

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday – Wednesday
June 24-25, 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, June 24-25, 2008, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Ms. Beverly A. Cooper, Vice-President; Dr. Lelia T. Allen; Mr. Blair G. Ewing; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Mr. Renford Freemantle; Mr. Richard Goodall; Dr. Karabelle Pizzigati; Mr. David Tufaro and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools. Late arrival on Tuesday: Mr. Dunbar Brooks and Ms. Rosa M. Garcia. Absent both days: Mr. Henry Butta and Dr. Charlene Dukes. Absent Wednesday only: Ms. Rosa M. Garcia.

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.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Grasmick introduced Mr. Edward Cashman, Deputy Secretary's Regional representative from the U.S. Department of Education, who is attending today's Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Erickson responded to a question posed by Dr. Finan regarding the 620 candidates selected to participate in the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards assessment cycle.

Upon motion by Dr. Pizzigati, seconded by Dr. Allen, and with unanimous agreement, the State Board approved the consent agenda items as follows: (In Favor -8)

Approval of Minutes of May 28-29, 2008
Personnel (copy attached to these minutes)
Budget Adjustments for May 2008
2008-2009 National Board Candidates
Permission to Publish:

COMAR12A.05.10.01--.09 (AMEND)
Programs for Correctional Education

NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL & ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Dr. Grasmick introduced Ms. Debbie Drown, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) who presented to the Board the Principal and Assistant Principal selected for this year's honor.

Ms. Drown stated that MAESP is growing and currently has 904 members in Maryland consisting of Principals, Assistant Principals, and Aspiring Leaders. Each year MAESP awards one Assistant Principal of the Year award. This year's recipient is Mrs. Michelle Leader from Phelps Luck Elementary School in Howard County.

Each year the MAESP in collaboration with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) selects a National Distinguished Principal who represents Maryland in Washington, DC at the national awards ceremony. This year's National Distinguished Principal is Mrs. Carol Leveille from Mary S. Matula Elementary School in Charles County.

The Board heard comments from each of the recipients. Dr. Grasmick and Ms. Cooper presented the recipients with a citation and gift on behalf of the State Board.

NATIONAL WINNER OF *LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE* CONTEST

Dr. Grasmick introduced Dr. Colleen Seremet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Instruction and Dr. Josephine Williams, Interim Director, Maryland Humanities Council, who shared information about the *Letters About Literature* program and to present the national winner, Maggie Tighe.

Dr. Seremet stated that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is pleased to partner with the Maryland Humanities Council on this program. Dr. Seremet introduced Dr. Williams who provided background information on this program. Dr. Williams explained that this program is sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council, the Library of Congress and Target Stores. The *Letters About Literature* program invites readers in grades 4-12 to write a letter to an author, past or present, who inspired them or altered their view of the world or of themselves. Maggie Tighe, an 11th grader at Governor Thomas Johnson High School in Frederick County, chose to write to Aldous Huxley, author of *Brave New World*. Maggie's letter was one of six winning letters chosen from nearly 60,000 entries from across the country. Maggie read her letter which states "Mr. Huxley, your book opened my eyes to a new way to look at my world. I've learned to appreciate every aspect of my life—good and bad. I've come to recognize that tedium is a necessary part of my journey. Your book was devoid of true happiness in that it was devoid of struggle. I now appreciate that my generation can take the "easy way out" of nearly everything, but I'm not going to let that privilege consume me. With *Brave New World*, you have shown me that my circle of friends, my community, and my world require the personal sacrifice of time and energy to achieve meaningful happiness. Thank you for this gift."

Dr. Seremet detailed some of the awards Maggie has received. At the state level, she received a \$50 Target Gift Card. When her letter was selected as the first place winner at the national level, she received a \$500 Target gift card and Target donated a \$10,000 grant to a library of Maggie's choice. Maggie chose the middle school she attended three years ago, Monocacy Middle School in Frederick County.

Dr. Pizzigati thanked Maggie for her joy in reading and asked her what did her future plans entail. Maggie said she plans to study philosophy and perhaps move on to law school.

Dr. Grasmick and Ms. Cooper presented Maggie Tighe with a certificate and gift from the State Board.

