

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

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD

November 1, 2018

Minutes

The 428th meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) was held at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 on November 1, 2018. Mr. Christopher Lloyd called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The following members were in attendance: Dr. Mae Alfree, Ms. Jennifer Berkley, Ms. Linda Chinnia, Mr. Charles Hagan, Dr. Kandace Hoppin, Mr. Darren Hornbeck, Ms. Maleeta Kitchen, Mr. Christopher Lloyd, Ms. Kelli Midgely, Ms. Debra Poese, Ms. Karen Saar, Ms. Sandra Skordalos, Ms. Sarah Spross, and Ms. Geralda Thompson.

The following members were absent: Mr. Peter Baily, Dr. Alyssia James, Dr. John Mayo, Dr. Kristine McGee, and Dr. Jamey Tobery-Nystrom.

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.

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Recognition of Guests

Dr. Winona Taylor, MATE
Ms. Tina Dove, MSEA
Ms. Geraldine Duval, MSEA

Public Comment

None

Announcements

None

State Board Update

Dr. Miya Simpson presented a summary of the October 23, 2018 State Board of Education (SBOE) Meeting. (Attachment I)

Approval of October Minutes

Mr. Christopher Lloyd entertained a motion to approve the October minutes with the suggested amendment.

MOTION: Ms. Debra Poese/Ms. Linda Chinnia To approve the October 4 minutes.

Approval of Proposed Agenda Items for December

- Approval of Minutes
- State Board Update
- Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education Update
- Action Plan Update: Routes to Certification

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- Regulations
- New Member Orientation 12:00-1:00

Mr. Christopher Lloyd entertained a motion to approve the Agenda for the December.

MOTION: Ms. Maleeta Kitchen/Ms. Jennifer Berkley

To approve Agenda for the
December meeting.

COMAR 13A.12.04.03 – Superintendent - /COMAR 13A.10.01.06-1 – Extraordinary Career Leader Certificate (Update) (Attachments II & III)

Mr. Christopher Lloyd provided a detailed brief presentation on Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.12.04.03 – Superintendent and COMAR 13A.10.01.06-1 Extraordinary Career Leader Certificate.

On October 23, 2018, the Maryland State Board of Education met and considered the certification requirements for superintendents. The Board entertained a motion to publish the proposed regulations found in Attachment II of the memo. These regulations are the regulations the State Board passed last month, and the PSTEB voted to deny publication of at its October meeting. Following a debate, the State Board voted 8-4 in favor of publication. As per process, if a majority of the PSTEB members disapprove of a proposed regulations (which PSTEB did at its October meeting), the regulation will not move forward unless approved by a supermajority of the State Board of Education (75% of Board members voting in the affirmative). In this case, the vote required 9 to 12 State Board members to vote in the affirmative. Therefore, the motion to publish and override the PSTEB failed by one vote, and the regulations in Attachment I will not be sent for publication.

The State Board then took up Attachment III of the memo and made a motion to publish. The PSTEB moved Attachment 3 at the last meeting, voting to move to publication. The State Board today voted 7-4-1, concurring with the PSTEB to publish Attachment 3. Attachment III does not include the Extraordinary Leader Certification Option. It will now go out for publication.

Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board – Roles and Responsibilities – Attachment IV

Ms. Spross did a brief presentation on the Role and Responsibility of the PSTEB members.

Purpose

Provide an overview of the regulatory process and responsibilities shared between the Maryland State Board of Education and the Professional Standards Teacher Education Board.

Role of the PSTEB and SBOE

The Maryland Code, Education Article §6-704 gives the State Board and PSTEB joint authority for developing rules and regulations for:

- The certification of teachers and other professional personnel
- The requirements preparation of teachers and other education personnel
- The certification of social workers employed by a local school system

The PSTEB has sole authority to hear appeals of decisions of the MSDE certification staff.

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The SBOE with the Superintendent of Schools has sole authority to approve teacher certification tests.

Role of the PSTEB with Other Regulatory Bodies

Role of PSTEB and the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, Maryland Legislature, and other bodies:

- The PSTEB has no other formal roles or powers
- The PSTEB may, however, express its views on any topic based on a majority vote of the board. This includes commenting on proposed legislation.
- Board members may also speak as individuals on any education topic, or on behalf of their organizations, so long as it is clear that the board member is speaking on his or her own behalf, not on behalf of the PSTEB.

Educator Certification and Preparation Program Action Plan Update - (Attachment V)

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to provide an update regarding the action plan to address the recommendation of the MSDE's comprehensive plan to increase the rigor and accountability of educator certification and teacher preparation programs in Maryland.

Summary

This update provides a status update to the action plan focused on teacher certification and the approval of educator preparation programs that lead to certification in Maryland. The plan provides specific action items for completing the necessary steps to develop policy and/or regulations related to activities identified by the MSDE, the State Board, the PSTEB and recommendations of the Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Act of 2016 Workgroup. The main goal of the plan is to increase educator effectiveness in Maryland.

