



**Maryland High School Graduation Task Force
Meeting #2
MINUTES**

**Friday, January 26, 2018
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076**

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 and provide recommendations for the State Board of Education by July of 2018.

Meeting #2

Agenda:

- Welcome, approve minutes, and warm up activity (9:00AM - 9:15 AM)
- Review readings on current regulations (9:15 AM - 9:30 AM)
- Refine preliminary goals/guiding themes and begin interpreting them as committee work (9:30 AM - 10:30 AM)
- Break (10:30 AM - 10:45 AM)
- Present committee assignments (10:45 AM – 10:50 AM)
- Committee work: finish interpretation of goals/themes, begin to brainstorm need-to-knows (10:50 AM - 11:50AM)
- Wrap up and next steps (11:50 AM - 12:00 PM)

Attendance:

Task Force Members:

Eileen Abel, Maryland Association of Community Colleges
Marc Cohen, Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals
Jennifer Davis, Maryland State Education Association
David DuLac, Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals
Jason Dykstra (for George Arlotto), Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland
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
Justin Hartings, Maryland State Board of Education
Brandon Hill, Maryland Association of Student Councils
Angela 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
Kelly Ruby, Maryland School Counselor Association
Barbara Schmertz (for Emily Dow), Maryland Higher Education Commission
James Scott Smith, Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland
Nancy Shapiro, University System of Maryland
Rick Tyler, Maryland Parent Teacher Association
Peaches Wilson, Maryland Department of Human Services

Task Force Staff:

Carol Williamson, MSDE
Dara Zeehandelaar Shaw, MSDE
Nicassia Belton, MSDE
Brianna Creed, MSDE
Lynne Muller, MSDE
Danielle Susskind, MSDE
Laia Tiderman, MSDE
Jonathan Turner, MSDE

Welcome, approve minutes, and warm up activity

Dr. Williamson greeted the task force and officially started the meeting at 9:00 AM. The task force voted and approved the minutes with no opposition.

Next, Dr. Williamson presented the day's agenda and explained the opening activity. In small groups, the task force was directed to reflect upon and discuss what they believed to be the most important aspect of the task force's work. Generated feedback included themes of equity, the significance of a Maryland diploma to employers and institutions of higher education, universality of requirements, flexible options, and alternative assessments.

Review readings on current regulations

Dr. Williamson led a brief discussion and answered questions about the assigned readings and reviewed the current regulations set forth in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) pertaining to the high school graduation requirements.

Refine preliminary goals/guiding themes and begin interpreting them as committee work

Dr. Shaw explained to the task force that they would now be refining the broader goals and concepts they constructed last week. Dr. Shaw led an activity the task force would be utilizing in their committee work. Using the three guiding concepts developed by the task force at the previous meeting (knowledge and skills, personalization, and equity), the task force was asked to

develop lists of guiding questions and researchable sources of information they would need to make future recommendations.

Present committee assignments

Dr. Williamson explained the process by which committee members were selected and arranged into the three committees: program, assessments, and diplomas. Dr. Shaw and Dr. Williamson then displayed the committee membership, introduced the committees to their Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) support staff, and explained where the committee members would be transitioning to for their committee work after the break. The task force took a brief fifteen minute break before resuming work in their committees.

Committee work: finish interpretation of goals/themes, begin to brainstorm need-to-knows

The task force then separated into their committees to discuss the guiding concepts of equity, personalization, and knowledge and skills under the purview of their committee assignments, e.g. credits, assessments, and diplomas. Committee facilitators will consolidate the guiding questions (which will be used to form recommendations) and need-to-know items (which will become the rationale for the recommendations).

Wrap up and next steps

Dr. Shaw reconvened the task force from their committee work and reminded the group to check their committee folders online in order to access new reference and resource material for future meetings.

Dr. Shaw and Dr. Williamson shared closing remarks and thanks. They explained that the majority of time at the next meeting would be spent on committee work.

Adjournment:

Dr. Shaw officially closed the meeting at 11:54 AM.

Next Meeting: Friday, February 9, 2018 at the Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, MD 21076.

Task Force Contact: Robin Wefelmeyer (410) 767-3646, robin.wefelmeyer@maryland.gov

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> .