REPORT OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Grasmick stated that out of concern for the lack of progress of our middle school students on the State assessments and the need to transform teacher and learning practices and environments in middle schools, she established a Middle School Steering Committee in September 2006. The committee consisted of a broad-based membership of teachers, administrators, parents, higher education faculty, MSDE staff and members of the business community.

Dr. Grasmick introduced Dr. Deborah Kraft, Stevenson University (formerly Villa Julie College), Committee Member and Director of Education and Social Science Division; Dr. Gerald Scarborough, Steering Committee Co-Chair and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Harford County Public Schools; and, Dr. Mariale Hardiman, Chair, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education, Johns Hopkins University who discussed this report.

Mr. Brooks and Ms. Garcia arrived during this presentation.

Dr. Hardiman discussed a new and exciting initiative at Johns Hopkins University where more than 540 researchers are conducting research in the cognitive neurosciences. They believe that educators should be the consumers of this research on memory, attention, and how emotions affect learning. Dr. Hardiman stated that the goal of this initiative is twofold: (1) what do we know now in the brain sciences that could and should be translated to educational practices; and, (2) what neuro-translational research should be conducted. To reach these goals the first and most important factor is communication among researchers and educators which currently does not exist. Researchers are learning more and more about the adolescent brain, about their sleep patterns which maybe should be looked at when designing school schedules, and the need for these students to focus on higher order thinking and problem-solving.

Dr. Scarborough shared the middle school steering committee report. During the early deliberations, the committee members quickly realized that they could not address every component of middle school level education and agreed there were some key understandings which are the elements of a positive and supportive middle school learning

environment which are: (1) safe environment; (2) nurturing relationships; and (3) positive adults.

Dr. Scarborough indicated that before developing the recommendations the committee established the following goal:

All middle school students will be provided a rigorous and relevant core academic program that engages them in learning, develop critical literacy skills, and prepares them for high school success, postsecondary enrollment, and 21st Century careers.

A "core academic program" includes English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, Fine Arts, Health and Physical Education.

The committee established 16 recommendations and 41 strategies which pertains to the topics. Dr. Scarborough highlighted some of the recommendations. The 16 recommendations addressed:

Instructional Time	Advanced Learners
Algebra	Teacher Preparation
Integrated STEM Instruction	Professional Development
World Languages	School Leadership
Disciplinary Literacy	Assessment & Feedback
Fine Arts	Skill Mastery
Technology & Information Literacy	Parent & Student Partnerships
Skills of Lifelong Success	Organizational Structures

Dr. Kraft shared that Stevenson University has implemented and continues to work on the recommendations of the committee. Stevenson University began discussions about developing middle school teacher preparation programs about two years ago when MSDE announced the change in elementary certification. Dr. Kraft announced that Stevenson University will begin the first middle school teacher preparation program in Maryland this fall. The work of this committee has influenced their program development and it will continue to influence their course development. They will continue to assess what they do against the goals and recommendations from the committee together with the influences of State and national standards on this new middle school teacher preparation program.

In response to a question from Mr. Tufaro about why there is difficulty in teaching this age group now more than it was 20 or 30 years ago, Dr. Scarborough stated that the expectations are much higher today in society and the curriculum and expectations of middle school students are much more challenging.

Dr. Pizzigati asked how do researchers feel about the education connection and how do educators feel about embracing the research. Dr. Kraft stated that her faculty are developing courses based on the research being done at Johns Hopkins and how they can integrate that research into the teacher preparation program.

Mr. Ewing stated that the 16 recommendations is a very ambitious agenda and expressed concern about what happens to ensure school systems implement these recommendations. Dr. Scarborough stated that these recommendations have been shared with assistant superintendents of curriculum and instruction across the State at their monthly meetings and the committee has received their input. A number of systems are already looking at reforming and improving their middle school programs. This report has brought to the forefront a framework and some key elements of middle school education but it will be the work of local districts and the State Department of Education to continue to reinforce these concepts and provide support to local school systems.

Ms. Garcia questioned the report not addressing cultural competencies and learning access to parents who don't speak English. Dr. Scarborough indicated that the dissemination of information to different parts of the culture is handled by the local school systems and individual schools based upon their particular needs.

ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS

Dr. Grasmick explained that this is the last of the governance proposals submitted this year for schools identified in need of improvement. She introduced Ann Chafin, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student, Family and School Support and Teresa Knott, Supervising Coordinator, School Performance, MSDE, to brief the Board on the remaining eight schools which require approval of their Alternative Governance Proposals.

Ms. Chafin reported that the Board has already approved 32 alternative plans. The Board is being asked to approve one school in St. Mary's County and seven schools in Prince George's County. In addition, she advised the Board that the Montgomery County Board of Education elected in June 2007 to close one school in their restructuring planning at the end of this school year due to its declining enrollment. Dr. Weast wrote to Dr. Grasmick requesting a waiver from the requirement for Mark Twain High School to develop an alternative governance plan on the grounds that the school would cease to exist past this current school year. At the beginning of this school year there were only 32 students attending Mark Twain High School. Mark Twain special education students have been reassigned to regional high schools where they will be educated in a less restrictive environment. Dr. Grasmick granted the waiver.

Ms. Knott explained that all of the governance plans have been approved by the respective local board of education, that all required information was submitted, and that the proposals went through the review process and review panels have recommended approval to Dr. Grasmick. Of the 97 schools in restructuring, there are 46 schools implementing Option 1; 31 schools doing a turn-around specialist which was an option available two years ago and those schools were grandfathered in; 9 schools are using the Blueprint for High School Reform in Baltimore City; and the rest of the schools are divided between the current three options and the other options that were previously allowed.

Ms. Knott explained the four options available to a school in restructuring planning.

St. Mary's County Public Schools

Dr. Grasmick introduced Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent, St. Mary's County Public Schools and Ms. Linda Dudderar, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, St. Mary's County Public Schools, and recommended approval of the Alternative Governance proposal for the following school in St. Mary's County:

- Spring Ridge Middle School

Dr. Martirano introduced staff who were instrumental in this process. Dr. Martirano stated that the data was examined to determine the root causes of the failure of this school and then identified the actions needed to correct them. In order to address the root cause occurring in this middle school, they also had to examine the feeder path and look at what was occurring at the elementary school level. Dr. Martirano reported that additional resources were allocated to Spring Ridge and during the 2006-07 school year seven corrective actions were implemented. The change in leadership and staffing have had the most significant impact on the school.

Ms. Garcia asked about the challenge to get more African American parents involved in the school. Dr. Martirano stated that they have tried a variety of activities including having PTA meetings held in conjunction with other school activities to encourage parents to attend. The other strategy they have employed is to spend time at the libraries with the students and their parents as well as providing community events. They also have an outstanding partnership with the local NAACP.

Dr. Pizzigati asked if the team approach which includes the leadership team and team teaching spilled over into other schools. Ms. Dudderar responded that they have a consistent model that is being used in all of their schools.

Upon motion by Dr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Tufaro, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Alternative Governance proposal for one school in St. Mary's County.
(In Favor – 10)

Prince George's County Public Schools

Dr. Grasmick introduced Dr. John Deasy, Superintendent, Prince George's County Public Schools and Dr. Donna Munsey, Chief Accountability Officer, Prince George's County Public Schools and recommended approval of the Alternative Governance proposals for the following seven schools in Prince George's County:

- Benjamin D. Foulois Elementary
- Bladensburg High
- Thomas Claggett Elementary
- Charles Carroll Middle
- G. Gardner Shugart Middle
- Stephen Decatur Middle
- Thomas Johnson Middle

Dr. Deasy stated that the plans for these schools include replacing principals, assistant principals, and other school personnel; implementing America's Choice program; and additional staff development programs. Dr. Deasy reported that he plans to put forth a recommendation at his next board meeting to establish the position of Coordinating Supervisor to be solely responsible for alternative governance schools and the implementation plans.

Dr. Finan asked what happened to those teachers who were not highly qualified. Dr. Deasy indicated that teachers being replaced are no longer eligible for employment in the county unless they can be placed elsewhere such as at a different grade level, and be highly qualified at that level.

