

THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the February 27, 2024 Meeting
200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board met on February 27, 2024 at 9:00 am in the State Board room located within the Maryland State Department of Education.

The following State Board members were present in the Boardroom:

Mr. Clarence Crawford (Board President), Dr. Joshua Michael (Board Vice President), Ms. Rachel McCusker, Dr. Holly Wilcox, Mr. Nick Greer, Dr. Susan Getty, Ms. Abisola Ayoola, Dr. Irma E. Johnson, Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy, Mr. Samir Paul, Esq., Mr. Shawn Bartley, Esq., and Dr. Monica Goldson were in attendance.

Ms. Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang participated virtually. Interim State Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright, State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands, and Assistant Attorney General Elliott Schoen were also in attendance.

The following Accountability and Implementation Board members were present in the Boardroom:

Mr. Isiah Leggett (Board Chair), William Kirwan (Vice Chair), Mara Doss, Jennifer Lynch, Joseph Manko, Justin Robinson, and Laura Stapleton.

AIB Executive Director Rachel Hise and Assistant Attorney General Heidi Dudderar were also in attendance.

MEETING OPENING

Mr. Crawford called the meeting to order at 9:06am and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Schoen declared that a quorum was present.

Mr. Crawford and Mr. Leggett provided opening remarks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Sharon Sharoff – Special Education
2. Lisa Bullock – Requirements for adults high school
3. Lauren Long – Exclusion of National Board Teachers According to the Blueprint

4. Dr. Darryl Williams (Morgan State) – Teacher and Principal Pipeline at Morgan State University
5. Cheryl Bost – Legislation
6. Laura Weeldreyer – Early Childhood Partnership
7. Shamoyia Gardiner – Elevating Blueprint implementation and funding concerns from our Network members
8. Jabari Walker – Climate education participation
9. Sharlimar Douglass – Certifying Conditional Teachers

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSION: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION

(Presenters: Secretary Paul Monteiro and Director Lisa Bishop)

Secretary Monteiro provided an overview of the first-in-the-nation Maryland Corps/Service Year Option Program. The new department established by the Governor is focused on engaging Marylanders in service and volunteerism. Ms. Bishop walked through the service opportunities available to participants in the Service Year Option program, the wraparound services available to participants, and the financial compensation at the end of the program. Secretary Monteiro thanked both boards for their engagement and looks forward to future partnership opportunities with the State Board, MSDE, and the AIB.

Dr. Kirwan asked how the program and the department are working closely with CTE and apprenticeship programs to thread opportunities in those areas through the Service Year Option program. Dr. Doss asked how many participants are in the program and how they represent the state geographically. Mr. Robinson asked about what roles and positions participants in the Service Year Option program engage in in the education field. Dr. Lynch noted that there is a natural synergy between career counseling programs in the Blueprint and this program offers a perfect opportunity for cross-collaboration. Mr. Manko asked what goals and expectations are for participants beyond involvement in the program.

Dr. Johnson asked what kind of preparation participants receive prior to their engagement in the service opportunity. Mr. Greer noted that the alumni experience is critical in leveraging the future success of the program and asked how the program is focused on developing mentors. Ms. Chang asked what the age range is of participants in the program. Mr. Bartley asked if the program was limited or if it was available to any Maryland high school graduate. Dr. Michael asked how the State Board and MSDE can be better partners with the program.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSION: NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS (NBPTS)

(Presenters: Dr. Joe Doctor, COO; Dr. Kristin Hamilton, Vice President, Standards and Assessment; and Dr. Susan Lopez Bailey, Director of Standards)

Representatives from NBPTS outlined how they are moving to address the urgent issue surrounding literacy instruction that is aligned to the Science of Reading and how NBPTS is establishing a two-pronged approach to the revision of standards which discuss literacy instruction. This includes a contemporary relevance check to remove outdated practices to be completed by September 2024 and a full standards revision which is to tentatively begin in fall 2025.

Dr. Kirwan thanked NBPTS for their willingness to move quickly on this matter. Mr. Robinson asked what the practical impacts are for teachers as these standards are revised. Dr. Mele-McCarthy expressed her thanks for the review of these standards.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS NEXT STEPS AND SUPPORT PATHWAYS

(Presenters: Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning; and Rachel Hise, Executive Director, Accountability and Implementation Board)

Dr. Deann Collins and Ms. Hise provided a briefing to the State Board of Education about the recently adopted College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard, the original vision behind the CCR standard, and the CCR Support Pathway, as described by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Ms. Hise discussed implementation challenges, including funding, over the next few years as the local school systems transition from the interim CCR standard to the new standard. The presentation concluded with the next steps that MSDE and AIB will take to develop guidance on implementation of the new CCR standard and developing supports for students who are not college and career ready, including early intervention services.

