

**THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Minutes of the October 24, 2023 Meeting**  
**200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201**

**The Maryland State Board of Education met on October 24, 2023 at 9:02am in the State Board room located within the Maryland State Department of Education.**

The following Board members were present in the Board room:

Mr. Clarence Crawford (Board President), Dr. Joshua Michael (Board Vice President), Ms. Rachel McCusker, Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter, Mr. Nick Greer, Dr. Susan Getty, Dr. Holly Wilcox, Ms. Abisola Ayoola, Dr. Irma E. Johnson, Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy, and Dr. Monica Goldson were in attendance.

Ms. Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang attended virtually. Mr. Shawn Bartley and Mr. Samir Paul, Esq., were absent. Interim State Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright, State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands, and Assistant Attorney General Elliott Schoen were also in attendance.

### **MEETING OPENING**

Mr. Crawford called the meeting to order at 9:02am and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Schoen declared that a quorum was present.

Mr. Crawford provided opening remarks and welcomed members of the public. Mr. Crawford welcomed Dr. Carey Wright to her first meeting as the Interim State Superintendent.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Sharon Saroff – Special Education
2. Cheryl Bost – Interim Superintendent Welcome, CCR Criteria
3. R. Carolina Reyes – Child Care Scholarship
4. Hilary Roberts-King – Advocate for continued funding of Child Care Scholarship
5. Elizabeth Benevides – Message of welcome from Maryland Special Education Advocacy Committee
6. Shamoyia Gardiner – Recommendations at a High Level for Blueprint Implementation; 2023 Tour for Maryland's Future
7. Christina Peusch – Child Care
8. Sharlimar Douglass – Racial Equity in Education

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Approval of the Consent Agenda
  - Approval of the September 26 and October 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes
  - Personnel Actions
  - Budget Adjustments, September 2023

**ACTION:** The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

President Crawford spoke briefly about attending the Maryland Teacher of the Year Gala and thanked Board member Rachel McCusker for providing remarks on behalf of the State Board as a former teacher of the year. He congratulated Mary Kay Connerton, this year's winner of the award.

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSION: PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND (PSSAM)**

President Crawford introduced the presentation by highlighting how the State Board has sought to engage in very close coordination with local school systems and local boards of education. He introduced Dr. Jeff Lawson, Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools, and PSSAM President. Dr. Lawson described PSSAM's strategic planning development process and the ongoing priorities for PSSAM, including the development of an academy for aspiring superintendents to develop new leaders and provide continuity of high-quality leadership among local superintendents. Dr. Lawson also expressed PSSAM's ongoing concerns about the impact of ongoing superintendent transitions on staffing and communication from MSDE.

Dr. Lawson spoke about funding challenges facing counties and school systems in FY 2025. He discussed the impact of Blueprint funding allocations on staff in certain school systems that would require movement of staff from to higher-need schools. Several Board members engaged in a discussion surrounding teacher assignment to different schools based on several factors beyond experience and pay.

Dr. Lawson responded to Board members inquiries regarding unintended consequences of Blueprint implementation and the differences in per-pupil funding that some local education agencies receive over others.

President Crawford and Dr. Lawson agreed that communication with key stakeholders are critical to effectively working together. Dr. Lawson also highlighted that there are great things going on in school buildings because of policies through the Blueprint.

## **BLUEPRINT UPDATE ON JUDY AND PATTY CENTERS**

(Presenter: Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood)

Dr. Cook gave the State Board an update on the progress of expanding Judy Center and Patty Center programs in Maryland through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future law state funding to support their dramatic expansion throughout the State. Dr. Cook outlined the differences between Patty Centers and Judy Centers by highlighting what services each provides and the impacts that both have on communities.

Dr. Cook reviewed the goals in place for establishing additional Judy Centers and Patty Centers in the next several years and next steps for planning and providing technical assistance.

## **BLUEPRINT DEEP DIVE: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS STANDARD EXPLORATION**

(Presenters: Phil Lasser, Executive Director, Office of the State Superintendent, and Matt Duque, Director MSDE Office of Research, Planning, and Program Evaluation)

President Crawford thanked MSDE staff for the significant time and energy they have put into the development of the CCR recommendations and that the Board will vote at this meeting to adopt a working recommendation to gather feedback prior to a potential vote to adopt the standard at the Board meeting in December.

Mr. Lasser presented an overview of the Blueprint requirements and implications of the State Board adopting a CCR standard. The Blueprint requires the adoption of a new College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard that would allow students to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses with the goal outlined in statute being for all students to meet the standard by the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mr. Lasser described the work of the required study conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR). He highlighted some of the findings of the study, including that multiple measures of readiness may serve as a more accurate predictor of postsecondary success and is more inclusive. Mr. Lasser offered that the timeline recommendation is that students be identified as meeting the new CCR Standard for the 2024-2025 school year. CCR per-pupil funding amounts would begin with FY2026 in this timeline. He reminded the State Board that a feedback survey was open through the end of November, and the State Board is hosting a virtual public hearing on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Michael offered an alternative proposal to incorporate a mathematics mastery component in the CCR standard in the State Board's working recommendation. He described the State Board's discussion with the AIB regarding incorporation of GPA in

the CCR standard, and the proposal to require either success on the Algebra I assessment or a passing grade in the Algebra I course.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Dr. Michael, seconded by Ms. McCusker, the State Board voted to include a mathematics mastery component in the working recommendation of the College and Career Readiness Standard to include either a passing grade of A, B, or C, in Algebra I or passing the MCAP assessment in Algebra I in addition to a 3.0 GPA. (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

### **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING LABS**

(Presenter: Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning)

Dr. Collins presented MSDE's launch of Professional Learning Labs for the 2023-2024 school year. She described that Professional Learning Labs are a series of two-day, in-person, professional learning experiences that support districts with implementing new learning into their own local context. She outlined that Professional Learning Labs will dive deep into a variety of content areas including math, science, social studies, literacy, and health and will address current challenges facing educators in the field. She summarized that district teams will explore high leverage strategies through school visits, collaborating with colleagues across Maryland, workshop discussions, and content experts.

