

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, October 26, 2020
Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education met via videoconference on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. The following members participated on the video conference call: Mr. Clarence Crawford (President); Ms. Jean Halle (Vice President); Mr. Shawn Bartley; Ms. Gail Bates; Mr. Charles R. Dashiell, Jr., Esq.; Dr. Susan Getty; Dr. Vermelle D. Greene; Dr. Rose M. Li; Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy; Ms. Rachel McCusker, Ms. Lori Morrow; Brigadier General (BG) Warner Sumpter (Ret.); Dr. Holly Wilcox; Mr. Jason Wu, Student Representative; and State Superintendent Dr. Karen B. Salmon.

The following staff members also participated: Elliott L. Schoen, Assistant Attorney General; Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of School Effectiveness; Amalie Brandenburg, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Finance and Administration; Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Miya T. Simpson, Executive Director, Office of the State Board.

President Crawford called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Simpson to conduct the roll call. Mr. Schoen declared the presence of a quorum.

President Crawford explained the virtual meeting procedures.

STATE BOARD SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021 PRIORITIES

➤ Call to Action

(Presenter: Dr. Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools)

Dr. Salmon provided remarks regarding support for students returning to school for in-person learning and shared research and information about state health metrics and the availability of personal protective equipment.

President Crawford suggested inviting Dr. Jinlene Chan, Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health, to speak at a future State Board meeting.

State Board members acknowledged their support of Dr. Salmon's remarks regarding students returning to school and school reopening plans.

***ACTION:** Upon motion by Ms. Halle, and seconded by Ms. Bates, the State Board affirmed the remarks presented by Dr. Salmon regarding returning to in-person learning and school reopening plans. (Favor: 12; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 1 – Ms. McCusker. Dr. Wilcox was not present)*

➤ **Modified Second Semester Request for Athletics**

(Presenter: Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Deputy State Superintendent for School Effectiveness; Mr. Andy Warner, Executive Director, Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association)

Mr. Warner presented a request from the Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM) to move the second semester start of the interscholastic athletic season from February 1, 2021 to December 7, 2020.

Local School Systems, per COMAR 13A.06.03, are required to participate within the defined sports seasons established and need approval of the State Board or the State Superintendent to redefine previously established sport seasons. On September 24, 2020, the State Superintendent authorized the fall high school sports competition season to begin as early as October 7, 2020. The decision was based on a combination of factors, including the State of Maryland being in stage three of the recovery plan, 22 LSSs under a 4.0 positivity rate, and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) continued guidance that interscholastic athletic events and gatherings may take place.

The PSSAM requested on October 5, 2020, to move up the second semester interscholastic athletic start date from February 1, 2021, to December 7, 2020. The State Superintendent, based on current information and health metrics from the MDH, authorized LSSs to start a fall competition season as of October 7, 2020, or continue to offer conditioning and skill development programs and start on February 1, 2021. Three LSSs started a high school fall sports season on October 7, 2020. Twenty one LSSs opted to begin on February 1, 2021.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCusker and seconded by Dr. Greene, the State Board approved the request. (In Favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0. Mr. Wu was not present for the vote.)

➤ **Maryland Together: Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education Update on Reopening Plans and the Dashboard/Scorecard**

(Presenter: Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Ms. Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment & Educational Policy)

Dr. Williamson and Ms. Gable provided an update on local school systems' reopening plans and the collection of data for the State Board dashboard/scorecard. Local school systems across Maryland opened schools for the 2020-2021 school year beginning on August 31, 2020, (Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, and Washington Counties); September 1, 2020 (Calvert and Cecil Counties); and September 8, 2020, (Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Dorchester, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties).

The presentation included the most recent information collected from local school systems regarding the status of school reopening plans to include, determining which systems are bringing in small groups of students, which systems are beginning the hybrid model, and which systems have not made any final decisions on returning students as of mid-October. A review of a draft dashboard/scorecard was also presented.

The State Board discussed what data should be requested and collected regularly from the local school systems for reporting to the State Board.

ACTION: None. For information and discussion only.

- **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Update**
(Presenter: Dr. Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Carol Williamson, Ms. Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment & Educational Policy)

An overview of the CARES Act as it pertains to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local school systems. On March 27, 2020 the federal CARES Act was signed into law and includes several different funding programs that fiscally impact Local School Systems. The presentation included an overview of the grant programs that provide support to Local School Systems including the Coronavirus Relief Fund and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) and Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER), within the Education Stabilization Fund, along with a summary of awarded funds.

State Board members inquired about opportunities for stakeholder input.

ACTION: None. For information and discussion only.

- **Partial Waiver of September 30 Child Count Regulation**
(Presenter: Dr. Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment & Educational Policy)

Dr. Salmon and Ms. Gable provided background and justification for the request to approve a partial waiver of COMAR 13A.02.06.03A *State Financial Assistance* under the Foundation Program, to remove the age appropriate immunizations requirement for the September 30 count solely for the purpose of calculating State aid under the foundation program. COMAR 13A.01.01.02-1 authorizes the State Board to waive its regulations. COMAR 13A.02.06.03 requires, for the purpose of calculating State aid under the foundation program, a student to be a bona fide resident of Maryland and have age appropriate immunizations. Local school system superintendents have requested a partial waiver of the regulation to avoid a financial penalty against the local school systems for foundation funding calculations because of the

inability of parents to provide proof of immunization by September 30th, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Halle, and seconded by Ms. Morrow, the State Board approved the requested waiver. (Favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0. Dr. Green was not present for the vote).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: December 8, 2020

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented and actions taken during the meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education. The video recordings of the meetings are the official record of the meetings and can be located at:

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/meeting-agendas/2020/2020-06-23.aspx>

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Orders can be found at:

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/Meetings-2020.aspx>

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. 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.