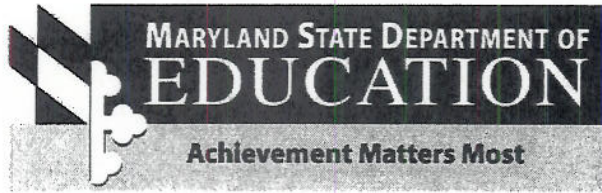
**II. Appointments Grade 18 and below:**

<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

200 West Baltimore Street · Baltimore, MD 21201 · 410-767-0100 · 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD

March 25-26, 2008

**BOARD LIST**

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

**Name:** Lisa A. Seaman-Crawford  
**Position:** Capital Projects Assistant Manager (School Facilities Architecture)  
**Division:** Business Services, School Facilities Branch  
**Salary Grade:** \$51,911 - \$75,842  
**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**Education:**

Possession a current license as a professional architect in Maryland or in a state with comparable requirements.

**Experience:**

Four years of experience as a licensed professional architect in the design of major institutional buildings are required. Educational or K-12 facilities planning experience is desired.

**DESCRIPTION:**

This position serves as an educational facilities specialist responsible for providing technical assistance to local school systems and approving major renovation and construction projects.

**Qualifications:**

**Education:**

University New York (Buffalo, New York) 1988 – Master’s Degree in Architecture

Buffalo State College (Buffalo, New York) 1981 – Bachelor’s Degree in Design

Possesses a Current License issued by the Maryland State Board of Architects

**Experience:**

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (Annapolis, Maryland)

1999 – 2005: Senior Manager of Design

1988 – 1999: Facilities Specialist/Project Manager

Wheeler, Goodman and Maszeck Architects (Annapolis, Maryland)

1985 – 1988: Draftsperson

**Employment Status**

New Hire



**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE March 25-26, 2008 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>
Chester, Sharon E. (Promotion)	Child Care Licensing Regional Manager	19	Early Childhood Development, Office of Child Care, Region IV	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				



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March 25-26, 2008

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1984 – 1987: Education Program Director

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS:**

Promotion