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ISSUE 11

A MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO THE HAPPENINGS AT MSDE

# THE MSDE PULSE

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

PREPARING WORLD CLASS STUDENTS

## Special points of interest >>>

- EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
- STATE BOARD ACTIONS
- MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD RECAP



DO YOU KNOW THESE  
INDIVIDUALS???

Please be on the lookout for these employees, they have been known for their extraordinary service by going above and beyond their job expectations, they have been seen in the building and out in the community helping their divisions and even other teams to accomplish some pretty amazing things.

These individuals are **WANTED** for the Employee of the Month program. If you have seen them or may possibly know their whereabouts, please contact the Office of Human Resources immediately so that we can recognize these individuals for the great work, deeds and accomplishments they have committed. Click link for nomination form >>>>

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!

MSDE is proud to announce our February 2018

Employee of the Month:

Kathleen Klein



Kathleen Klein, February 2018

Kathleen Klein is an **Administrative Officer III** in the MSDE Office of Human Resources, serving as the special assistant to the Human Resources Director. Kathy was nominated by her supervisor, Steve Serra.

**Below is a summary of the nomination submitted on Kathleen's behalf:**

Kathy Klein is an **exceptional** MSDE employee who continues to **perform at the highest levels**, works tirelessly in the best interests of the agency, and is always willing to pitch in for the good of the agency. Kathy is a **total team-player** with a **"can do" attitude** who willingly assumes additional duties and tasks whenever she is asked based on the strategic needs of the Office of Human Resources (OHR) and MSDE.

Kathy is a **role model** for professional behavior, and she is **extremely patient**, perceptive and emotionally intelligent. She routinely and carefully handles highly confidential information and data, sharing it only on a need to know basis, with our customers and within OHR. She handles a large variety of administrative details with ease, and she often assists the other managers and professional staff in refining and editing documents.

As the primary OHR communications resource for OHR, **Kathy is commended for designing and implementing the OHR Google Site**. This resource has been exceptional in terms of HR communications to ensure employees understand the roles of staff in the office, and to ensure that policies, procedures and forms

are readily available, and emergency information is highly accessible.

As a member of the Standing Committee on Employee Appreciation, Rewards and Recognition, **she contributes her time and efforts toward a variety of initiatives**. In addition to assisting with the Winter Wonderland Holiday Luncheons and other activities, she is instrumental in planning for the Annual Employee Service Awards.

In closing, Kathy Klein **truly epitomizes what it means to be an exceptional employee** and is completely deserving of this recognition as the Employee of the Month. She is an asset to the Office of Human Resources and MSDE.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR EMPLOYEE NOMINATION FORM](#)

# State Board Meeting Actions: January 30, 2018



## **The following actions were taken at the January 30, 2018 State Board of Education meeting:**

- 2017-2018 Identification of “Comprehensive Needs” Schools for Purpose of Awarding Quality Teacher Stipends.
- Recognized Ms. Debra O’Byrne as Maryland Secondary School Assistant Principal of the Year for 2017.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland. These amendments replace the science assessment for HSA biology, removes cut scores, and clarifies language throughout.
- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.03.04 Test Administration and Data-Reporting Policies and Procedures. The proposed amendments (1) clarify that “local school system” includes special schools and nonpublic schools that use tests administered on behalf of the State Board of Education; (2) prohibits the use of electronic devices (unless used for testing or administrative purposes) in testing rooms during testing; and (3) clarifies that local school systems must designate a Local Accountability Coordinator and a School Test Coordinator and outlines general duties of each.
- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.12.01.04 Options for Obtaining Initial Maryland Certification. The proposed amendments provide both a direct pathway for initial certification for those individuals who have achieved National Board Certification as well as those content experts seeking an adjunct teacher certification.
- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.12.01.05 General Requirements for Professional Certificates. The proposed amendments allow those individuals seeking certification who do not hold a bachelor’s degree (i.e., specialized professional areas and professional technical education candidates) to have the ability to present credit bearing coursework to fulfill the basic skills requirements in lieu of an assessment.
- Granted permission to publish new regulations under COMAR 13A.12.01.08-1 Adjunct Certificate. The proposed new regulatory language provides local education agencies the ability to request an adjunct certificate for individuals with highly special-

ized content expertise (e.g., engineers, physicists, medical providers, artists) who are interested in teaching on a part-time basis, in the classroom as a teacher of record.

- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.12.03.04 Pupil Personnel Worker. The proposed amendments allows pupil personnel candidates the ability to use their experience as a specialists (e.g., school counseling, social worker) in lieu of teaching experience.
- Requests from Local School Systems for School Calendar Modifications:
  - Approved the conditional waiver to open school on February 19, 2018, President’s Day for Caroline County Public Schools, if needed for the 2017-2018 school year;
  - Approved the conditional waiver to open school on February 19, 2018, President’s Day for Dorchester County Public Schools, if needed for the 2017-2018 school year;
  - Approved the conditional waiver to open school on February 19, 2018, President’s Day, and April 2, 2018, the Monday after Easter, for Saint Mary’s County Public Schools, if needed for the 2017-2018 school year;
  - Approved the conditional waiver to open school on February 19, 2018, President’s Day for Talbot County Public Schools, if needed for the 2017-2018 school year;
  - Approved the conditional waiver to open schools on February 19, 2018, President’s Day, for Wicomico County Public Schools as a snow make-up day, if needed, for the 2017-2018 school year;
  - Denied the request from Wicomico County for a two-day waiver of the 180-day instructional day requirement for the 2017-2018 school year; and
  - Granted authority to the State Superintendent to approve requests received from LEAs to open school on February 19, 2018, President’s Day, as a snow make-up day, if needed.

## **Meeting materials, Opinions, and Order can be found at:**

[http://  
marylandpublicschools.org/  
stateboard/Pages/default.aspx](http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default.aspx)

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days notice prior to the event is required.

Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.

## **The following Opinions were rendered:**

- *Allen v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – school transfer – Opinion No. 18-01*
- *McRae v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – pay – Opinion No. 18-02*
- *Rodney & Rosi P. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – admission to highly gifted center – Opinion No. 18-03*
- *Torres v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – non-renewal – Opinion No. 18-04*
- *William & Darda W. v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – early entry into kindergarten – Opinion No. 18-05*

# Strengthening Education in Maryland

## MSDE's Accomplishment Highlights

### School Facilities

## CONSTRUCTING BETTER SCHOOLS

The School Facilities Branch is responsible for developing guidelines and standards for the planning, construction, and maintenance of school facilities. This branch provides leadership and technical assistance to Maryland's 24 school systems and the Maryland School for the Blind with regard to long-range facility planning; capital improvement program development; educational

- **Nonpublic Aging Schools Program** – Coordinated the allocation of \$3.5 million to 180 nonpublic schools through the Interagency Committee on School Construction from the fiscal year 2017 capital budget, approved by Interagency Committee on School Construction on February 15, 2017 and by the Board of Public Works on March 22, 2017.
- **State and locally-funded projects** – Completed planning and design reviews of 32 school construction project submissions on behalf of the State Superintendent of Schools and/or the Interagency Committee on School Construction.
- **Work Control System** – Responded on behalf of the Governor to 16 citizens with concerns related to school facilities.
- **County Library Capital Grants Program** – Participated in review of applications for FY18 grants with the Division of Library Development and Services.
- **Environment** – Began working with the Maryland Department of the Environment on implementation of HB270 -2017, Testing for Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools.
- **Local Facilities Planners Meeting** – Coordinated a half – day meeting for all local facilities planners with the Public School Construction Program.
- **Sustainable Schools Framework** – Pillar 1 Workshop - Coordinated a half-day seminar for local facilities planners and environmental education coordinators with Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) and Montgomery County Public Schools
- **Association of School Business Officials** – Maryland & District of Columbia Chapter – Participated in the one-day Fundamentals of Facilities Management workshop and attended the Spring Conference.
- **2017 Green Schools Youth Summit (MAEOE)** - Presented to students at the Environmental Literacy and Green Jobs Fair about school architecture and careers in government.