Upon motion by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Ewing, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Alternative Governance proposals for the seven schools in Prince George's County. (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 Ms. Cooper, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, in Conference Room 1, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present except J. Henry Butta, and Charlene Dukes. In attendance were Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, 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 12:45 p.m.

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

- *Robin Breedon v. Prince George's County Board of Education* - employee discrimination
- *Harford County Board of Education v. Harford County Educational Services Council* - request for declaratory relief
- *Normal Tunnell v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - employee termination

The State Board approved four decisions and five orders for publication.

- *Allied Transportation, Inc. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – bid protest - 08-30
- *Thomas Brackett & Kevin Shupe v. Allegany County Board of Education* - non-renewal of contract - 08-31
- *Concerned Citizens of Seven Oaks v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* - redistricting - 08-32

- *Meridian Academy v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioner's* - denial of charter - 08-33
- *Christine C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - early entry – OR 08-06
- *Tammie H. v. Baltimore County Board of Education* - homeless status – OR 08-07
- *Lisa L. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - student transfer – OR 08-08
- *Richard Phillips v. Allegany County Board of Education* - teacher termination - OR 08-09
- *Vergina W. v. Prince George's County Board of Education* - student suspension OR 08-10

Dr. Grasmick discussed some upcoming personnel changes at MSDE.

The Board considered the preliminary findings of an admission records audit of the SEED School and directed that a letter be sent to the SEED School reflecting the sense of the Board that SEED has failed to comply with legal requirements for admission to the school and directing SEED to respond forthwith.

Dr. Grasmick and Steve Brooks addressed proposed budget reductions with the Board.

All staff except Mr. South left the meeting at 1:30

Ms. Cooper presented the list of candidates that her committee found qualified for appointment/reappointment to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The Board approved the list of candidates and authorized submission of the names to Governor O'Malley and Mayor Dixon.

Mr. Brooks informed the Board that the proposed agenda for the July meeting of the Board could be addressed in a one day meeting and asked if there were any objections to limiting the July meeting to one day on July 15th. There were no objections.

Mr. South left the meeting at 1:45 p.m. Thereafter, the Board discussed possible candidates for the State Board offices to be selected at the July 15, 2008 Board meeting.

The Executive Session ended at 2:15 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

CALCULATION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

Dr. Grasmick explained that there has been some confusion about high school graduation calculations and a lot of disparity in the numbers that are reported across the country. Recently, USDE issued some regulatory changes regarding how the rate is to be calculated. States would be required to be in compliance with these regulations by 2012-13. Dr.

Grasmick stated that given our longitudinal data system, Maryland will actually be in compliance in advance of the USDE requirement. She asked Dr. Leslie Wilson, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Accountability and Assessment to share how MSDE approached this task and some of the challenges associated with it.

Dr. Wilson reported that there are a lot of myths and misunderstandings concerning graduation rate and it has generated a lot of discussion among states. Nationally, there is a desire to compare graduation rates and that requires a standardized calculation which is not currently in place. Currently, states use a variety of graduation rates but 32 states including Maryland use the rate that was recommended a few years ago by the National Council of Educational Statistics (NCES).

Dr. Wilson stated that the rate proposed by USDE is called the NGA rate which stands for National Governor's Association and was approved by all of the governors several years ago. It is also referred to as the cohort rate because it follows a group of individual students through their high school years which is different than what other rates currently do. Also, the NGA rate focuses on on-time graduation and the expectation is that for most students graduation will occur in four years.

Dr. Wilson reviewed the comparison between Maryland's current rate and the USDE proposed rate:

Maryland's Current Rate

- NCES rate
- Compares grads with all 9th graders four years earlier
- Includes all students taking more than four years
- Accounts for dropouts
- Accounts for most transfers
- Does not require longitudinal data system

USDE's Proposal

- NGA Rate
- Compares grads with first-time 9th graders four years earlier
- Includes identified students taking more than four years
- Accounts for dropouts
- Accounts for transfers
- Requires longitudinal data system

The proposed regulations do require states to move to the NGA rate for the graduating class of 2013. It also requires states to report disaggregated data that will become part of the high school AYP calculation in 2013. Also, the regulations will allow some flexibility to include some of the students who require five years to graduate.

