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Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education

Maryland State Department of Education, 8th Floor, Conference Room 1

February 3, 2009 9:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

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|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 | Sign-In/Refreshments/ Review Minutes | |
| 9:15 | Call to Order
Approval of Minutes | Phyllis Bailey, Chair |
| 9:30 | Presentation: <i>Best Practices Identified in the MGT Report*: Implications for Gifted and Talented Education</i> | Dr. Kim Bobola
Coordinator of Comprehensive Planning, MSDE |
| 10:30 | Break | |
| 10:45 | Subcommittee Update: <i>Programs and Services</i> | Karen Ganjon, Chair
Programs and Services |
| 11:00 | Subcommittee Update: <i>Public Awareness</i> | Michele Hampton, Chair
Public Awareness |
| 11:15 | Subcommittee Update: <i>STEM Integration</i> | Connie Finney, Chair
STEM Integration |
| 1:30 | Subcommittee Update: <i>Professional Development</i> | Katherine Rigler, Chair
Professional Development |
| 11:45 | Update: Maryland Educators of Gifted Students (MEGS) | Helaine Zinaman
Executive Director |
| 12:00– 1:00 | Subcommittee Workgroups | Advisory Council Members |

* *An Evaluation of the Effect of Increased State Aid to Local School Systems Through the Bridge To Excellence Act*, December 19, 2008, MGT of America, Inc.

The next meetings of the Advisory Council are:
February 11, 2009 (Annapolis Reception) April 23, 2009.



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Minutes of the February 3, 2009 Meeting

The February 3, 2009 meeting was held at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) with the following Council members in attendance: Dr. Kim Bobola, Laura Carriere, Kathleen Cecil, Susan Davis, Dr. Linda Emerick, Phyllis Ettinger, Dr. Monique Felder, Connie Finney, Mary Gable, Valerie Gross, Michele Hampton, Dr. Maureen Mc Mahon, Ted Luck, Mary Murray, Dr. Jeanne Paynter, Van Reiner, Chrisandra Richardson, Katherine Rigler, Gillian Simone, Charlotte Stokes, Dr. Paul Tanenbaum, Janet Veditz, Dr. Gerry Wojnar, Penny Zimring, Stephanie Zenker, and Helaine Zinaman.

Call to Order

Dr. Jeanne Paynter, acting on behalf of Chair Phyllis Bailey, called the meeting to order at 9:20. The December 11, 2008 minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

Presentation: *Best Practices Identified in the MGT Report: Implications for Gifted and Talented Education*

Council member Dr. Kim Bobola, Coordinator of Comprehensive Planning at MSDE, presented a summary of data from the recent MGT report, *An Evaluation of the Effect of Increased State Aid to Local School Systems Through the Bridge to Excellence Act*. The report presented a three-year evaluation of the effect of increased state aid to local school systems on student, school, and district performance and studied the relationship between the implementation of best practices and student achievement to identify practices that consistently result in significant achievement gains. The report documented the value of increased funding through a gap analysis which suggests that for the average school, that \$1000 in total new expenditure per student is associated with a 4% gap closure for elementary reading and math, with an 8% closure for middle grades reading and math. All race/ethnic groups improved in reading and math proficiency levels in elementary and middle school. Data are broken out by the NCLB student groups, and gifted and talented students are not specified as a subgroup.

Key findings identified three categories of best practices: Planning and support systems (data analysis, professional learning communities, teacher specialists, targeted professional development, team strategic planning); supportive and positive school environment of high expectations and effective school leadership; and aligned, individualized, and inclusive instructional processes (core curricula aligned with the Voluntary State Curriculum, intervention and acceleration programs and differentiated instruction, inclusion with support for students in heterogeneous groups.) Teachers' perceptions of the quality of leadership was the most important factor influencing the extent to which schools closed their students' proficiency gaps.



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Subcommittee Update: Programs and Services

Council member Dr. Jeanne Paynter reported on behalf of the Programs and Services Subcommittee. On December 16, 2008 Phyllis Bailey, Karen Ganjon, Phyllis Ettinger, and Jeanne Paynter visited the North Hagerstown High School International Baccalaureate program and the Williamsport Elementary STEM magnet program in Washington County. Ms. Jessica Reinhard, Supervisor of Advanced Programs, coordinated the visits. Karen Ganjon and Phyllis Bailey crafted the follow-up thank you letters to the school principals. Copies of these letters were provided to the Council.

Subcommittee Update: Public Awareness

Subcommittee Chair Michele Hampton presented an update on the upcoming reception *Celebrating Gifted Education* on February 11, 2009 in Annapolis. A draft of the program was shared with the council, along with a reminder of the snow policy. Ms. Hampton distributed an updated list of the Council reception committee members and duties. Helaine Zinaman and Laura Carriere provided information on the student research projects that will be displayed. Rose Blucher shared that the video, *In Their Own Words: Gifted Education in Maryland*, was undergoing final edits. Shirley Moran informed the Council that the Stephen Decatur Show Choir would present an inspirational choral opening.

Subcommittee Update: STEM Integration

Subcommittee Chair Connie Finney shared a recent article from the *Business Monthly* which highlighted a unique feature of the Howard County STEM program. A group of concerned citizens from STEM industries has collaborated under the management of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory to form the STEM Business and Education Coalition (STEMBEC). STEMBEC takes an active role in keeping STEM education relevant and up to date. Advisory Council members Van Reiner and Dr. Gerry Wojnar attended the Maryland STEM Conference on January 21, 2009.

Subcommittee Update: Professional Development

Subcommittee Chair Katherine Rigler presented an update on the approval process for the COMAR 13A.12.03.12 Gifted and Talented Specialist. The State Board voted on January 27, 2009 to approve the regulation. A summary of 27 comments from a diverse group of stakeholders including two superintendents were received during the public comment period. Of these, all were supportive except one comment. The Council was presented with copies of the Board memo and the Analysis of Written Testimony. Council members Helaine Zinaman and Penny Zimring noted that the letter from Maryland Educators of Gifted Students had been omitted from the Analysis. On February 5, 2009, the Professional Standards in Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) will vote to adopt the new certification regulation.



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Update: Maryland Educators of Gifted Students (MEGS)

Council member Helaine Zinaman, Executive Director of MEGS, provided an overview of the MEGS organization and invited the Council members to volunteer for a MEGS committee or Board of Directors position. Council members were invited to submit nominations, due March 4, 2009, for the annual MEGGY Award recognizing outstanding contributions to gifted education. Information was shared about the *Special Needs Advocacy Institute* sponsored by the Weinfeld Group

Subcommittee Workgroups

The Subcommittees adjourned to their workgroups. Each chair was asked provided a written progress report at the end of the meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.