



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

HB 1607-Juvenile Services Education
County Pilot Program-Workgroup Meeting

January 28, 2019
Maryland State Department of Education
8th Floor-Conference Room 6-7
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Meeting Minutes

Work Group Members in Attendance: Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy Superintendent, Office for School Effectiveness; Dr. Thomas Blomberg, Mr. Jay Cleary (on behalf of Mr. Gavin Patashnick), Ms. Kimberly Pogue, Dr. Chrisandra Richardson, Ms. Melanie Shapiro, Ms. Julie Stevens, Ms. Amanda White

MSDE Staff in Attendance: Mr. Shane J. McCormick, Executive Assistant to Dr. Sylvia Lawson; Ms. Deborah Grinnage-Pulley, Executive Director of the Juvenile Services Education System; Mr. Elliott Schoen, Deputy Counsel, Office of the Attorney General

Members of the Public in Attendance: Jeanine Blomberg, Margi Joshi, Peter Leone, Nick Moroney, Debbie St. John, Marvin Stone

The was meeting called to order at 9:37 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

- Dr. Lawson opened the meeting by welcoming the work group members and members of the public and asked guests to sign in if they had not already done so.
- Dr. Lawson reminded guests that there would be no public comment during the meeting.
- The work group reviewed the minutes from the December 6, 2018, meeting. Dr. Lawson clarified that for future meetings the minutes would be posted on the MSDE website prior to the next meeting for review.

Meeting Objectives

- Dr. Lawson reviewed the objectives to be accomplished during the meeting.
- Dr. Lawson shared that the work group is expected to accomplish eight items by the conclusion of its work. The work group would be broken up into four subcommittees to accomplish its goals and objectives.

Response to Data Requests from 12/6/18 Meeting

- Dr. Lawson shared that student transfer data from the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center would be made available to the work group members during the next meeting.
- Dr. Lawson shared that Dr. Chrisandra Richardson would share pilot data from Montgomery County during the meeting and that Julie Stevens would share data regarding JSES schools in Maryland.

Overview of JSES Programs in Maryland

- Julie Stevens facilitated a PowerPoint presentation about the Maryland State Department of Education Juvenile Services Education System (JSES).
- Ms. Stevens shared that there are thirteen JSES schools in the State. The majority of JSES schools in the State are in the Western region.
- JSES has memorandum of understandings (MOU) with multiple community colleges in the State of Maryland.
- JSES has five system-wide professional learning days available for staff.
- Ms. Stevens discussed measures of accountability and other features utilized through the JSES information system, PowerSchools.
- Ms. Stevens discussed some of the present challenges for JSES schools in the State of Maryland.
- Ms. Stevens shared highlights from the 2017-2018 School Year.
- Ms. Stevens referenced the JSES annual report made available in the meeting materials provided to work group members.
- Dr. Lawson thanked Ms. Stevens for facilitating the presentation.

Review Current Pilot with Montgomery County

- Dr. Chrisandra Richardson, Retired Deputy Superintendent for Montgomery County Public Schools, discussed the current county pilot partnership with Montgomery County.
- Pilot partnership has been through an agreement between Montgomery County, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, and the MSDE.
- Dr. Richardson shared that one of the key recommendations of the pilot was that current Noyes staff would continue as MSDE employees.
- A funding formula is to be established under HB 1607.
- Dr. Richardson shared that the current mission is to attain stakeholder buy-in for the pilot program.
- Dr. Richardson shared that Montgomery County would hold focus groups with Noyes staff to determine their needs. A student survey was conducted with Noyes students and would be repeated in the future.
- Dr. Lawson expressed her thanks to Dr. Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools, for his willingness to facilitate the partnership between Montgomery County and the MSDE.

Senate Bill 75 (SB 75)

- Steven Serra, MSDE Director of Human Resources and Tiffany Clark, MSDE Director of Government Relations, facilitated a presentation on Senate Bill 75 (SB 75).
- Ms. Clark shared that SB 75 would require teachers and librarians to be employed and contracted to work no more than 10 months out of the year.
- Ms. Clark shared that SB 75 would provide teachers and librarians three days of personal leave during the year.
- Ms. Clark shared that SB 75 would allow MSDE to rescind certification of JSES teachers that break contract after July 15th of the school year.

- Mr. Serra shared that he and Ms. Clark testified before the State Senate that the legislation would help better attract highly qualified teachers and to retain teachers in critical content areas such as mathematics and the sciences.
- Mr. Serra discussed some of the retention issues that the MSDE has faced with JSES teachers. Mr. Serra shared that ten JSES teachers were lost during the previous summer.
- Mr. Serra shared that during exit interviews many JSES teachers share that they elect to leave the system because they prefer to have summers off.
- Dr. Richardson asked how long the JSES summer school period operated. Mr. Serra clarified that the summer school period would run between 6-8 weeks.
- Dr. Lawson extended thanks to Ms. Clark and Mr. Serra for their presentation on SB 75.