Mr. Kirwan asked about the non CCR support pathways. He went on to suggest developing some best practices models for LEAs. He also asked about the math curriculum, specifically Algebra II.

Ms. Doss expressed that it is critical that we ensure that the pathways are equitable and that that is conveyed to the community.

Dr. Michael commented that our words really matter and he wants to challenge the language we've been using in the Blueprint around this notation of a support pathway. He would like to see a shift from a support pathway to a career pathway with support.

Ms. McCusker posed a question about students taking Algebra I in 8th grade or 9th grade and not passing, therefore not being college and career ready and what support would look like for those students to be successful.

Mr. Greer commented that he would like to see caregivers and school counselors as a part of the individualized support system for students and build on best practices surrounding this without just pushing this onto a teacher.

Dr. Mele-McCarthy urges us to look at students who decide on a career pathway instead of college and what support will be put in place for those students.

Dr. Johnson asked if pathways of support in middle school are being provided to make sure that by 10th grade students are successful.

ALIGNING GOALS FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

(Presenters: Phil Lasser, Executive Director, Office of the State Superintendent; Emma Pellarin, Implementation Plan Director, Accountability and Implementation Board; and Matt Duque, Director MSDE Office of Research, Planning, and Program Evaluation)

Mr. Lasser and Ms. Pellarin provided a briefing to the State Board on the alignment of the metrics included in three state education plans released over the past year.

Over the past eight months, three state education plans have been released. The Maryland State Board of Education and Maryland State Department of Education released their Strategic Plan in June 2023, the Accountability and Implementation Board issued their Blueprint Comprehensive Implementation Plan in August 2023, and the Office of Governor Wes Moore released the Moore-Miller Administration State plan in February 2024. Each plan includes a list of education metrics to track.

To examine the alignment of the metrics in the three plans, MSDE analyzed a crosswalk to identify any metrics which are aligned to another plan as well as any metrics in which there are no corresponding metrics in the other plans. The analysis identified nine areas in which there was strong alignment between at least two of the three plans, with all three of the plans including metrics aligned to four of the nine areas. Additionally, there were two Key Performance Indicators in the Moore-Miller Administration State Plan that were not included in either the Strategic Plan nor the AIB's Implementation Plan, but both measures are routinely tracked and reported by MSDE on both the Maryland

School Report Card and the Department's annual Managing for Results submission to the Department of Budget and Management.

Ms. Stapleton urged that AIB and State Board to work together to make the lives of the assessment professionals in the LEAs much easier so that they are working toward one number and they get a common message.

Mr. Kirwan commented that it's wonderful to see how closely AIB's and MSDE's goals are aligned and asked if it would be possible for them to read the same way. He sees no conflict with the Governor's plan.

Mr. Manko commented that through collaborative engagement with the three entities (AIB, State Board/MSDE, Governor) we were able to identify some blind spots that wouldn't have been possible without engagement.

President Crawford commented that next steps would be to have a common dashboard where you can drill down to get the data across each entity's website.

ADJOURNMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY & IMPLEMENTATION BOARD

With no further business before the Accountability and Implementation Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY TASK FORCE

(Presenters: Interim State Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright)

Dr. Wright provided an overview of a new Assessment and Accountability Task Force at MSDE to ensure that assessments are aligned to State standards and accurately measure proficiency, and that the State accountability system appropriately reflects proficiency results and includes a student growth component.

STATEWIDE LITERACY EXPERT INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAMS UPDATE

(Presenters: Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Tenette Smith, Executive Director of Literacy)

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of the Consent Agenda
 - Approval of the January 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Personnel Actions
- Budget Adjustments, January 2024

ACTION: The State Board granted approval by unanimous consent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Wright presented an update on budgetary hearings in the House and Senate. MSDE's budget is divided into four parts: (1) headquarters; (2) aid to education; (3) early childhood; and (4) funding to educational organizations. There were four hearings in the House and 4 in the Senate that were very successful. She went on to introduce the newly appointed Chief of Staff Alex Reese and newly appointed Deputy for the Office of Accountability Geoff Sanderson.

Dr. Wright briefed the Board on the newly developed Standards and Frameworks Committee, who the Committee is comprised of and what their role will be.

REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

Early Learning Standards Revisions and Updates

Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Shayna Cook presented the revised and updated Early Learning Standards for children, birth through age 3. The current Standards have not been updated in more than a decade and lack alignment with current brain science, learning sciences, and child development research.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, seconded by Ms. Ayoola, the State Board granted permission to adopt and publish the revised and updated Early Learning Standards. (In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

PreK Sliding Scale

Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Shayna Cook presented MSDE's proposed sliding scale for families with income falling within the 301-600% of the Federal Poverty Level (Tier II). The aim is to ensure that these families pay no more than 7% of their gross annual income as a copayment, promoting affordability and equitable access to high quality prekindergarten in school and private provider or community-based settings.

