

**Maryland High School Graduation Task Force  
Meeting #5**



**Friday, March 16, 2018  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Anne Arundel County Board of Education  
2644 Riva Road  
Annapolis, MD 21401**

**Purpose:** The State Superintendent requested a High School Graduation Task Force in response to the State Board's interest in student performance and the meaning of a Maryland diploma. The Task Force will review current credit requirements, assessment requirements, and diploma options for secondary school students to provide recommendations for the State Board of Education by July of 2018.

**Meeting #5**

**Agenda:**

- Welcome, Approve Minutes, and Opening Remarks (9:00AM - 9:05 AM)
- Panel discussion: Proficiency-Based Education (9:05 AM - 10:05 AM)
- Break (10:05 AM - 10:15 AM)
- Committee Work (10:15 AM – 11:55 AM)
- Wrap-Up and What to Expect Next Meeting (11:55 AM - 12:00 PM)

**Attendance:**

*Task Force Members:*

Linda Aarons, (for Jennifer Davis) Maryland State Education Association  
Eileen Abel, Maryland Association of Community Colleges  
George Arlotto, Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland  
David DuLac, Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals  
Rachel Durham (for Faith Connolly), Baltimore Education Research Consortium  
Mary Gable, Maryland State Department of Education  
Brendan Gallagher, Maryland Teacher of the Year Program  
Anna Gavin, Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
Terry Gilleland, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
Ken Goncz, Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals  
Angie Holocker, Maryland State Department of Education  
Carly Hviding, Maryland Governor's Office  
Michele Jenkins Guyton, Maryland State Board of Education  
Elizabeth Kameen, Office of the Attorney General  
Kia McDaniel, Maryland English Language Learning Family Involvement Network  
Charles McDaniels, Maryland Association of Boards of Education  
Kelly Meissner, Special Education State Advisory  
Alissa Peltzman, Educational Consultant

Kelly Ruby, Maryland School Counselor Association  
Rudy Ruiz, Maryland Business Roundtable  
Barbara Schmertz, (for Emily Dow) Maryland Higher Education Commission  
James Scott Smith, Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland  
Nancy Shapiro, University System of Maryland  
Andy Smarick, (for Justin Hartings) Maryland State Board of Education  
Susan Spinnato (for Angela Holocker), Maryland State Department of Education  
Rick Tyler, Maryland PTA  
Art Williams, (for Marc Cohen) Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals  
Jason Wu, Maryland Association of Student Councils

*Support Staff in Attendance:*

Carol Williamson, MSDE  
Nicassia Belton, MSDE  
Lynne Muller, MSDE  
Laia Tiderman, MSDE  
Jonathan Turner, MSDE

**Welcome, Approve Minutes, and Opening Remarks**

Dr. Williamson officially opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. She welcomed the task force and reviewed the day's agenda. The theme of the day was introduced as competency-based education.

**Panel discussion: Proficiency-Based Education**

Dr. Williamson provided a brief overview of the panel members assembled along with a tentative list of questions that were prepared ahead of time for their inquiry. Dr. Williamson introduced Andrea Browning from the Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center who moderated parts of the panel discussion. Ms. Browning introduced Tyler Barnett from KnowledgeWorks.

Mr. Barnett provided a definition of competency-based education and stated that it is often referred to or defined in multiple ways. The definition he provided to the task force stated, "...systems of instruction, assessment, grading, and academic reporting that are based on the students demonstrating mastery of the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn before they progress to the next lesson, get promoted to the next grade level, or receive a diploma." Mr. Barnett spoke about how Ohio, Oregon, Colorado, Vermont, and other New England states are currently practicing models of competency-based education.

Mr. Barnett introduced the next speaker, Ms. Tori Cirks from American Institutes for Research (AIR), who shared information about the subject areas and other items that should be considered for proficiency-based education. AIR's review of states using competency-based education shows that the subject areas selected varies from state-to-state. She provided a list of guiding questions for the task force of which to be mindful when considering competency-based education. Some of her guiding questions were:

- Is the purpose for credit recovery or accumulation of all subject areas?

- Is the scope for type, area, and or hours?
- Is education accessible for all students?

Additional considerations provided from Ms. Cirks included representation for traditionally disadvantaged students groups, quality learning experiences for all students that extend outside of the classroom, and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) scholarship eligibility requirements.

Ms. Cirks introduced the final speaker, Cali Cornell from the Rhode Island Department of Education Office of College and Career Readiness, who shared what her state is doing around proficiency-based graduation requirements. Ms. Cornell described the proficiency framework and the process Rhode Island undertook to develop its model.

Following the panel presentations, the task force was provided time to ask questions. Some of the questions asked by the task force included:

- Is there a decrease in students who need remedial courses when entering college?
- How have other states partnered with higher education partners?
- What examples of exceptions or contingencies have other states put into place to address students with different learning abilities and capabilities?

Dr. Williamson thanked the panel members for their participation. She encouraged the task force to email her any additional questions they might have for the panel members.

*BREAK*

Dr. Williamson directed the task force to organize in their separate committees after taking a ten minute break. She reminded the task force that they would be reconvening after committee work at 11:55 AM to discuss the next meeting and adjourn.

### **Committee Work**

The committees assembled into different meeting locations and worked on their committee specific agenda items. Each committee did debrief about the competency-based panel and discussed plans for future task force meetings that would include cross-committee work.

### **Wrap-Up and What to Expect Next Meeting**

Dr. Williamson asked the task force to vote on last month's meeting minutes. The task force voted and approved the meeting minutes. Dr. Williamson thanked the task force members for their participation, reminded everyone that the next meeting is Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Maryland State Department of Education, and dismissed everyone.

### **Adjournment:**

Dr. Williamson officially closed the meeting at 12:02 PM

*Next Meeting:* Thursday, March 29, 2018 at the Maryland State Department of Education, 200 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

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For copies of agendas, minutes, and resources, please refer to the website for the Maryland High School Graduation Task Force at

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/MHSGTF/index.aspx>.