

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201**

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD**

**March 1, 2018  
Minutes**

The 422<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) was held at the Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 on March 1, 2018. Dr. Alyssia James called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**The following members were in attendance:** Dr. Mae Alfree, Ms. Jennifer Berkley, Ms. Linda Chinnia, Mr. Charles Hagan, Dr. Kandace Hoppin, Mr. Darren Hornbeck, Dr. Alyssia James, Ms. Maleeta Kitchen, Mr. Christopher Lloyd, Dr. John Mayo, Dr. Kristine McGee, Ms. Kelli Midgley, Ms. Debra Poese, Ms. Karen Saar, Ms. Sandra Skordalos, Ms. Sarah Spross, and Ms. Geralda Thompson.

**The following members were absent:** Mr. Peter Baily and Christopher Lloyd.

**The following Maryland State Department of Education staff members were present:**

Alex Cambra, Stefanie Lavin, Syreeta Warren-Green, Ms. Ruth Downs (Recorder), and Mr. Derek Simonsen, Esq., Attorney General's Office.

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**Recognition of Guests**

Ms. Tina Dove, MSEA

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval of Proposed Agenda Items for April**

- Approval of Minutes
- State Board Update/Legislative Update
- Regulations as necessary
- Look at COMAR Regulations

Dr. James gave a brief update on the difference issues that she, Ms. Spross and Mr. Derek Simonsen have been dealing with during the legislative session. She stated that she thinks that the Board should start to review the COMAR regulations that have to do with education, to get a better understanding of them.

Dr. James entertained a motion that before approving the April Agenda to allow MSDE some time to be able to come back to the Board with a structure in regards to opposing how the Board goes about dealing with the COMAR regulations and any flexibility MSDE would need to do in regards to the next time.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Debra Poese/Ms. Jennifer Berkley to approve the items for the next meeting that are on the agenda and allow some flexibility for MSDE.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**Approval of February Minutes**

There were no minutes to be approved.

**PERMISSION TO PUBLISH:**

COMAR 13A.12.02.01 Purpose (AMEND)

COMAR 13A.12.02.05 Middle School (AMENDED)

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this item is to request permission to publish the promulgation of new Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) 13A.12.02.01 *Purpose* (Attachment 1) and 13A.12.02.05 *Middle School* (Attachment II). These changes are necessary to align the sections of each regulation with COMAR 13A.12.01.04 *Options to Certification*, which both the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board and the State Board of Education recently approved for publication.

**Summary:**

The current regulations (COMAR) 13A.12.02.01 *Purpose* and 13A.12.02.05 *Middle School* will require an amendment if the proposed changes to COMAR 13A.12.01.04 *Options to Certification* are approved for adoption.

**Action:**

Request permission to publish the promulgation for new Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.12.02.01 *Purpose* and 13A.12.02.05 *Middle School*.

Dr. James entertained a motion to approve COMAR 13A.12.02.01 (*Purpose*) and COMAR 13A.12.02.05 (*Middle School*) to be published.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Charles Hagan/Dr. Kandace Hoppin to accept the proposed regulatory changes to COMAR 13A.12.02.01 and COMAR 13A.12.02.05

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**DISCUSSION**

**State Board**

In Dr. Miya Simpson presented a summary of February 27th State Board Meeting. **The following items were presented:**

**FOR ACTION:**

➤ **Regulations**

- 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: .0s Definitions, .03 Eligibility Criteria, .04 Selection Procedure, and .06 Costs.

➤ **Calendar Waiver Requests**

- Granted approval of a request from Baltimore City Public Schools to open schools on the Monday after Easter (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) as an inclement weather make-up day for 2017-2018 school year.

- Granted approval of Garrett County Public Schools' Calendar Waiver Application requesting to open for pupil attendance prior to Labor Day for 2018-2019 school year.

#### **FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

- **Bridge Accountability Recommendations**
  - Information regarding data collection, data analysis, and accountability for Bridge projects, and MSDE's recommendations in those three areas.
- **ESSA Implementation and Timeline**
  - Update on the timeline to share information and gather recommendations from the State Board on the implementation of Maryland's Draft Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSAS) Consolidated State Plan, and a review of the draft Report Card format.
- **Building a High-Quality Early Childhood Education System in Maryland**
  - An overview of research on quality elements in early childhood education and how Maryland's program fare, Maryland's unique birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade governance structure and its implications, and early learning initiatives at the Division of Early Childhood Development.
- **State Superintendent Report**
  - *Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)*
    - Update on the MCAP, which is designed to gather information that helps Maryland schools strengthen instruction and improve student performance so that graduates are ready to move into the workforce or a postsecondary institution.
  - *Judy Centers*
    - Overview of the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Family Education Centers and the range of services provided for children age birth through Kindergarten.
  - *Intra-district Choice Policies*
    - Information on the number of requested intra-district student transfers as compared to the number of State Board appeals related to these transfers.
  - *Local Grading Policies - Analysis*
    - Review of local grading policies regarding grade changes, numerical value of a failing grade, impact of attendance on grades, and grade appeals by parent/guardian.
  - *Prince George's County Public Schools Audit Update*
    - Information regarding the status and next steps.

