

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD

Meeting Minutes September 9, 2021

The 461th meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) was held, via Web Ex, on September 9, 2021. Ms. Maleeta Kitchen called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

The following members were in attendance: Dr. Dionne Curbeam, Mr. Louis D'Ambrosio, Mr. Corey Gaber, Dr. Debi Gartland, Mr. Darren Hornbeck, Ms. Maleeta Kitchen, Ms. Kelly Meadows, Ms. Debra Poese, Ms. Monica Roebuck, Dr. Patricia Saelens Ms. Sandra Skordalos, Ms. Joy Lee Spain, Dr. Winona Taylor, Ms. Geralda Thompson, Ms. Amy Wilson and Ms. Karen Yoho.

The following members were absent: Mr. Peter Baily, Mr. Charles Hagan, Ms. Kelli Midgley and Dr. Kindel Nash.

The following Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff members were present:

Ms. Alexandra Cambra, Ms. Danielle Clinton-Williams, Mr. Robert Eccles, Dr. Hsin-Yuan Chen, and Ms. Ruth Downs (Recorder).

The following Attorney General Staff members were present: Mr. Sean Fitzgerald, Esq. - Assistant Attorney General.

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Recognition of Guests via Web Ex

Ms. Geraldine Duval, MSEA
Ms. Danielle Jones, MSEA
Ms. Deborah Euzebio, MSEA
Ms. Queen Nwafor, MSEA

Public Comment

None

Announcements

Dr. Patricia Saelens announced that Public School Superintendent's Association (PSSAM) is in the process of filling the vacant PSSAM seat. Dr. Saelens also informed the Board that the October 7 and November 4 PSTEB meetings will conflict with PSSAM meetings. Ms. Mary Pat Fannon will not be able to attend the PSTEB meeting in her place, so Dr. Saelens will send her assistant to observe.

Ms. Kelly Meadows informed the Board members that the COMAR regulations will be published in the Maryland Register on November 6, 2021.

State Board Update

The summary of the Maryland State Board Meeting for July 27, 2021 was given to board members in writing. Ms. Meadows asked the PSTEB members to review the report and address questions to her. Ms. Meadows informed the PSTEB members that one of the regulations that the State Board approved permission to publish pertains to House Bill 486 (2019) *Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Prevention*. The State Board granted permission to publish amendments to Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.07.14 – *Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct* to

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reflect changes made to MD. Code, Education Article 6-113.2 during the 2021 legislative session. The law established a process, including requirements for specific documentation regarding whether an individual has ever been disciplined for allegations of “child sexual abuse” or “sexual misconduct.” for hiring of public school and nonpublic school employees who have direct contact with minors.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of August 5, 2021, Minutes

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to approve the August 5, 2021, minutes with the one minor correction.

MOTION: Dr. Patricia Saelens/Dr. Winona Taylor to approve the August 5, 2021, minutes with the one minor correction. The minutes were approved without objection.

Vote: Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 1

Note: The PSTEB requested that MSDE provide the members with a copy of the letter sent to the State Board of Education by Chair Christopher Lloyd requesting additional staff for the PSTEB.

Approval of Proposed Agenda Items for August 5, 2021

- Approval of Minutes
- State Board Update
- Communication Update
- Regulations, as appropriate with discussion
- PSTEB Procedural Manual
- Shared Document Format

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to adopt the agenda items for the October 7, 2021 meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Corey Gaber/Dr. Winona Taylor to approve the October 7, 2021, meeting agenda. The October 7, 2021, PSTEB agenda was approved without objection.

Communication Committee Report

Ms. Kitchen informed the Board members that she had the opportunity to meet with the State Board President and Vice President. She stated that they talked about the priorities for both Boards, the concerns and what is important moving forward. Ms. Kitchen informed the Board members that going forward, PSTEB will be on the State Board agenda to provide feedback to any questions and/or concerns. Ms. Kitchen and Mr. Hornbeck will be attending the September 28th State Board Meeting. Ms. Kitchen stated that she and Mr. Hornbeck will be meeting with Mr. Choudhury on September 22nd. Dr. Gartland stated that PSTEB would love for Mr. Choudhury to attend a PSTEB meeting.

Ms. Kitchen informed the members that the communication team came together to complete a rough draft of the responsibilities they would require from the independent staff member being requested. Ms. Meadows stated that she reviewed all of the proposed responsibilities of the staff being requested and noted that there are only two items that MSDE does not currently do. Ms. Meadows shared that the appropriate pathway forward to securing an independent staff is for the PSTEB to become an independent board. She informed the Board that there are organizations within MSDE that are independent such as the Maryland Longitudinal Data Center and Center for School Safety. Discussion occurred regarding the difference between PSTEB becoming an independent board and having MSDE staff that are “non-voting?” Becoming an independent board means that the PSTEB could potentially have a revenue stream to hire an independent staff. Ms.

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Meadows explained that the only way for PSTEB to become an independent board is to do so through a change in statute. Ms. Meadows informed the members that she and Mr. Fitzgerald will discuss this further and get more information about what it would entail.

Ms. Meadows reminded the Board that they need to convene a Review Board to hear any certification appeals that may arise.

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to amend the October 7, 2021, agenda to include the seating of a Review Board and reviewing the information on PSTEB becoming an Independent Board.

MOTION: Ms. Maleeta Kitchen/Mr. Darren Hornbeck to approve the October 7, 2021, meeting agenda with the two additional items. The October 7, 2021, PSTEB agenda was approved without objection.

Vote: Yes: 13 No: 2 Abstain: 1

Return to In-Person Meetings

Ms. Meadows informed the Board members that as a result of filling more seats, the PSTEB can no longer fit around the dais in the Board Room. She stated that there are four rooms on the 8th floor that could accommodate the size of the Board. MSDE will need to work with the recording company to ensure recording can be done in those rooms. Questions arose regarding the ability to socially distance in the rooms identified. It was shared that board members would not be three feet apart.

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion that the PSTEB meetings remain virtual for the remainder of 2021 and to revisit the subject of in-person meetings in January 2022.

MOTION: Dr. Dionne Curbeam/Dr. Winona Taylor to approve that the PSTEB meetings remain virtual for the remainder of 2021 and to revisit the subject of in-person meetings in 2022. The motion for the meetings to remain virtual for the remainder of 2021 and to revisit the subject of in-person meetings in 2022 was approved without objection.

PSTEB Procedural Manual

Ms. Meadows informed the Board members that the changes in the Blueprint will require an update of the PSTEB Procedural Manual. The Board requested that MSDE go through the manual, make recommended changes, and those changes to the Board at the October 7th meeting for discussion.

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to have MSDE make the recommended changes to the Procedural Manual for review at the October 7, 2021, meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Sandra Skordalos/Ms. Geralda Thompson to approve letting MSDE make the changes to the Procedural Manual to bring back to the October 7, 2021, meeting for review. The motion was approved without objection.

TEACH Demonstration

Ms. Meadows demonstrated a preview of The Educator Application and Certification Hub (TEACH) of Maryland, a new educator certification system being developed by the MSDE.

Adjourned

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Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to adjourn from the PSTEB monthly meeting at 12:19 p.m. The meeting was adjourned without objection.

Meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.