

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD

February 8, 2017
Telephone Conference Call
Minutes

A special meeting was called via telephone conference to discuss HB458.

The following members were on the line: Mr. Peter Baily, Ms. Jennifer Berkley, Mr. Charles Hagan, Dr. Kandace Hoppin, Dr. Alyssia James, Ms. Kathleen Kelbaugh, Mr. Christopher Lloyd, Dr. Barbara Martin-Palmer, Dr. John Mayo, Dr. Kristine McGee, Ms. Dawn Pipkin, Ms. Debra Poese, Ms. Karen Saar, Ms. Sarah Spross, Ms. Geralda Thompson and Dr. Jamey Tobery-Nystrom.

The following members were not on the line: Dr. Mae Alfree, Ms. Louise DeJesu, Mr. Darren Hornbeck, Mr. Philip Kauffman, Ms. Maleeta Kitchen and Dr. Mary Ellen Lewis.

The following Maryland State Department of Education staff members were present: Ms. Kelly Meadows, Ms. Ruth Downs (Recorder), and Mr. Derek Simmons, Esq., Attorney General's Office.

DISCUSSION

HB458

It was determined by the Board on February 2 to have a telephone conference call with a quorum to discuss HB458. This bill requires PSTEB to:

- On or before July 1, 2018, the Board shall require a certificate holder applying for renewal of a certificate as a teacher to complete a course on understanding and recognizing symptoms of visual impairments, including visual processing disorders and binocular processing disorders.
- The Board shall approve a course required under this section that:
 - 1) Is designed for Educators;
 - 2) Has been in use for at least 5 years
 - 3) Is taken online and complies with §508 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - 4) Satisfies professional development requirements; and
 - 5) Provides information and training on Education and Classroom Development activities relating to Visual Processing Disorders.
- The Board shall adopt regulations to implement this section.

Ms. Spross asked the question as to whether or not if PSTEB should follow the bill, oppose the bill or support the bill.

Ms. Spross informed the Board that we are not aware of every child who has a visual impairment, but there are 305 students with IEPs for visual impairment.

Mr. Charles Hagan stated that he had spoken to an Administrator of one mother, whose son was diagnosed with ADHD and was visually impaired. He should have had visual accommodations but did not receive them. There is a campaign called "Let Them See Clearly." The campaign states that there are at least 25% of children who struggle with visual impairment.

Ms. Spross informed the members that HB458 is scheduled for a hearing on February 14 and will go to the House on February 22.

Dr. James stated that at IEP meetings, there are rehabilitation rights to tell you everything you can get under your insurance.

She asked the Board how the Board wants to go forward with HB458.

There was a comment made to attend the Senate hearing with written testimony. PSTEB needs to get in front of this.

Ms. Spross stated that you would be testifying if you support the bill or do not support the bill.

Dr. James entertained a motion to oppose HB458 and to do it in written testimony or verbal testimony.

MOTION: Mr. Christopher Lloyd/Ms. Kathleen Kelbaugh To take opposition HB458 bill.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Mr. Lloyd stated that he would be in Annapolis on February 14 and would be glad to do a 3-minute verbal testimony on behalf of PSTEB. Dr. James stated that she would also try to be in Annapolis.

Dr. James entertained a motion for oral testimony on February 14 for HB458.

MOTION: Dr. Kristine McGee/Dr. Jamey Tobery/Nystrom For Mr. Christopher Lloyd and Dr. Alyssia James to do an oral testimony on behalf of PSTEB.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Ms. Spross stated the board needed to have key points included in the oral testimony. She asked Mr. Lloyd and Dr. James to develop the oral testimony and send it back to her so that she can send it to the other members of the Board for review. The testimony has to be in advance, prior to signing up.

Key Points:

- 305 IEPs – visually impaired
- Percentage of students not benefiting
- Time frame/strain on teachers
- Availability of coursework to be done in a timely manner
- Limited availability of fiscal ramification for local school systems/students

Mr. Lloyd stated that legislation such as this removes from PSTEB the decision to make certification decisions.

Ms. Spross stated that the DHMH has to bear the coursework not MSDE.

Mr. Charles Hagan suggested to separate certification or eliminate it from the bill.

Ms. Dawn Pipkin stated that we need to speak to the issues with certification requirements.

Ms. Spross stated that we need to stay focus on the section that deals with PSTEB.

Mr. Lloyd stated that we should remain focused on certification issues and be silent on the other issues. We weaken our argument if we get into other lanes.

Dr. James entertained a motion to have those key points talked about be part of the oral testimony.

MOTION: Ms. Debra Poese/Ms. Jennifer Berkley For key points talked about is part of the oral testimony.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Ms. Spross informed Mr. Lloyd and Dr. James that she needs the oral testimony to her by 11 a.m. on Friday, February 10.

Dr. James entertained a motion to adjourn the telephone conference call.

MOTION: Ms. Dawn Pipkin/Ms. Jennifer Berkley To adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The conference call adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

- Approval of Minutes
- SBOE Updates
- Legislative Session Update
- Testing Commission Update (Tentative)
- Regulation Review

Ms. Pipkin stated that the March Agenda could not be officially adopted, because they did not have a quorum to vote.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.