#### **Legislative Update**

- Overview and status of recent education-related legislation introduced in the 2018 General Assembly Legislative Session.

#### **The following Opinions and Orders 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 Bellinger v. St. Mary's County Board Education* – teacher termination OR 18-01 – dismissed for untimeliness
- *Lee Thomassen v. Baltimore County Board of Education (II)* – violation of GINA Order No. 18-02 – affirmed decision of local board

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Orders can be found on the State Board website.

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on March 20, 2018 at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7th Floor Board Room, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Sarah Spross provided the PSTEB Board with a brief legislative update in Mr. Patrick Fleming's absence.

#### **HB493/SB638: Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs—Research Based Reading Instruction**

Both of these bills require that the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board on or before date, to require certain candidates to pass a certain test of research-based reading instruction; requiring a certain test to include certain elements; requiring the Board and the State Board of Education jointly to select a certain test and set a certain passing score, subject to a certain condition; requiring the Board and the State Board jointly to set certain standards for the delivery of research-based reading instruction by certain teacher preparation programs; requiring the standards to include certain elements; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to research-based reading instruction for teachers and as part of teacher preparation programs.

Ms. Spross stated that at the February meeting, PSTEB had opposed HB493/SB638. Dr. James sent letters on behalf of PSTEB to the Honorable Joan Carter Conway (SB63638) and the Honorable Anne R. Kaiser (HB493) expressing the opinion of the Board. Ms. Spross stated that both bills have had hearings and neither bill has been voted on. This is the second time seeing the bill and it was opposed last year also by PSTEB.

#### **HB823: Education – Public School Teachers – Preparation**

For the purpose of requiring certain county boards of education to offer a Teacher Academy of Maryland Program to certain students; authorizing certain county boards to partner with enter into an agreement with certain neighboring counties under certain circumstances; requiring that a certain supervising teacher have a certain number of years of experience, have a certain performance rating in a certain time period, and receive certain training; requiring the State Department of Education to develop a certain digital recruitment platform; providing the platform to meet certain requirements; requiring the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center, jointly with the Department and the Maryland Higher Education Commission, to establish a certain reporting dashboard for certain teacher preparation programs on or before a certain date each year; requiring the dashboard to track and monitor certain information; during certain terms; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to the preparation of teachers.

Ms. Spross stated that the only change in HB823 is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> page, lines 5-8 which changes the “HE” to the “Student Teacher”. This bill does not have a companion in the Senate. The hearing is done.

#### **HB966/SB1103: Voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program**

For the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to establish Voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program on or before a certain date; specifying the purpose of the Program; specifying certain qualifications and application procedures for a certain certificate; requiring the Department to issue a certificate to any applicant who meets certain requirements; authorizing an applicant to petition for judicial review of a decision of the Department that relates to issuing or renewing a certificate; providing that a certificate authorizes an individual to represent to the public that the individual is a certified ethical special education advocate while the certificate is effective; providing for the renewal of a certificate; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; defining a certain term; providing for the construction of this Act; and generally relating to the Voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program.

Ms. Spross stated the information was only given out for information purposes. This bill is not being handled by the Division of Educator Effectiveness but by the Division of Special Education. This was entirely a new bill to create a new program for Special Education Advocates. This bill is not about teaching a specific area.

**HB1002/SB1041: Education – Teacher Certification – Montessori Schools**

For the purpose of making an individual eligible for a certificate to teach students in a Montessori school if the individual meets certain requirements; authorizing the State Board of Education to require an individual to successfully pass an examination to be certified under the Act; providing that, subject to a certain exception, an individual that satisfies the requirements under this Act may not be required to meet any additional requirements to be certified under this Act from teaching certain students under certain circumstances; defining a certain term; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to teacher certification for teachers at Montessori schools.

Ms. Spross stated that this bill is requesting the creation of a Montessori teacher certificate. The both of the bills have a hearing coming up in the following week. SB1041 on March 7, 2018 for SB1041 and HB1002 on March 8, 2018. Ms. Spross stated that if the Board wanted to take a position that today would be the day (Opposition to support or not to support the bill.). After a thorough discussion of both of the bills, the Board decided to take a position on the bills.