Dr. Wilson reported that Maryland did assign all of our students unique IDs as of December 1st so we are already constructing our first cohort and will be prepared to report the graduation rate using the NGA calculation for the class of 2011.

Dr. Wilson reviewed Maryland's plan for reporting graduation rate:

2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10

- Use current NCES rate for accountability

2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11

- Collect individual student data using unique student ID in the longitudinal data system

2010-2011

- Calculate NGA graduation rate for accountability
- Set NCLB targets using the NGA graduation rate in 2011
- Determine AYP using NGA rate under new federal rules

Ms. Garcia asked whether or not the NGA have any recommendations on capturing 8th grade students who leave school and what has MSDE done to make sure we are in line with the graduation rate legislation. Dr. Wilson reported that we are in compliance with State law and produce a report that is forwarded to the legislature every fall and available on the MSDE website. She indicated that we don't currently collect data on dropouts before the 9th grade because in those cases the student would have had to be held back two years and be 16 years of age to dropout.

COMAR 13A.04.10.01 & .02 PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCTION IN THE WORLD OF WORK COMPETENCIES (ADOPTION)

Dr. Grasmick stated that last month the Board accepted the Maryland Career Development Framework. This month the Board is being asked to adopt regulations requiring each local school system to provide a systemic instructional program in career development and decision making in according with that framework. She introduced Kathy Oliver, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Career Technology and Adult Education and Ann Chafin, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Family and School Support to answer any questions from the Board.

Ms. Oliver stated the regulations before the Board are the requirements that specify the standards and indicate the requirement for a career and academic plan for all students beginning prior to 9th grade. The regulations also require school systems to certify beginning in September 2009 and then every five years thereafter that they are implementing a program of instruction in accordance with those regulations.

Mr. Goodall questioned whether this requires additional responsibility on the part of guidance counselors given the fact that some might already be overloaded with social problems in their respective schools. Ms. Oliver stated that MSDE provides toolkits and materials that schools can just adopt rather than create the process and procedures themselves. Ms. Chafin also indicated that a member of her staff meets regularly with guidance counselors to ensure they are getting the appropriate technical assistance needed but the actual work load is determined by each of the local school systems.

Mr. Brooks asked if the career and academic plan is outlined somewhere in the Master Plan. Ms. Chafin responded that at this time there is no specific question about career development in the plan but if it is something that the system is already offering in support of students, it is probably outlined somewhere in the Master Plan.

Upon motion by Mr. Goodall, seconded by Ms. Cooper, and with unanimous agreement, the State Board repealed existing regulations and adopted these new regulations. (In Favor - 10)

Ms. Garcia left the meeting.

REGULATORY REVIEW ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

Dr. Grasmick explained that the Board is being asked to adopt modifications to regulations that were recommended as the result of the regulatory review of Departmental regulations which occurs every four years. As a result of the review, she recommended adoption of amendments to the following regulations:

- COMAR 13A.01.04. Public School Standards
- COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirement
- COMAR 13A.05.08 Work-Based Learning Programs
- COMAR 13A.06.01 Programs for Food and Nutrition
- COMAR 13A.06.05 School Supplies and Equipment

Mr. South discussed the changes required in the regulations.

Upon motion by Mr. Goodall, seconded by Ms. Cooper and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted amendments to the regulations listed above. (In Favor – 9)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brooks explained procedures by which the Board hears public comments. He introduced June Smith, MABE Board of Directors and member of the Frederick County Board of Education, who discussed the recent MABE summer conference and expressed her thanks to the members of the State Board who would be ending their service to the State this month.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) HIV/AIDS Conference -- Dr. Pizzigati discussed this conference that she and Dr. Allen attended in Atlanta. The conference focused on students at risk with a particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS and STD (sexually transmitted diseases) issues particularly in the African American community. The conference included state education agency coordinators, state and local board members, and members of the African American community who discussed the extent and scope of the issues, problems, challenges facing the community, the awareness or lack thereof in communities and the deep threats that face a number of our students because of risk behavior.

