

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday
January 29, 2018
Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education held an information session on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Andrew R. Smarick, President; Dr. Chester E. Finn, Jr., Vice President; Dr. Michele Jenkins Guyton; Dr. Justin M. Hartings; Ms. Stephanie R. Iszard; Dr. Rose Maria Li; Dr. David Steiner; and Dr. Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Michael Phillips and student Board member Mr. Kyle J. Smith were not in attendance.

The following staff members were present: Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General; Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning; Kristy Michel, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Finance and Administration; Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of School Effectiveness; and Dr. Miya T. Simpson, Executive Director, Office of the State Board.

President Smarick called the meeting to order.

OVERVIEW OF MARYLAND LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM (MLDS)

(Presenter: Ross Goldstein, Executive Director, MLDS)

Mr. Goldstein provided an overview of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS), which was established by State law in 2010. The MLDS Center (MLDSC) began operations as an independent unit of State Government in 2013. The purpose of the MLDS is to generate timely and accurate information about student performance that can be used to improve the State's education system and guide decision makers at all levels. The MLDS collects and organizes individual-level student and workforce data from all levels of education and the State's workforce.

Board members inquired about the ability of the MLDSC to track Bridge outcomes, the type of data that can be requested and for what period(s) of time, the privacy laws and protocols that govern sharing data with the MLDSC for an analysis of post-secondary outcomes, and the timeline for data collection and analysis.

Dr. Salmon said she would work on gathering this information and follow up with the Board.

ACTION: None. For information only.

BALITMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

(Presenter: Robert Gorrell, Executive Director, Public School Construction Program)

Mr. Gorrell provided an overview of the Public School Construction Program and the Interagency Committee (IAC) on School Construction. Board members raised questions regarding funding for school facilities in general, and more specifically for Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS). Mr. Gorrell explained that funding is based on a per pupil square footage funding formula throughout the state, with the exception of BCPS and its 21st Century School Facilities Program, which allocates more square footage per pupil. Mr. Gorrell acknowledged that many facilities in BCPS are in need of improvements and noted challenges related to delays and forward funding of projects.

Board members also inquired about the State Board's role in the upkeep of facilities. Assistant Attorney General Kameen explained that the Board of Public Works (BPW), along with the IAC, has general authority and that the State Board has no authority to regulate in the facilities arena.

In response to questions about what support(s) the State Board and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) could provide, Mr. Gorrell suggested developing guidelines for LEAs regarding the baseline needed for student learning (e.g., facilities, square footage, resources, etc.).

Board members recommended inviting Dr. Sonja Santelises, Chief Executive Officer of BCPS, and members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to a future meeting for further discussion related to BCPS facilities.

ACTION: None. For information only.

2017 KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT (KRA) DATA RELEASE

(Presenter: Mr. Steven Hicks, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Development)

Mr. Hicks provided a briefing on the state and district overall and disaggregate 2017 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Results. The KRA is a developmentally appropriate assessment tool that measures the school readiness of incoming public school kindergarteners across four learning domains: social foundations, language literacy, mathematics, and physical well-being & motor development. The assessment is administered by kindergarten teachers at the start of each school year and looks at knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary to be successful in kindergarten. All 24 LEAs administered the KRA either by census (12), limited census (5), or sample (7).

Mr. Hicks reported that 45% of Maryland kindergarteners demonstrate readiness (up from 43% in 2016-2017), with 37% and 18% in the approaching and emerging readiness categories. Readiness across the four domains indicate: Social Foundations – 54%; Language and Literacy – 40%; Mathematics – 37%; Physical Well-Being and Motor Development – 56%. (A copy of the full report is available at:
<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Documents/01292018/>)

Board members inquired about the purpose and history of the *approaching* and *emerging* terminology and expressed concerns about what it really means and conveys to parents/families. Board members also requested data on the Judy Centers to assess how they compare and if they are doing any good.

President Smarick asked what the Board can do and requested having another KRA presentation in the future that would include specific recommendations for the Board's consideration.

