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VOLUME 1
ISSUE 12

A MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO THE HAPPENINGS AT MSDE

THE MSDE PULSE

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

PREPARING WORLD CLASS STUDENTS

Special points of interest >>>

- WE NEED YOUR HELP!
- STATE BOARD ACTIONS & ORDERS
- CELEBRATING STUDENT ART
- AWARD WINNING MSDE EMPLOYEES

Call for Volunteers!

Best of Maryland Arts
Education Festival

Volunteers Needed

Greeters, presentation hosts and information table volunteers needed!

Sign up for 4-hour shifts
Meals provided!
Free event T-shirt!
Support arts education!

The arts are critical for the prosperity of the state of Maryland. Art is essential to the fabric of communities, the economic vitality of the state, and to the success of Maryland businesses. The Best of Maryland Arts Education Festival celebrates the impact of arts education throughout the State of Maryland.

Sign up today on: www.bestofmdartsed.org

One-day festival featuring performances, workshops and presentations at host sites in Baltimore's Mount Vernon area.
Friday, April 20, 2018
11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mount Vernon, downtown Baltimore
**Perform at Center Stage, Walters Art Museum, Peabody Conservatory and more!

The Best of Maryland Arts Education Festival celebrates the impact of arts education. On April 20, 2018, select solo artists and small ensembles from all 24 Maryland school districts will present performances and artwork in historic Mt. Vernon in Downtown Baltimore for the day!

We are currently seeking volunteers! Help support a statewide celebration of arts education--JOIN US!

Sign up TODAY at
<https://www.bestofmdartsed.com/>

ATTENTION MSDE EMPLOYEES

Do You Know These Individuals???



This could be you!

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. They have several aliases such as: "the role-model," "the leader," "the team-player" and some have even referred to them as "the dependable ones." 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.

Please consider submitting a nomination for one of your employees or colleagues! Nominations are being accepted now!

The MSDE Employee of the Month (EOM) Program was launched in 2017 to recognize employees who have made significant contributions or demonstrated exemplary achievements.

Such As:

- Extraordinary Service – excellent performance going above and beyond job expectations;
- Distinguished deed;
- Makes a difference to MSDE, its customers and/or to members of the community;
- Excels as a team player;
- Innovative problem solving; and/or
- Role model for advancing the goals and mission of MSDE.

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

State Board Meeting Actions: February and March, 2018



The following actions were taken at the February 27, 2018 State Board of Education meeting:

- Granted permission to publish the promulgation of new COMAR 13A.12.01.08-1 Adjunct Certificate, with clarifying language that the Adjunct Certificate can only be issued to a part-time employee and that the local school system provide either side-by-side coaching or co-teaching with a professional certificated teacher.
- Granted permission to adopt proposed amendments to COMAR 13A.07.08 Incentive Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards (NBPTS) to align with NBPTS requirements and clarify existing language in the following sections: .02 Definitions, .03 Eligibility Criteria, .04 Selection Procedure, and .06 Costs.
- Granted approval of a request from Baltimore City Public Schools to open schools on the Monday after Easter (April 2nd) as an inclement weather make-up day for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Granted approval of the following recommendations and next steps related to findings of the Prince Georges County Public Schools (PGCPS) Independent Audit to include:
 - ⇒ Request that PGCPS provide a monthly progress report on the milestones in the Corrective Action Plan. The monthly report should include changes made in protocols, process, and procedures and how these changes promote a culture of compliance in PGCPS.
 - ⇒ Request that PGCPS respond to the questions raised by the State Board that were not previously addressed and those posed in MSDE's analysis of the audit findings.
 - ⇒ The MSDE will dedicate a full-time employee, over the course of the year to monitor PGCPS' implementation of and compliance with the Corrective Action Plan, as well as its grade changing and student attendance policies as they relate to earning a Maryland high school diploma. The monitor's role will include a review of the internal random audits conducted by PGCPS to check for the scope, integrity, and results of each audit.
 - ⇒ An additional independent third-party audit conducted once PGCPS has completed the implementation of the Corrective Action Plan.

The following Opinions were rendered:

- *Sepeideh K. and Paul C. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – school transfer – Opinion No. 18-06 – affirmed decision of local board*
- *Susan Ballinger v. St Mary's County Board of Education – teacher termination – Order No. OR 18-01 – dismissed for untimeliness*
- *Lee Thomassen v. Baltimore County Board of Education (II) – violation of GINA – Order No. OR 18-02 – affirmed decision of local board*

The following actions were taken at the March 20, 2018 State Board of Education meeting:

- Granted permission to publish the promulgation of new COMAR 13A.07.11 Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training. Legislation was enacted that requires all certificated school personnel who have direct contact with students on a regular basis to complete training, on or before December 1 of each year, in: (1) understanding and responding to suicide risk; and (2) identifying professional resources to help students in crisis. The method would be determined by the local county board and is required to be delivered during an in-service program or professional development. The regulation also states that training cannot be construed to impose a duty of care on the certified school personnel who complete training. Further, a person cannot bring action against a county board for injury or wrongful death caused by an act resulting from lack of training or implementation of training. The proposed regulations under this new chapter include the language as required in the legislation. It also requires that the annual training for certificated school personnel include understanding and responding to student mental health, student trauma, student safety, and other topics related to student social and emotional well-being.
- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.08.01.11 Disciplinary Actions – Suspension and Expulsion. This regulation came before the State Board in December for permission to publish. Following a question from a local school system, a clarification has been added to the regulation. The local school system requested guidance on the phrase “not more than 5 school days” and its meaning.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) was asked if the phrase meant not more than 5 cumulative school days in a school year or if the 5 school days referred to each incident. The language in the regulation has been revised to state that a student could be suspended for up to “five school days per incident” if there was an imminent threat of serious harm to other students or staff that could not be reduced or eliminated through interventions and supports.