2017 Green Schools Youth Summit (MAEOE)

# Congratulations Allison Felton •

## Maryland's 2017-2018 Milken Educator Awardee



Allison Felton, an algebra teacher at Annapolis High School in Anne Arundel County, last month was named the surprise recipient of a prestigious 2017-18 Milken National Educator Award. Felton is the only Maryland educator to receive a Milken honor this year, and one of only 44 in the nation. Governor Larry Hogan and State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon attended the award ceremony and were there to personally congratulate Allison on her tremendous achievements!



At Annapolis High School, Felton is known for doing whatever it takes to help students succeed in math. Felton was hand-picked to work with ninth-graders on the Early Warning Indicator list, which includes students who struggle with attendance, behavior, and grades. Despite their struggles in other classes at the high-needs, highly diverse school, students have thrived in and passed Felton's Algebra I class. Even students who lack confidence in their math skills have said they will succeed with Felton as their teacher.

More information about Felton, plus links to photos and a video, can be found on the Milken Educator Awards website at <http://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/educators/view/Allison-Felton>.



# MSDE CLASSIFIEDS

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Say Hello >>>

**Who's new to MSDE? Check back each month for an updated list!**

**Tara Bartosz**, Staff Specialist II (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Adele Bealefeld**, Administrative Officer I (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Angelia Bell**, Office Secretary II (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Shannon Blair**, Teacher Academic (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Leigh Dalton**, Education Program Supervisor (Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services)

**Alexandra Fortune**, Office Secretary II (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Jay Gillen**, Academic Teacher (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Laura Hicks**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Curriculum, Research, Assessment and Accountability)

**Courney Kaufman**, Office Secretary II (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Timothy Kelly**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region I/Frederick Office)

**Stefanie Lavin**, Education Program Specialist II (Division of Educator Effectiveness)

**Jenna Meinl**, Agency Procurement Specialist Supervisor (Division of Business Services)

**Jennifer Nizer**, Program Manager Senior II (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Ashley Novak**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region I/Westminster)

**Nafasit Olusekan**, Staff Specialist III (Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs)

**Amy Quinn**, Instructional Assistant (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Jennifer Ralston**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Curriculum, Research, Assessment and Accountability)

**Erik Roskes**, Physician Program Specialist (MSDE/Disability Determination Services)

**JoAnn Schoolfield**, Office Processing Clerk I (Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services)

**Andrew Williams**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II (MSDE/Disability Determination Services)

**Leo Yates**, Staff Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Workforce & Technology Center)



## CUSTOMER SERVICE CORNER

### Customer Service Heroes!

#### Stephanie Jones

**Department of Information Technology**

*"I've had several laptops that needed service updates to all. Ms. Stephanie R. Jones in IT has been nothing but extraordinary, professional, informative and prompt which made my job a lot easier. I Thank you Ms. Jones. You're the real MVP!!"*

#### Maurice Chase

**Department of Rehabilitation Services**

*"I am an RN Care Manager and attended the first session at DORS with my client. Maurice Chase assisted us and I was highly impressed with his professionalism and warmth to my client. It was a joy to experience Maurice and his positive outlook."*

#### Division of Career and College Readiness

*"The Division College and Career Readiness at MSDE is always very efficient and willing to promote Career and Technology Education programs in order to make sure that all of our students have the opportunity to be college and career ready. Their guidance and professionalism is always commendable."*

### Best Wishes! >>>

**Sharing staff members that have recently retired! Best Wishes!**

**Vanessa Allen**, Office Secretary III (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Salisbury Office)

**Teresa Judy**, Teacher Lead (Juvenile Service Education Program)

**Christina Salla**, Office Clerk II (MSDE/Disability Determination Services)

**Teresa Williams**, Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Specialist (MSDE/DORS/Region III/Gaslight Office)