ACTION: None. For information only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(1)&(7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Dr. Steiner and seconded by Dr. Li, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, January 29, 2018 in Conference Room #1, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present except Mr. Michael Phillips and Mr. Kyle Smith. The following staff members were in attendance: Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Chief Performance Officer, Dr. Carol Williamson, Chief Academic Officer, Kristy Michel, Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Miya Simpson, Executive Director, Office of the State Board and Assistant Attorney General, Elizabeth Kameen. The Executive Session commenced at 12:15 p.m.

The Board received legal advice in response to the Prince George's County Public Schools Corrective Action Plan.

The Executive Session ended at 12:30 p.m.

COMPUTER SCIENCE NATIONAL STANDARDS

(Presenter: Dr. Lynne Gilli, Assistant State Superintendent, Career and College Readiness; Dr. Angela Holocker, Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Research, Assessment, and Accountability)

Dr. Gilli and Dr. Holocker presented an overview of the K-12 Computer Science Framework and Standards. The framework includes the following core concepts and practices:

5 core concepts

- Computing Systems
- Networks and the Internet
- Data and Analysis
- Algorithms and Programming
- Impacts of Computing

7 Practices

- Fostering an Inclusive Computing Culture
- Collaborating around Computing
- Recognizing and Defining Computational Problems

- Developing and Using Abstractions
- Creating Computational Artifacts
- Testing and Refining Computational Artifacts
- Communicating about Computing

Presenters outlined the next steps in this work, to include: convening a K12 Design Team; review, adopt and/or adapt Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Standards, with an emphasis on cyber security and a focus on Maryland's workforce and economic development needs; working with local school systems on implementation of the standards; and supporting the Governor's Partnership for K-12 Computer Science.

Board members discussed the availability and preparation/training for computer science teachers, as well as the need to consider developing a technology policy(ies) and determining what is appropriate at what ages. The department was asked to provide a future presentation to the Board on the status of the standards and technology policy(ies) and provide recommendations for the Board's consideration.

ACTION: None. For information only.

GRANTS UPDATE

(Presenter: Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Student, Family, and School Support; Cecelia Rowe, Director of Instructional Assessment and Professional Development; Susan Spinnato, Director of Instructional Programs)

Ms. Gable provided an update on the recent Charter Schools Program grant award. The initial award is \$5,490,859 for a 2-year period (October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019). The total award is \$17,222,222 over five years through September 30, 2022. The grant will enable Maryland to 1) support the startup, expansion, and replication of public charter schools and 2) promote quality through technical assistance activities for charter school applicants and local school systems. Ms. Gable shared the subgrant process, implementation timeline, and monitoring activity. Board members expressed interest in encouraging and supporting entrepreneurial applications.

Ms. Rowe provided information on Maryland's *Federal Striving Readers' Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) Grant* award, which will aid in advancing literacy skills for all children from birth through grade 12 and will provide an alignment of state literacy plans. Maryland's plan places special emphasis on disadvantaged children, including children living in poverty, English learners, and children with disabilities. Maryland has been awarded \$45 million over three years. Ms. Rowe reviewed the grant requirements, components of the application components for LEAs, and the application timeline.

Ms. Spinnato provided an update on the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act grant awarded to the MSDE in September, 2017. The 5-year grant award totals \$1,597,938 and will enable Maryland to 1) create and populate the online Maryland Gifted and Talented Education Portal, *Gateway to GT Education* and 2) research and develop an equitable state policy and

supporting guidelines for identification of gifted and talented students. Ms. Spinnato reviewed the status of the grant and provided an overview of the implementation plan and timeline.

ACTION: None. For information only.

SOCIAL STUDIES

(Presenter: Bruce Lesh, Director, Social Studies, Science, and Disciplinary Literacy)

Mr. Lesh provided an update on social studies assessments in high school American Government and eighth grade United States History and explained that while assessment options vary by LEA, all give common district-wide benchmarks and a final. Mr. Lesh also responded to questions raised by Board members regarding the impact of the testing cap on U.S. History testing, noting that the testing cap has impacted testing and that several LEAs are no longer administering pre-assessments in social studies and have shortened the length of the assessments.

Mr. Lesh also shared that a review of the current six social studies standards will be done during the summer of 2018.

ACTION: None. For information only.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: February 27, 2018

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented and actions taken during the meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education. The audio recordings of the meetings are the official record of the meetings and can be located at:

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2017.aspx>