Action

For discussion only.

Discussion

Mr. Lloyd stated that the six areas for obtaining initial certification would be a topic of discussion at the December PSTEB meeting. He stated that the State Board would also be discussing this topic at the December 4 State Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Lloyd stated that what he would ask the Board what additional information, related to the certification routes, they would find helpful to have prior to the meeting in December so that they could have conversation. The goal is to be able to determine which of these routes the PSTEB thinks are still viable options.

Ms. Spross stated that this information would be part of the December presentation that the MSDE will be bringing to the table. The information will include the following:

- The research behind it.
- What data we do keep.
- What data we have available to us about the routes.
- Possible implications.

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- How that will change the teacher pipeline.
- What other states are doing.

Ms. Spross continued to explain that applicants have to fit into one of the six routes in order to get certification in Maryland. The Board members asked several questions regarding routes to certification. One of the questions asked by the Board is, “Who do we give waivers to?” Ms. Spross stated that there is no way to capture that information in the current information system that we have. Every single waiver request is individual. Ms. Spross stated that one of the most common waiver requests is to waive educator certification tests. According to regulation, the MSDE absolutely cannot waive educator certification tests.

Another question asked was in regards to the attrition rate for each certificate. Ms. Spross informed the Board that the MSDE has attrition data on the website that is available and can be provided to the Board. Ms. Spross expressed to the Board that she wanted to be as responsive as possible with data, but she wants to keep it relevant to the regulations. All certification regulations can affect the teacher pipeline. They can be barriers or they can be openers. You have two trends happening nationally with teacher certification, opening it completely up and really deregulating the routes to certification. You will see that a number of states are taking that pathway because of the shortages. Ms. Spross told the Board that the second trend they will see happening right now is the ramping up of requirements to make the entrance requirements tougher.

A Board member asked Ms. Spross if it would be helpful to show how the six plus one routes align or do not align with the State Board’s, or the Kirwan Commission’s, recommendations. Ms. Spross informed the Board member that the presentation that she was preparing would include information regarding the alignment of the routes with Kirwan’s recommendations. Additional points included will be if they are not aligned, then why not. Ms. Spross ended her discussion saying, “Certification is about meeting the minimum qualifications to become a teacher.”

Mr. Lloyd summarized what would be valuable to the PSTEB in December. He stated that of the six areas, it would be valuable for the Board to know how many of our current certificated employees entered through Option I, through Option II, through Option III, etc. He suggested that they probably should not spend a large amount of time on a route that is not heavily utilized.

Open Meetings Act

Mr. Derek Simmons gave a brief and thorough review of the Open Meetings Act to the Board. He cautioned the members as to what they can and cannot do within the Open Meetings Act.

Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education Update

Mr. Lloyd gave an update on the progress of Working Group 2 (High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders) at the Kirwan Commission. He reminded the Board that they had previously talked about creating a letter/document expressing the PSTEB’s shared interests. Mr. Lloyd stated that the goal of the Board at today’s meeting was to work through some of their shared interests and to develop either testimony for November 29 or a letter that can be provided to the Kirwan Commission expressing the PSTEB’s shared interest. He informed the members that Kirwan would adopt their final report on December 19, 2018, which will then go to the legislature. Mr. Lloyd stated that he felt that there were three elements of Working Group 2 that deal specifically with PSTEB.

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Working Group 2

High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders - (Attachment VI)

Element 2A

Teacher preparation will be much more rigorous, and induction will be integrated with teacher preparation more systemically.

PSTEB Shared Interests

- Rather than a one-year residency, keep current internship structure and “beef up” induction program (3 years) with support from Higher Education Educator Preparation Programs.
- Need to consider the impact on existing teachers working with interns.
- Continue embedding field experiences in current coursework.

Element 2B

Raise standards for licensing teachers in MD to levels comparable to the standards for teachers in top performing nations.

PSTEB Shared Interests

- Engage in discussion regarding what higher standards look like.
- That the state exam be aligned with the content of the certification.

Element 2G

Develop career ladders for teachers and school leaders comparable in design to the career ladders found in Singapore and Shanghai with respect to standards for advancement and relationships to the system for compensating teachers and school leaders.

Mr. Lloyd told the Board that due to time restraints, they would not be able to discuss Element 2G. He suggested that the Board do a conference call to finish the discussion, so that they could develop a letter and/or testimony to present at the public hearing of the Kirwan Commission on November 29. Ms. Spross will send out a doddle pool to see what date and time is best for the Board to have a one-hour conference call.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Christopher Lloyd entertained a motion to adjourn the November meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Kelli Midgely/Ms. Geralda Thompson

To adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 12:30 p.m.