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Greer, the State Board granted permission to adopt the prekindergarten sliding scale for families with incomes between 301% and 600% of the Federal Poverty Level. (In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

Teacher Licensure Assessments: Adoption of Regenerated Assessment

Assistant State Superintendent Ms. Kelly Meadows presented the regenerated assessment for Educational Testing Service (ETS) Praxis subject assessment Special Education: Foundational Knowledge (5355). This assessment is a regenerated from the previous version that is currently adopted in Maryland. The regenerated assessment was designed to align with the 2020 Council for Exceptional Children Standards for Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for Special Educators.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, seconded by Ms. Ayoola, the State Board granted permission to adopt regenerated Praxis subject assessment for the purpose of licensure: Special Education – Foundational Knowledge. (In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Update

Interim State Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright presented the state-level Kindergarten Readiness Assessment results for the 2023-2024 school year which included student group disaggregations and comparisons to prior years. She also included an overview of a study and report to the AIB on the Evaluation of Racial, Cultural, or Linguistic Bias of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

Ms. McCusker asked about the timeline for procuring a new KRA by the time of the administration window. Dr. Michael commended Dr. Wright on her leadership on this issue and asked when the report would be made public. Dr. Goldson asked how MSDE will review a new tool to ensure that there is no bias.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

(Presenters: Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director, Government Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations)

Review of Introduced Legislation and Positions

President Crawford spoke about MSDE and the State Board's enhanced role in the legislative process and commended staff on their work. Dr. Akilah Alleyne, MSDE's Executive Director for Office of Governmental Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations, briefed the Board members and recommended positions on several pending bills.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, seconded by Dr. Mele-McCarthy, the State Board voted to oppose Senate Bill 1035.
(In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Michael, seconded by Dr. Johnson, the State Board voted to oppose Senate Bill 1032.
(In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, seconded by Dr. Goldson, the State Board voted to oppose Senate Bill 980.
(In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCusker, seconded by Dr. Michael, the State Board voted to support Senate Bill 865.
(In Favor: 13, Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Dr. Wilcox and seconded by Mr. Greer and with unanimous approval, the State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in Conference Room #6, 8th Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present. Also in attendance were Interim State Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright, Executive Director of the State Board Zachary Hands, and Assistant Attorneys General Elliott Schoen and Jackie La Fiandra.

The Executive Session commenced at 3:40 p.m. and ended at 4:30 p.m.

At that time, the State Board reviewed and approved two Opinions and three Orders.

- *J'han Brady v. Howard County Board of Education* – record of discipline – Opin. No. 24-03. The Board affirmed the local board's decision.
- *Darla S. v. Howard County Board of Education* – bus transportation – Opin. No. 24-04. The Board affirmed the local board's decision.
- *G.P. and D.C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – athletic eligibility – Order No. OR24-03. The Board dismissed the appeal as moot.
- *Stephen Price v. Howard County Board of Education* – Employment termination – Order No. OR24-04. The Board stayed the appeal.
- *Vincent Shipp v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – Employment contract non-renewal – Order No. OR24-05. The Board dismissed the appeal as untimely.

Interim Superintendent Wright informed the Board regarding administrative matters.

President Crawford updated the Board on working in Annapolis during the Legislative Session.

Vice-President Michael updated the Board about the superintendent search process.

STATE BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Dr. Goldson noted that the Education Transformation and Accountability Committee would meet on March 14th at 6pm. Ms. McCusker noted that the Education Policy Committee would meet on March 13th at 6:30pm.

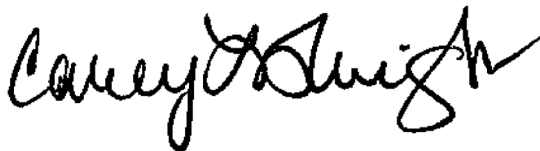
LEGAL OPINIONS AND ORDERS

Mr. Schoen announced the following opinions:

- *J'han Brady v. Howard County Board of Education* – record of discipline – Opin. No. 24-03
- *Darla S. v. Howard County Board of Education* – bus transportation – Opin. No. 24-04
- *G.P. and D.C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – athletic eligibility – Order No. OR24-03
- *Stephen Price v. Howard County Board of Education* – Employment termination – Order No. OR24-04
- *Vincent Shipp v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – Employment contract non-renewal – Order No. OR24-05

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date: March 26, 2024

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-2024.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, March 26, 2024.**

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.