### **REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

#### **COMAR 13A.08.01.02-3 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (Permission to Publish)**

(Presenter: Dr. Chandra Haislet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting)

Dr. Haislet reviewed the proposed regulation for the KRA to align the requirements for the administration of the assessment with the updated Education Code § 7-210. The proposed amended regulations for COMAR 13A.08.01.02-3 will establish the requirement for each LEA to administer a department approved kindergarten readiness assessment to all incoming kindergarten students. Dr. Getty and Dr. Mele-McCarthy raised concerns about language regarding using the KRA as a tool for making determinations about a child's disability. The regulation was pulled from the agenda and will return at a future date.

#### **COMAR 13A.16.08 and 13A.17.08 Child Care Centers and Child Care – Letters of Compliance (Permission to Publish)**

(Presenter: Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood)

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Greer, the State Board granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.16.08 and 13A.17.08 Child Care Centers and Child Care – Letters of Compliance (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

**COMAR 13A.08.04 Student Behavior Interventions**

(Presenter: Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Education Policy)

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Wilcox, seconded by Gen. Sumpter, the State Board granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.08.04 Student Behavior Interventions (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

**COMAR 13A.16 Child Care Centers, 13A.18 Large Family Child Care Homes**

(Presenter: Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood)

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Ayoola, seconded by Gen. Sumpter, the State Board granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.16 Child Care Centers and 13A.18 Large Family Child Care Homes (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

**COMAR 13A.15.02.02 Family Child Care - Registration Application and Maintenance, COMAR 13A.16.02.02 Child Care Centers - License Application and Maintenance, COMAR 13A.17.02.02 Child Care—Letters of Compliance - Letters of Compliance Application and Maintenance, and COMAR 13A.18.02.02 Large Family Child Care Homes - Registration Application and Maintenance**

(Presenter: Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood)

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Mele-McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Greer, the State Board granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.15.02.02 Family Child Care - Registration Application and Maintenance, COMAR 13A.16.02.02 Child Care Centers - License Application and Maintenance, COMAR 13A.17.02.02 Child Care—Letters of Compliance - Letters of Compliance Application and Maintenance, and COMAR 13A.18.02.02 Large Family Child Care Homes - Registration Application and Maintenance (In Favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0).

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

(Presenter: Zach Hands, Executive Director, Maryland State Board of Education)

Rachel McCusker, Chair of the Education Policy Committee, reported to the Board regarding the first meetings of the committee and the development of a legislative platform with legislative principles for the State Board’s consideration. She also reviewed

the major threads of work that will flow through the committee, including legislation, COMAR items and the revision and development of curricular frameworks. Mr. Hands provided the background on the State Board's decision to develop a legislative platform and priorities consistent with its statutory role. He outlined a series of principles that will guide decisions on how the State Board will take positions on specific bills during the legislative session without being too prescriptive. He noted some key dates, and that the legislative platform will return to the full State Board for adoption in December.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Dr. Mele-McCarthy and seconded by General Sumpter and with unanimous approval, the State Board of Education met for a second closed session in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All Board members were present except Mr. Bartley, Ms. Chang, and Mr. Paul.

Also in attendance were Interim Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright, State Board Executive Director, Zachary Hands, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Deann Collins, Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Shayna Cook, and Assistant Attorneys General Elliott Schoen and Jackie La Fiandra. The Executive Session commenced at 2:30 p.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m.

At that time, the State Board reviewed and approved two Opinions and one Order.

- *T.L. and S.L. v. Howard County Board of Education* – early kindergarten entry – Opin. No. 23-24. The Board affirmed the local board's decision.
- *MBEF College and Career Academies, Inc. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – denial of charter school application – Opin. No. 23-25. The Board reversed the local board's decision.
- *Brenner, Chaya v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – employee termination – Order No. OR23-16. The Board remanded the case to local board for further proceedings.

The Board was given supplemental budget information related to the proposed FY 2025 budget that is still confidential.

Mr. Schoen gave an update on the Bradford case and gave legal guidance regarding meeting process.

## **STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

Dr. Goldson provided information to the State Board that the Education Transformation and Accountability Committee will hold its first meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> and will review a timeline for implementation of the Strategic Plan and will receive a briefing on implementation of the graduation requirements regulations.

## **FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Greer requested that the State Board receive a future presentation on educator needs and educator staffing in the State.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any ways we could dive into the topic of accelerated learning. President Crawford mentioned that the Board would connect with MSDE staff on the issue.

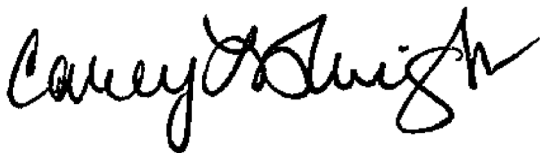
## **LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS**

Mr. Schoen announced the following opinions:

- *T.L. and S.L. v. Howard County Board of Education* – early kindergarten entry – Opin. No. 23-24
- *MBEF College and Career Academies, Inc. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – denial of charter school application – Opin. No. 23-25
- *Brenner, Chaya v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – employee termination – Order No. OR23-16

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.  
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2023

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented. The video recordings of the meetings are the official record and can be located at:  
<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2023.aspx>

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Orders can be found at:  
<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default.aspx>

The next Maryland State Board of Education meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 5, 2023.**

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days' notice prior to the event is required. Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.