

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

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2024

The 489th meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) was held virtually on March 8, 2024. Ms. Maleeta Kitchen called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

The following members were in attendance: Ms. Joy Bacon, Ms. Janill Bobbitt, Dr. Jacob Bauer- Zebbley, Dr. Sean Bulson, Ms. Melissa Carpenter, Dr. Dionne Curbeam, Ms. Stephanie Farmer, Dr. Debi Gartland, Dr. Kristine McGee, Ms. Kelly Meadows, Ms. Maleeta Kitchen, Ms. Amy Poirer, Ms. Sandra Skordalos, Dr. Ebony Terrell Shockley, Ms. Joy Lee Spain, Dr. Winona Taylor

The following members were absent: Dr. Keisha Allen

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

Ms. Alexandra Cambra, Ms. Tamara DeShields-Burns, Ms. Nichole Crowder (Recorder), Mr. Keith Krempel, Dr. Juanita Ashby-Bey

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

Recognition of Guests

Barbara Marinak, Mount Saint Mary's University
Stacy Brown-Hobbs, Mount Saint Mary's University
Julianne Dibble, Howard County Public Schools
Jackie Sweeney, Bowie State University
Corrine Gorzo, Howard County Public Schools (*retired*)
Whitney Hogan, Howard County Public Schools

Public Comment

Dr. Stacy Brown-Hobbs provided public comments regarding performance-based licensure assessments.
Dr. Barbara Marinak provided public comments regarding performance-based licensure assessments.

State Board of Education Update

Mr. Zachary Hands shared a summary of the February State Board of Education meeting, sharing that the State Board hosted a joint meeting with the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) for the first half of the day to discuss Career and College Ready pathways.
Mr. Hands indicated that the Board voted to adopt revised Early Learning Standards, the regenerated Praxis subject assessment for special education, and a pre-k sliding scale as required in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.
Mr. Hands stated that the Board voted to oppose a number of curricular mandate bills along with a few other bills that were introduced this legislative session.
Ms. Meadows provided further information regarding the adoption of the regenerated Praxis special education assessment adopted by the Board.

Legislative Update

Ms. Laurel Cratsley, Education Policy Analyst, discussed the following bills:

- [House Bil 75/Senate Bill 377](#) - Higher Education - Teacher Retention and Development Program-
- [Senate Bill 143](#) - Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems - Reemployment
- [Senate Bill 84/House Bill 116](#) - Teacher Degree Apprenticeship
- [Senate Bill 771/House Bill 945](#) - Education - Initial Teacher Certification – Requirements
- [Senate Bill 937/House Bill 1157](#) - Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program – Established
- [House Bill 1191](#) - Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact
- [Senate Bill 1102/HB 1426](#) – Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Alterations
- [House Bill 1326](#) – Primary and Secondary Education - Teachers - Retention and Support Policies, Guidelines, and Training

Announcements

Dr. Terrell Shockley announced that the University of Maryland raised a significant amount of money for students in the state. She also shared that the University of Maryland is hosting Maryland Day. It is open to the public. Will be held on April 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ms. Meadows wants to remind board members that the date for submitting your ethics disclosure is approaching. The deadline is April 30th.

Dr. Bulson stated that Harford County is building a model school (Roy Williams Elementary School) where they have a cohort of aspiring teachers from Towson University, who are helping rework the model for teacher preparation.

Ms. Bobbitt accounted that Booker T. Washington Middle School, a school that had a negative reputation over the years, is now home to the 2023-2024 Baltimore City Teacher of the Year and the Heart of the School Principal.

Communication Update

Ms. Kitchen stated that she has been in informal communications about some of the concerns that were brought up in the last meeting.

Approval of February Minutes

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to approve the February 8, 2024, meeting minutes.

February 8, 2024, meeting minutes approved with one correction.

Approval of Proposed Agenda Items for April

- Call to order
- Public comment
- State Board Update
- Legislative Update
- Communication Updates
- Announcements
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
- Presentation from grantees of the Teacher Collaborative Grant Program
- Review Federal Law of reciprocity for Military members and their spouses.
- Discussion of the 180-day requirement

Discussion

Dr. Terrell Shockley shared concerns with not addressing all proposed items that are placed on the meeting agenda, specifically regarding the implementation and enforcement of the full year practicum requirement. That item has been noted as an item to discuss during the communication update during the April meeting.