- Denied the request from Baltimore City Public Schools for a one-day waiver of the 180-day instructional day requirement for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Approved a request from Chesapeake Public Charter School in St. Mary's County to open for pupil attendance prior to Labor Day for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Approved a request from The SEED School of Maryland to use State holidays, April 2, 2018 (the Monday after Easter) and May 28, 2018 (Memorial Day), as inclement weather make-up days for the 2017-2018 school year, if needed.

The following Opinions were rendered:

- *Bash Pharoan v. Baltimore County Board of Education (II) – 2018-19 School calendar – Opinion No. 18-07*
- *Cindy Rose v. Frederick County Board of Education – PARCC refusal policy – Opinion No. 18-08*
- *M.S. v. Prince George's County Board of Education – expulsion – Opinion No. 18-09*
- *T.G. v. Prince George's County Board of Education – student expulsion – Opinion No. 18-10*
- *Veronica H. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – student suspension – Opinion No. 18-11*
- *Teresa P. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – student expulsion – Opinion No. 18-12*
- *Jonathan Wrublewski v. Charles County Board of Education – teacher termination/ timeliness issues – Opinion No. 18-13*

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7th Floor Board Room, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

Strengthening Education in Maryland

MSDE's Accomplishment Highlights

Division of Business Services

STRENGTH THROUGH WISE, EFFICIENT STEWARDSHIP

The Division of Business Services is responsible for developing and implementing agency administrative and financial policies, procedures and systems. This includes budget, accounting, administrative services, and financial reporting and coordination. The division also includes local financial reporting, and administers the nonpublic Textbook Program, Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program (BOOST), and co-administers the Nonpublic Aging Schools Program with the Public School Construction Program. With a focus on efficiency, the Business Services Division of MSDE is at the forefront of developing new ways to make sure every-day tasks at MSDE are able to run as smoothly as possible.

- The Accounting Branch completed the conversion of a certain accounting form and process from paper format to electronic format. The form is used agency-wide for recording and depositing funds received. Auditors expect that MSDE staff can locate each of these forms that is in circulation at any time, which was difficult with a paper system. The new electronic system should prevent future audit findings in this area.
- The Budget Branch is using a new technology to track and collaborate on the budget development process for Fiscal 2019. The budget development process involves hundreds of steps and this technology makes it easier for each staff member to know the status of the team's work. It also helps ensure that steps are not missed or duplicated.
- New software has been configured for the BOOST (Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship application. The software is expected to improve efficiency of the overall program and it should improve the application experience for parents. Configuration efforts will now turn to developing a portal for nonpublic schools to certify their BOOST participation and provide data for reporting requirements.
- Coordination of the Nonpublic Textbook Program has improved in the last year to the extent that several external people have submitted very positive comments about it in the Governor's Office customer experience survey.

BROADENING OPTIONS + OPPORTUNITES

“This innovative program, forged through bipartisan cooperation, offers expanded options and opportunities for Maryland families and students.”

- MARYLAND GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN,
announcing the 2017-18 BOOST program.



First Lady Hogan's Spring Student Artwork Exhibition

First Lady Yumi Hogan once again hosted a variety of talented student artists at the House of Delegates Gallery Space in Annapolis last Monday as part of the First Lady's Spring Student Art Exhibition. All in all, 36 elementary, middle and high school students from across Maryland participated in the event. During the opening reception for the exhibition, these student artists were recognized for their tremendous talents and achievements in fine arts, and an award ceremony was held for each student that received a first place entry in their school level.



The event attracted scores of artists, educators and dignitaries, including State Superintendent Dr. Salmon, who met with students and praised their talents, while sharing how important arts education in schools truly is. Students were also treated to encouraging and uplifting remarks from MSDE's new Coordinator of Fine Arts, Alysia Lee!

Maryland's First Lady, Yumi Hogan is an accomplished artist and advocate herself, and holds these events regularly as a way of not only drawing attention to the importance of art education, but as a way to elevate art and art education programs throughout the state.



MSDE's Award Winning Staff

Congratulations Kelly Manley and Annette Jackson!



Recently, two MSDE employees were publicly recognized for the passion, hard work and dedication that they each bring to their jobs each and every day. These characteristics make a difference not only behind the scenes at MSDE, but also in our communities. These two award-winning staff members are Kelly Manley (**left**) Office of Communications, Partnerships and Ombudsman, and Annette Jackson (**right**) Division of Student Family and School Support.