Dr. Pizzigati stated that she and Dr. Allen would like to work with MSDE staff to review State policies, what more needs to be done, how implementation of these policies are occurring at the local school system level, and what we should be thinking about to ensure that students, parents and communities are more aware of this threat particularly in the African American community.

Governor's PreK-20 Leadership Council of Maryland -- Mr. Brooks attended this meeting which was held on June 10, 2008. The major topics were:

STEM Task Force
Report on the Committee on Education of African American Males
English/Language Arts Committee Report
Report on the Governor's Workforce Investment Board
Teacher Shortage Task Force

Mr. Brooks provided overview on each of the topics discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

RECONVENE

The State Board Meeting reconvened at 9:10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2008. Mr. Butta, Dr. Dukes and Ms. Garcia were absent.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT MATTERS AWARD

Dr. Grasmick stated that this is the first such awards program in the entire nation which honors parents in this way. In a collaboration between MSDE and Comcast, this award program recognizes parents, guardians, and parent groups for their exceptional work in support of public education. Parents from across the State were nominated for demonstrating significant, positive impact on public education in their communities. Dr. Grasmick introduced JoAnne Carter, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Instruction and Academic Acceleration to further discuss this award.

Ms. Carter indicated this award highlights the positive impact that parents have on public schools and encourages all parents to get involved in whatever way they can. The slogan for this year was "Chose Your Seat – Get Involved". Ms. Carter stated that there were five categories for which individuals could be nominated: Communication, Volunteering, Learning, Decision Making, and Community Collaboration.

Ms. Carter stated that one hundred and thirty-seven applications were reviewed based on the five criteria. Twenty-three local award winners were chosen, each representing a local school system. From the 23 local awards, six semi-finalists were chosen for their outstanding involvement. The statewide winner was then chosen from the semi-finalists. The 23 local award winners were:

Erin Delong, Allegany County
Lisa Eliot, Anne Arundel County
Susana Barrios, Semifinalist, Baltimore City
Judy Jefferson-LaFlame, Baltimore County
Eileen Hudson, Calvert County
Kelli Nelson, Semifinalist, Carroll County
Jesse Cloud, Cecil County
Shellee Stine, Charles County
Michelle Nichols – Dorchester County

Kathy Meagher, Frederick County
Crellin Corps of Discovery Parent Group, Garrett County
Susan Rattman, Semifinalist, Harford County
Larry Walker, State Winner, Howard County
Robert Ortiz, Kent County
Ralph Nelson, Montgomery County
Annette Jackson-Jolly, Semifinalist, Prince George's County
Karen Catron, Queen Anne's County
Lynn Cullins, Semifinalist, St. Mary's County
Stephanie Kayhan, Somerset County
Molly Groton, Talbot County
Kristy Sollenberg, Washington County
Kathy Sterling, Wicomico County
Gary Williams, Worcester County

The Board viewed a DVD of some of the local award winners and the awards ceremony. The Board also heard remarks from the State Winner, Larry Walker.

Dr. Grasmick and Mr. Brooks presented each recipient with a PRIDE certificate and pin.

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS CURRICULA REVIEW

The Superintendent provided some background on this topic. She stated that Achieve is a national organization formed of corporate leaders, governors and a variety of people who believe in a national effort to improve and accelerate education within this country. Achieve has spearheaded a program called "The American Diploma Project" (ADP) of which Maryland is a participant along with other states. The purpose is to begin to look at the standards of states and to ensure that as students exit our high schools they are career – college ready. Dr. Grasmick reported that as a part of this effort, Maryland has been one of those states engaged in looking at Algebra II and anticipates participating in the assessment of Algebra II that's being organized by Achieve. It was necessary to look at not only the mathematics standards established through the voluntary state curriculum (VSC) but also at our English/Language Arts standards. She introduced Dixie Stack, Director of Curriculum, Division of Instruction, to give more specific information.

Ms. Stack reviewed the draft version of the high school English and Mathematics curricula. Ms. Stack indicated that the core learning goals were the starting point in developing the VSC at the high school level. Maryland's mathematics and English draft VSC documents were submitted to Achieve to review to compare the documents with the ADP benchmarks which represent the knowledge and skills required for successful entry into credit-bearing college courses and quality jobs. A secondary purpose was to ensure that the Maryland standards met the criteria of high quality standards that include rigor, focus, coherence, specificity, clarity, and measurability.

