

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday
March 24, 2009

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

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President; Mr. Blair G. Ewing, Vice President; Mr. Dunbar Brooks; Dr. Charlene M. Dukes; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Ms. Rosa M. Garcia; Mr. Richard Goodall; Dr. Karabelle Pizzigati; Dr. Ivan Walks; Ms. Kate Walsh; Mr. D. Derek Wu and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The President asked for approval of items listed under Consent Agenda.

Superintendent Grasmick noted that included on the consent agenda was information on additional cuts to the Department's budget approved by the Board of Public Works. She said that these cuts were the result of lower than expected revenue estimates. She said, "This again diminishes the resources of this Department."

In response to Mr. Ewing's request for information on the impact of these reductions on the Department, Mr. Robert Crawford, Division Director, Division of Business Services, explained the various cuts in program budgets. Dr. Grasmick said that, in the past, there has been a small amount of funding included in the budget to provide small performance bonuses to staff in leadership positions but that this practice will be eliminated this year. She also reported that 94.7 departmental positions have been cut out of approximately 1600 positions. In response to a question by President DeGraffenreidt to provide the Board with the strategic effects of these budget cuts on the Department's statutory mission, Dr. Grasmick said she would send the Board a Division by Division report on the effects of the budget cuts on the Department's programs.

In response to a question by Mr. Ewing about the “loaned educators” program, Dr. Grasmick explained that there are teachers from local school systems who are on contract to provide certain expertise and due to the fact that State salaries are lower than local school system salaries, the Department must pay the differential to acquire their services.

Mr. Brooks requested that the following language be added to the first sentence in paragraph five on page 5 of the February 24, 2009 minutes “a preK-20 education longitudinal data base.”

Upon motion by Mr. Ewing, seconded by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows: (In Favor – 11)

Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2009, as amended
Approval of Minutes of March 11, 2009 Special Meeting
Personnel (**copy attached to these minutes**)
Budget Adjustments for February, 2009
FY 2009 Budget Reductions

MARYLAND SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Dr. Grasmick explained that each year the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM) selects from among its members a local superintendent of the year. She introduced Dr. Karen Salmon, President of PSSAM, and Dr. Carl Roberts, Executive Director of PSSAM to introduce PSSAM’s 2009 Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Roberts introduced Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent of the St. Mary’s County Public Schools as the 2009 Superintendent of the Year, describing him as an excellent and highly qualified leader. He reported that Dr. Martirano attended the National Conference in San Francisco to receive his award.

Dr. Salmon said, “Mike has been very vocal for all children.”

Dr. Grasmick said, “It has been a joy to work with Mike Martirano” and asked him to introduce the members of the St. Mary’s County Board of Education and his wife who were present. She reported that he created one of the strongest Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs in the State.

Dr. Martirano expressed his delight to be selected for this honor and acknowledged the individuals who make the school system successful. He said, "This has been a wonderful opportunity for me. I am very fortunate to be a part of PSSAM -- there is so much power in that group. The work that is occurring in St. Mary’s County is phenomenal.” He reported that all schools in St. Mary’s County made *Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)* in all categories last year and said “I am honored and humbled to receive this award.”