Kelly, a Management Associate, was given the distinguished title of 2017 Coordinator of the Year for the roll she played as primary coordinator for the 2017 Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC). Kelly was presented with this award at the MCC Coordinator Thank You Luncheon by Kathleen Smith, Assistant Secretary of State for Charities & Legal Services. Kelly's organization, leadership and positive attitude allowed MSDE to meet and exceed our 2017 fundraising goal! Go Kelly!

Annette, Extended Learning Specialist, was presented with the honor of the Community Champion Award from the Latin American Youth Center -Maryland Multicultural Youth Center (LAYC/MMYC) in Prince George's County. She was chosen for this award for the contributions she has made toward the success of the Latin American Youth Center. Annette was awarded the honor during a ceremony for Martin Luther King Jr. where students showcased their talents and staff and administrators participated. Annette says it was both a rewarding and humbling experience, and she was happy to represent the Maryland State Department of Education! Congratulations, Annette!



MSDE's Connections Summit

Register to attend beginning in April!

RESEARCH + POLICY + PRACTICE

MSDE, in partnership with Mid-Atlantic Regional Education Laboratory, is hosting the 2018 Maryland Connections Summit June 6-7, 2018 at the [West Village Commons](#) at Towson University. This summit brings together education professionals from across Maryland to highlight the vital role data plays in education decision making. Participants will hear from local, state, and national leaders on ways to bridge data, research, policy, and practice.

This two-day event (held June 6-7, 2018) provides an opportunity to share implementation experiences, research, and local initiatives that lead to positive student outcomes. The Connections Summit provides a forum for Maryland local school systems to showcase and share best practices, most current research and local initiatives. There is no fee to attend this summit. Anyone involved in education data, research, or data/research-driven decision making—from pre-K through postsecondary-- should attend! Participants will find sessions to enhance their skills and knowledge. Please register yourself, or spread the word! For more information on date, time, locations and themes visit >>> marylandpublicschools.org/connectsummit2018

Information about sessions and schedules will be updated regularly, so check the website often or follow @MdPublicSchools on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! Don't forget to tag MSDE in your social media posts about the summit or use #MSDESummit2018 #MSDEData #ConnectionsSummit #EdDataWorks

MSDE CLASSIFIEDS

WHAT'S NEW?

Say Hello >>>

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

John Kum Akab-A-Sei, Resource Teacher
(Juvenile Services Education Program)

Lesley Beavers, Education Program Specialist
I (Division of Curriculum, Research,
Assessment and Accountability)

Vicky Ciulla, Education Program Specialist II
(Division of Special Education/Early
Intervention Services)

Lisa Cook, Education Program Specialist I
(Division of Special Education/Early
Intervention Services)

Myka Frantroy, Office Secretary III (MSDE/
DORS/Region III/Eastern Baltimore County)

Matthew Frizzell, Education Program
Specialist I (Division of Curriculum, Research,
Assessment and Accountability)

Tanisha Gilmine, Office Secretary III (MSDE/
DORS/Region VI/Lanham Office)

Paula Gonce, Education Program Specialist I
(Division of Special Education/Early
Intervention Services)

Jennifer Hager, Office Secretary III (Juvenile
Services Education Program)

Christopher House, Jr., Vocational
Rehabilitation Specialist II MSDE/DORS/
Region V/Owings Mills Office

Brandi Johnson, Administrative Aide (MSDE/
DORS/Workforce Technology Center/
Workforce Services)

Karen Larenas, Education Program Specialist
I (Division of Special Education/Early
Intervention Services)

Alysia D. Lee, Education Program Supervisor
(Division of Curriculum, Research, Assessment
and Accountability)

Debra Rausch, Education Program Specialist I
(Division of Special Education/Early
Intervention Services)

Tanisha Robinson, Vocational Rehabilitation
Specialist II (MSDE/Region V/Columbia
Office)

Khalilah Samuel, Child Care Licensing
Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood
Development)

Argenia Stewart, Agency Grants Specialist
(Division of Early Childhood Development)



CUSTOMER SERVICE CORNER

Customer Service Heroes!

Tanisha Brown

Division of Educator Effectiveness

"Tanisha Brown handled a complicated certification request for my teacher quickly and with the least amount of hassle on my part. I'm very grateful."

Diana Hegmann

*Division of Career and College
Readiness*

"Diana is an excellent advisor for the CTSO programs in Maryland. She is organized, efficient, and professional!"

Angela Holocker

*Assistant State Superintendent
Curriculum, Research, Assessment, and
Accountability*

"Angie Holocker is unlike any assistant superintendent I've dealt with in other state depts. of ed. She is honest, upfront, and tells it like it is. She listens, asks questions, and spends the time to understand the issue. She is responsive and truly has students, not department politics, as her priority."

Best Wishes! >>>

Sharing staff members that have recently retired! Best Wishes!

Mir Ali, Vocational Rehabilitation Technical
Specialist (Disability Determination
Services)

Kathy Setaro, Office Secretary III (MSDE/
DORS/Workforce Technology Center)

Debra Brown, Child Care Licensing Specialist
(Division of Early Childhood Development)