Ms. Stack introduced Matt Gandal, Executive Vice President, Achieve, Inc. who shared Achieve's findings. Mr. Gandal described some of the work that Achieve is doing nationally over the last several years that is relevant to the work being done in Maryland.

Mr. Gandal provided a review of Achieve's findings of the Maryland VSC in high school English and Mathematics.

English

- The VSC provides a clear focus on work-related reading and writing and other critical areas of teamwork, oral presentations, and peer response.
- The rigor, focus, coherence, specificity, clarity, and measurability of the expectations are strong.
- The VSC content expectations have been completely reorganized into the six strands of Comprehension and Interpretation of Text, Analysis and Evaluation of Text, Composing, Controlling Language, Speaking, and Listening.

Mathematics

- Expanded and enhanced its VSC by adding additional topics in Algebra/Data Analysis, Geometry, and Algebra II.
- The VSC is rigorous, clear, specific, coherent, focused and measurable. The substance, format, and language of the VSC are comprehensive and well articulated.
- The State has opted to rely upon the use of public release items and other support materials contained within a web-based toolkit. Tools for high school are not yet as complete as they could be and will need to be further developed to include public release items, instructional activities, lesson plans and other examples that will support and clarify the Algebra II VSC and the Additional topics not written into the VSC.

Dr. Pizzigati asked Dr. Grasmick if the interest in Algebra II is related to other activities that have expanded opportunities for students such as increased attractiveness of taking AP courses. Dr. Grasmick responded that there is a growing interest in Algebra II becoming the new gatekeeper and we are going to make it voluntary in terms of the assessment.

Mr. Brooks asked Mr. Gandal to discuss his statement about states backing off setting standards. Mr. Gandal responded that the pressure is coming from two sources: (1) NCLB inadvertently has created a pressure to set a date for all students to be proficient and in some states that has led them to try to make decisions on creating a test and where to put the cut scores which has the potential for states to lower the standards to make them as reasonable as possible; and (2) a graduation exam which has the potential of denying diplomas to students. Mr. Gandal believes that the stronger you make the connection between your high school standards and the examination system, the better you can avoid the tendency to want to water down the standards.

Upon motion by Mr. Goodall, seconded by Ms. Cooper, and with unanimous agreement, the State Board accepted the high school VSC for mathematics and English. (In Favor – 9)

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Brooks stated that four Board members were departing the State Board this year: Ms. Cooper, Mr. Butta, Mr. Tufaro and Mr. Freemantle and that Mr. Butta was recognized by his colleagues the Board's last meeting. Mr. Brooks allowed Board members to express

their appreciation for the contributions that each departing member has made while on the Board.

The Board heard comments from each departing member about their experiences as a member of the State Board.

OPINIONS

Ms. Kameen announced the following Opinions:

- 08-30 *Allied Transportation, Inc. v. Anne Arundel Board of Education* – bid protest
- 08-31 *Thomas Brackett & Kevin Shupe v. Allegany County Board of Education* – Non-renewal of contract (Affirmed local board)
- 08-32 *Concerned Citizens of Seven Oaks v. Anne Arundel Board of Education* -- redistricting (Affirmed the local board)
- 08-33 *Meridian Academy v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – Denial of charter (remanded to local board)


Ms. Kameen then announced the following Orders of dismissal in 5 cases for reasons of: 2 – timely appeals; 1 failure to appear to the local board; 1 mootness; and 1 default at Office of Administrative Hearings.

- OR08-06 *Christine C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education*
- OR08-07 *Tammie H. v. Baltimore County Board of Education*
- OR08-08 *Lisa L. v. Montgomery County Board of Education*
- OR08-09 *Richard Phillips v. Allegany County Board of Education*
- OR08-10 *Vergina W. v. Prince George's County Board of Education*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy S. Grasmick
Secretary, Treasurer

NSG/sc

APPROVED: July 15, 2008

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CLOSED SESSION

On this 24th day of June 2008, at the hour of 12:25 ~~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: Ms. Cooper

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 three legal appeals.
2. Review four draft opinions.
3. Report on two MSDE personnel matters.
4. Discuss three internal Board management matters.



