Meeting Minutes

Work Group Members in Attendance: Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Ms. Shebra Evans, Ms. Tracy Foster, Dr. Marvin Krohn, Ms. Kimberly Pogue, Ms. Melanie Shapiro, Ms. Julie Stevens, Mr. Andrew Tress (representing Department of Juvenile Services), Ms. Amanda White

MSDE Staff in Attendance: Ms. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley, Mr. Shane McCormick, Mr. Walter Sallee, Mr. Elliott Schoen

Members of the Public in Attendance: Ms. Jeanine Blomberg, Dr. Thomas Blomberg, Ms. Jennifer Botts, Ms. Margi Joshi, Mr. George Pesta, Ms. Chrisandra Richardson

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome

Dr. Sylvia Lawson welcomed the work group members and invited guests. Dr. Lawson asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Dr. Lawson announced that a quorum of the members had been established and asked the work group members to review the minutes from the April 22, 2019, meeting. The minutes were not approved during the previous meeting due to the absence of a quorum.

A motion to approve the April 22, 2019, meeting minutes as presented was made by Dr. Marvin Krohn and seconded by Ms. Kimberly Pogue. The motion carried.

Dr. Lawson asked the members to review the minutes from the May 20, 2019, meeting.

A motion to approve the May 20, 2019, meeting minutes as presented was made by Ms. Shebra Evans and seconded by Dr. Marvin Krohn. The motion carried.

Presentation: Noyes Pilot

Dr. Lawson welcomed and introduced Ms. Tracy Foster, Office of the Chief Academic Officer, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and Ms. Kimberly Pogue, Principal, Alfred D. Noyes Children’s Center (Noyes), to provide a presentation on the county pilot program between MCPS and Noyes.

Ms. Pogue highlighted the discussions that have taken place between MCPS and Noyes throughout the establishment of the pilot program. Ms. Pogue shared the following guiding
principles were identified to ensure a successful partnership between MCPS and Noyes: staffing support, professional development, enhanced learning experiences, and successful transition of student and earned credits. Ms. Pogue shared that staffing issues have always been a challenge at Noyes. It is Ms. Pogue’s hope that the partnership will help address the issue through professional development and mentorship opportunities via academic coaches to work with current teaching staff. Ms. Foster shared that a special education specialist has been made available to Noyes students to provide services and feedback on additional resources needed. Ms. Pogue shared that she is looking forward to the addition of a transition specialist to manage and assist students both entering and exiting Noyes.

Ms. Foster discussed some of the budget amendments made to accommodate the partnership between MCPS and Noyes, including expansion of professional development opportunities, including restorative justice training. Ms. Foster discussed some of the grant-funded supports that MCPS is utilizing and the opportunities that would be pursued with these supports. Ms. Foster discussed some of the curriculum and assessment outcomes being pursued through the pilot. Dr. Lawson announced that a presentation on the final budget established through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between MCPS and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would be shared at a future work group meeting.

Dr. Krohn asked about the nature and background of the academic coaches hired through the partnership. Ms. Foster shared that they would be MCPS staff, specifically retired MCPS staff. Dr. Krohn asked if they anticipated any conflict between the coaches and full-time staff, Ms. Pogue stated she did not anticipate it would be an issue. Ms. Foster stated that the Noyes leadership and MCPS officials planned to visit other facilities in the region to identify their staffing structure and observe best practices. Ms. Chrisandra Richardson explained the philosophy of coaching in MCPS and provided additional insights into the nature and responsibilities of the professional coaches in the pilot.

Dr. Krohn asked about the nature of the evaluation specialist in the pilot. Dr. Lawson stated that the evaluation of Noyes was a short-term evaluation. Dr. Lawson reiterated one of the charges of the work group was to identify whether the management model of Noyes was more optimal than the current management model.

Ms. White asked if any data and feedback collected throughout the pilot from Noyes students and staff would be made available to the work group members. Ms. Foster shared that data and feedback collected would not be made available at this time because some teaching staff have requested it not be shared. Ms. Foster shared that the feedback of staff and students would be manifested in the final recommendations from the pilot. Ms. Pogue shared that collecting student feedback has been an ongoing practice at Noyes.