Presentation

Dr. Juliann Dibble and her colleagues gave a presentation detailing the awareness of the Teacher Collaborative Grant Paraprofessional to Teacher Pathway. They provided a deep dive into the structures, processes, and success factors in enlisting and supporting cohort members. They were also able to give suggestions to other participating districts regarding how to successfully navigate the program.

BREAK

Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session

Recorded vote to close the meeting:

Date: March 7, 2024

Time: 12:05

Location: Virtual

Motion to close meeting made by: Dr. Taylor Seconded by Dr. Bulson

Members in favor: Ms. Spain, Ms. Skordalos, Ms. Yoho, Dr. Bulson, Ms. Poirier, Dr. Gartland, Ms. Meadows, Dr. McGee, Dr. Zebley, Ms. Roebuck, Ms. Carpenter, Dr. Terrell Shockley, Dr. Taylor, Ms. Bobbitt, Ms. Farmer, Mr. Hornbeck, Dr. Curbeam, and Ms. Kitchen

Opposed: None **Abstaining:** None **Absent:** Dr. Allen

Reason for Executive Session

The reason for closing the meeting is "to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice." The statutory authority for closing the meeting is General Provisions § 3-305(b)(7) and the topics for discussion are the definition of "moral turpitude" under Maryland law and the legal authority for summary suspensions of educator licenses under State Government Article § 10-226(c)(2).

Citation	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b)(7)	The definition of "moral turpitude" under Maryland law	During its January 2024 Meeting, PSTEB considered a proposed revision to the educator licensure regulations that would define "moral turpitude" as "conduct contrary to justice, honesty, or morality." A question arose as to the definition of this term under Maryland law. The Board has sought legal advice on this issue.
§3-305(b)(7)	The Definition of "misconduct" under Maryland law	During its February 2024 Meeting, PSTEB received public comment opposing proposed revisions that would define "misconduct" as "unlawful, dishonest, or improper behavior in dereliction of an educator's duty." The Board has sought legal advice on this issue.
§3-305(b)(7)	The legal authority for summary suspensions of educator licenses under State Government Article § 10-226(c)(2).	During its February 2024 Meeting, PSTEB received public comment opposing proposed revisions that would codify in regulation a procedural framework for summary suspensions of educator licenses under State Government Article § 10-226(c)(2). The public comment raised questions as to whether the proposed regulatory revisions would violate State or Constitutional law. The Board has sought legal advice on this issue.

Time of closed session: 12:05 PM – 12:35 PM

Place: Virtual

Purpose(s): To consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice as to the definitions of "moral turpitude" and "misconduct" under Maryland law in the context of educator licensure and the

legal authority for summary suspensions of educator licenses under State Government Article § 10-226(c)(2)

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Ms. Spain, Ms. Skordalos, Ms. Yoho, Dr. Bulson, Ms. Poirier, Dr. Gartland, Ms. Meadows, Dr. McGee, Dr. Zebley, Ms. Roebuck, Ms. Carpenter, Dr. Terrell Shockley, Dr. Taylor, Ms. Bobbitt, Ms. Farmer, Hornbeck, Dr. Curbeam, Ms. Kitchen

Persons attending closed session: Ms. Spain, Ms. Skordalos, Ms. Yoho, Dr. Bulson, Ms. Poirier, Dr. Gartland, Ms. Meadows, Dr. McGee, Dr. Zebley, Ms. Roebuck, Ms. Carpenter, Dr. Terrell Shockley, Dr. Taylor, Ms. Bobbitt, Ms. Farmer, Hornbeck, Dr. Curbeam, Ms. Kitchen

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: §3-305(b)(7), "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"

Topics discussed: *The definitions of "moral turpitude"; and "misconduct" under Maryland law and the legal authority for summary suspensions of educator licenses under State Government Article § 10-226(c)(2).*

Actions taken: None

Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Ms. Kitchen entertained a motion to end the PSTEB monthly meeting at 12:35 pm. The meeting was adjourned without objections.