Dr. Alyssia James entertained a motion to send letters opposing HB1002 and SB1041 (**Education – Teacher Certification – Montessori Schools**).

**MOTION**

Dr. C. Mae Alfree/Dr. John Mayo to send letters opposing HB1002/SB1041.

**VOTE: 13 – for writing a letter of opposition2 – for not writing letter**

**HB1154: Teachers and Teacher Preparation Program – Bilingual Certification and Instruction**

For the purpose of requiring the Professional Standards and Education Board, on or before a certain date, to establish a certification program for bilingual teachers; requiring the Board to adopt regulations to implement certain provisions of this Act; and guidelines for the delivery of bilingual instruction by certain teacher preparation programs; and generally relating to bilingual certification and instruction.

Ms. Spross stated that there is only one bill and the hearing was held on February 23, 2018. HB1154 received mixed reviews. There is not a realistic date to set a program. After a lengthy and thorough discussion by the Board, a decision was made to write a letter of opposition.

Dr. Alyssia James entertained a motion to send a letter opposing HB1154 (**Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs – Bilingual Certification and Instruction**).

**MOTION: Ms. Karen Saar/Ms. Geralda Thompson To send a letter opposing HB1154.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**HB1657: Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs – Reading Standards Matrix – Established**

For the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, the University System of Maryland, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to develop a Maryland Reading Standards Matrix on or before a certain date; requiring the Maryland Reading Standards Matrix to reflect certain standards and research; requiring the Department, the System, and the Commission to develop a certain syllabus and timeline for certain faculty and to establish a certain accreditation process for certain programs;

requiring a certain course to include certain components; requiring certain programs to use the Maryland Reading Standards Matrix to develop certain courses and syllabi and deliver certain instruction; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Maryland Reading Standards Matrix.

Ms. Spross stated that since 2014, the Maryland State Department of Education has facilitated two workgroups to revise the reading coursework requirements for educator preparation programs. The first of the workgroups focused on Secondary Literacy requirements, completing the framework for course development and accompanying rubrics for the required secondary literacy courses in September 2017. In March 2016, MSDE convened another workgroup to revise the reading coursework required for early childhood and elementary areas of certification, as well as, to assure currency of the research guiding them.

After a thorough discussion by the Board, a decision was made to write a letter of opposition suggesting that the development of a reading standards matrix is duplicative of the work that has been already been completed.

Dr. Alyssia James entertained a motion to send a letter opposing HB1157 (**Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs – Reading Standards Matrix -- Established**).

**MOTION: Ms. Debra Poesse/Ms. Kelli Midgley**

**To send a letter opposing HB1157.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**BREAK**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**COMAR 13A.12.01.11C – Conditional Certificate (Renewal)**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to provide the opportunity or discussion regarding a proposed change to the regulations governing the renewal of a conditional certificate; specifically as it applies to an individual who does not possess a bachelor's degree of higher in a professional and technical education area or specialized professional area. The current regulations require an individual to complete a minimum of 12 semester hours of coursework towards the professional certificate and achieve a qualifying score on the basic skills certification test to renew the conditional certificate.

**SUMMARY:**

The current regulation, COMAR 13A.12.01.11, *Renewal of Certificates*, may require an amendment due to proposed changes in the testing requirements for individuals who do not possess a bachelor's degree or higher in a professional and technical education or specialized professional area. The proposed language presented for discussion would allow applicants to submit coursework in lieu of tests, the ability to renew the conditional certificate by presenting 12 semester hours (6 toward the professional certificate and 6 to satisfy the basic skills); thus allowing a conditional certificate holder an additional two years to acquire the remaining semester hours required for the professional certificate.

**ACTION:**

This item is presented for discussion only.

**DISCUSSION:**

After discussing the requirements for renewing a conditional certificate, it was agreed upon that COMAR 13A.12.01.11 is okay to bring back the following month for approval to publish with the suggested change to section C(3) of the "*Exception*".

**Financial Disclosure Form:**

Mr. Derek Simmons discussed briefly with the financial disclosure form with the PSTEB members. He stated that as soon as they receive the email notification, to please fill out the form as soon as possible.

**Change Start Time of Meeting**

Dr. Alyssia James entertained a motion to change the start time of the meeting going forward from 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

**MOTION:**

Dr. John Mayo/Ms. Kelli Midgley to change the start time of the meeting going forward from 9:30 to 9:00 am.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**Meeting Adjourned**

Dr. Alyssia James entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Geralda Thompson/Dr. C. Mae Alfree to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**Meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m.**