President

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE June 24-25, 2008 BOARD MEETING

I. Appointments Grade 19 and above:

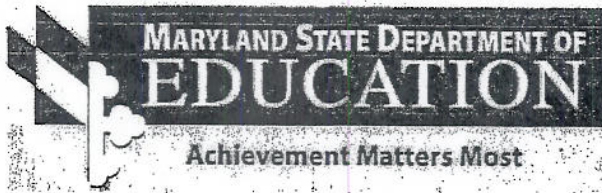
<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
Wilson, Dori A	Education Program Manager II, Special Education Compliance & Due Process	24	Special Education/ Early Intervention Services	TBD

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

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

June 24-25, 2008

BOARD LIST

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

Name: Dori A. Wilson
Position: Education Program Manager II, Special Education Compliance & Due Process
Division: Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Salary Grade: 24 (\$68,692 - \$110,297)
Effective Date: TBD

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

A Juris Doctorate, or a Masters Degree or equivalent 36 credit hours of post baccalaureate course work in Special Education, Educational Administration/Supervision, or a related field.

Experience:

Six years of related experience in coordinating or administering education programs or services including one year of experience supervising professional education program staff.

DESCRIPTION:

Serves as the Chief of the Complaint Investigation and Due Process Branch responsible for direction oversight, coordination, and management of the dispute resolution processes for special education as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and accompanying State law and regulation. This position receives executive direction from the Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Special Education and Early Intervention Services.

Qualifications:

Education:

University of Baltimore (Baltimore, Maryland) 1990 – Juris Doctorate

University of Maryland (Baltimore, Maryland) 1984 – Master's Degree in Social Work

George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia) 1984 – Bachelor's Degree in Social Work

Maryland Institute for the Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers (Baltimore, Maryland)
1984 – Civil Mediation Certificate

Experience:

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2008 – Present: Education Program Manager II - Special Education Compliance & Due Process
Acting

2002 – 2008: Education Program Specialist I - Due Process Compliance

2001 – 2002 Education Program Specialist I - Complaint Investigator (Contractual)

Community College of Baltimore County - Dundalk (Dundalk, Maryland)

2000 – 2005 Adjunct Instructor – part time

Children's Legal Services of Baltimore (Catonsville, Maryland)

1995 – 2001 Attorney

Anne Arundel Community College (Arnold, Maryland)

2001 – 2001 Adjunct Instructor – part time

Law Office of James L. Rouse (Baltimore, Maryland)

1991 – 1995 Attorney

Court of Special Appeals of Maryland (Towson, Maryland)

1989 – 1990 Law Clerk

Baltimore County Department of Social Services (Baltimore, Maryland)

1984 – 1986 Social Worker, Child Abuse Crisis Intervention

Employment Status

Promotion

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE JUNE 24-25, 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>
None				

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>
Bond, Clarissa	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008
Bryant, Wanda	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I	12	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008
Chiu, Mark	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008
Fennoy, Robin	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008
Henry, Candace	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Region IV	06/04/2008
Kaur, Harman	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I	12	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008
Kebetz, Lori L.	Librarian, Media Specialist	IEPP	Career Technology and Adult Learning, Juvenile Services Education Program	07/02/2008
Mason, Colina	Personnel Officer I, Employee Relations	14	Office of Human Resources	06/18/2008
May, LaShaune	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I	12	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008

Miller, Rita F.	Teacher, Correctional Adult Basic Education	IEPP	Career Technology and Adult Learning, Correctional Education	07/02/2008
*Mukhin, Dmitry N.	IT/DP Programmer Analyst II	17	Office of Information Technology	06/04/2008
Schaefer, Jason	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I	12	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008
Taylor, Allison	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008
Wainwright, Cheryl	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	13	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008
Weitzel, Amy	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I	12	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008
Weller, Sarah	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I	12	Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services	06/18/2008

III. Other Actions:

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

*Promotion