Ms. Shapiro asked how the pilot has been presented to Noyes staff and the level of staff buy-in. Ms. Pogue shared that the Noyes staff have on-going conversations, and that she does not believe there is an issue of buy-in. Ms. Pogue stated the staff is excited to have professional development opportunities and discussed some of the opportunities that have already been provided to staff. Ms. Pogue stated that there is always a sense of apprehension present but that staff have remained open-minded throughout the process.
Dr. Lawson expressed her thanks and appreciation to Ms. Foster and Ms. Pogue for their presentation on the MCPS and Noyes pilot. Dr. Lawson encouraged the members to submit any additional questions for Ms. Foster and Ms. Pogue in writing.

**Subcommittee Breakouts**

The work group recessed at 10:08 a.m. to breakout into subcommittees. The full work group would reconvene at 11:00 a.m.

**Operations Subcommittee Report**

The work group reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

Dr. Lawson asked Ms. Julie Stevens to report out on behalf of the Operations Subcommittee. Ms. Stevens provided a handout developed by the subcommittee. The handout provided the guiding questions of the subcommittee, information regarding the school calendar, procurement, and curriculum differences between JSES facilities and local school systems. Ms. Stevens stated that counties within Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Florida were selected for comparison. Ms. Stevens stated the subcommittee has found that most local school systems operate on a 180-day school calendar compared to JSES in Maryland that operates on a 220-day school calendar. Ms. Stevens provided information regarding teacher salaries and highlighted the original source where the information was gathered. Ms. Stevens highlighted some of the differences in benefits in various local school systems compared to JSES facilities.

Ms. Stevens highlighted the differences in curriculum between local school systems and JSES, and the lack of resources in JSES by comparison. Dr. Lawson encouraged the members to identify and agree on the states they would like the work group to research so that the scope of analysis is universal across the work group.

**Work Group Committee Updates**

Dr. Lawson encouraged the work group members to ask for additional information from presentations and reports whenever applicable. Dr. Lawson shared presentations that will be provided to the work group during the July work group meeting.

**Report Outline**

Dr. Lawson discussed the draft of the report outline with the work group members. Dr. Lawson asked the members to review the outline and to provide feedback, comments, and suggestions. Dr. Krohn suggested to incorporate under the section discussing existing challenges a subsection that discusses transition. The work group agreed that language regarding the short-term length of stay should be included in the transition section. Ms. White suggested incorporating existing Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) data to highlight the demographics of students in JSES facilities throughout the State of Maryland. Ms. Foster asked about the school calendar and the comparison criteria that would be utilized. Ms. Pogue stated she is researching various calendar
options throughout the nation. Ms. Foster asked if there was a section regarding existing State legislation pertaining to JSES and transfer of credits. Dr. Lawson stated that she would speak with Mr. Elliott Schoen, MSDE Deputy Legal Counsel, regarding legislation and have a follow-up discussion during the July work group meeting.

Dr. Lawson asked the members for any additional comments or feedback on the structure and format of the outline. A motion to adopt the outline format was made by Mr. Andrew Tress and seconded by Dr. Marvin Krohn. The motion carried.

Dr. Lawson asked the members to review the work group time frame provided within the meeting handouts. Dr. Lawson asked the members for any comments and feedback on the work group time frame. Dr. Krohn expressed concern that the Transition subcommittee would not have sufficient time to collect information from public schools until September, after public schools have reconvened. Dr. Lawson stated the schedule can allow for the Transition subcommittee to report out during the October work group meeting. Dr. Lawson expressed that she will spend a considerable amount of time preparing the report and making sure the feedback and views of all of the members are incorporated into the final report.

A motion to adopt the time frame as presented was made by Mr. Andrew Tress and seconded by Dr. Marvin Krohn. The motion carried.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Andrew Tress and seconded by Ms. Amanda White. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.