Florida State University Collaboration

- Dr. Lawson introduced Dr. Thomas Blomberg, Professor of Criminology at Florida State University, to present on the collaboration with Florida State University.
- Dr. Blomberg shared that the State of Florida went through a similar situation in the late 1980's that the State of Maryland is presently facing regarding juvenile justice education.
- Dr. Blomberg shared the State of Florida did not have a juvenile justice education system until 1994. At that time, there were about 12,000 students in detention or residential programs. Dr. Blomberg shared that number has gone down over time.
- Dr. Blomberg shared that a contract was established in 1998 under the name Juvenile Justice Program. Through this contract, four components were established to ensure the success of the program: quality assurance, technical assistance, research, and policy recommendations.
- The quality assurance component of the contract was critical in data collection, which Dr. Blomberg shared is available to the workgroup members.
- Dr. Blomberg highlighted that many of the challenges that the State of Maryland presently face regarding retention and hiring of quality JSES teachers existed in the State of Florida.
- Dr. Blomberg shared that among the components that were utilized were the use of technical assistance and literature reviews to gather information about present challenges to be able to make recommendations.
- Dr. Blomberg shared that research was a critical component to implementing juvenile services reform in the State of Florida, including data collection and reporting on retention and reintroduction rates.
- Dr. Blomberg shared that as a country and society we have been investigating and theorizing about the cause of crime for over 150 years and that each theory has proven inconclusive.
- Dr. Blomberg shared that the final function was to go before the Florida State Legislature to make policy recommendations and to engage legislators and stakeholders.
- Dr. Blomberg reiterated that what the State of Maryland is presently facing is being faced by states all across the country.
- Dr. Lawson shared with the work group that Dr. Blomberg has a clear passion for reform and for juvenile services education. Dr. Lawson shared that the work group is going to have to discuss what activities and services take place during the summertime for students.
- Ms. Shapiro asked if the work group would look at other models to consider in addition to the State of Florida. Dr. Lawson clarified that the work group would look at several models. Dr. Blomberg referenced other state models that were used in the State of Florida and would be available for the work group, including a model used by the State of Oregon.
- Ms. White asked about incorporating a special education component and whether or not the MOU between Montgomery County and the MSDE takes into account special education. Dr. Richardson shared that special education is a component of the MOU and would be strongly factored in to the decision-making process of the work group.
- Dr. Lawson shared that MSDE staff with focuses in special education can be made available to the work group to discuss special education issues.

- Ms. Shapiro asked how the partnership with Florida State University and the MSDE fits into the provisions in HB 1607.

Review Calendar to Establish Activities

- Dr. Lawson distributed the duties of the work group to the members for their review.
- Dr. Lawson suggested that the work group members visit the Noyes Center to view the on-site services provided.
- Dr. Lawson asked the work group members if the February 25, 2019, meeting can be at the Noyes Center in Rockville, MD. The work group members concur with the recommendation to visit the Noyes Center for the next meeting.
- Work group members agreed to modify the November date to accommodate time to prepare report for the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, and the State Board of Education.
- Dr. Lawson distributed the list of subcommittees as they relate to the charges of the work group. Dr. Lawson requested the assistance of Dr. Richardson to discuss the work group charges and the subgroups needed.
- Dr. Richardson shared that the four subgroups are: Research, Transition, Equity, and Operations.
- Ms. Shapiro asked if there are additional resources that can be utilized to serve on the subgroups. Dr. Lawson shared that MSDE staff will be made available to assist the subgroups.
- Dr. Lawson recommended to the work group members that Amalie Brandenburg, Deputy Superintendent of Finance, present to the work group regarding the HB 1607 funding formula, as well as the research department at the MSDE and at Florida State University.
- Dr. Richardson distributed sign-up sheets to the members to join the subgroups of their choice.
- Ms. White asked how many members will serve on each subgroup. Dr. Lawson clarified that no more than three members will serve on a subgroup.
- Dr. Richardson reiterated to the work group members they should do as Ms. Shapiro has suggested, and consider stakeholders and individuals to present to the workgroup.
- Ms. Shapiro asked if there would be time during the meeting for public comment. Dr. Lawson reiterated there would not be public comment during the meeting. Ms. Shapiro asked if time for public comment would be made available during subsequent meetings; Dr. Lawson stated time for public comment will not be added to further meetings.

Divide into Sub-Groups

- Dr. Lawson asked the members if they would like to divide into subgroups or discuss the calendar. The members elected to discuss the calendar.
- Dr. Blomberg stated that once the members of each subgroup were identified, a chair should be appointed for each subgroup.
- Mr. Cleary recommended having a final copy of the recommendations by the beginning of November.
- Ms. White stated that if the pilot program does not begin until July, the work group would not have much data available to make recommendations.
- Dr. Richardson stated that from her understanding of the legislation, the legislation and the recommendations are not fully dependent on the pilot.
- Dr. Blomberg stated that it is possible there could be multiple pilots and that one pilot may not be relevant to the other facilities within the State of Maryland.
- Dr. Lawson stated that the work group should move forward based on the legislation. Dr. Lawson stated that the General Assembly could provide the work group an extension, but in the meantime the work group should carry forward based on the legislation and the timeframe already established.

- Ms. Shapiro asked if there were procedural processes established within the work group. Dr. Lawson stated that the work group would hold votes as long as a quorum of work group members is present.
- Mr. Elliott Schoen, Office of the Attorney General, clarified for the members that someone should make a motion and ask for a second to specify the request, and that the motion could be voted on, as a quorum of members was present.

Ms. White motioned that the workgroup requests an extension from the Maryland General Assembly on the final submission deadline, but in the meantime continue under the current timeline.

Ms. Shapiro seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

A motion was made to ask the legislature for an extension.

The motion carried.

Subgroup Meetings

- Work group members discussed how subgroups should begin meeting and communicating.

Meeting Conclusion

- Dr. Lawson stated that information about the subgroups and meeting materials would be made available to the members unable to attend.
- Dr. Lawson reminded the workgroup that the next meeting will be at the Noyes Center, both to tour the facility and to formally meet.
- Dr. Lawson reiterated her preference that the work group abide by the existing calendar.
- Mr. Schoen recommended that the work group members treat their subgroup meetings as open meetings to allow members of the public to attend and to make information available to the public.
- Dr. Lawson thanked the work group members for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.