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## **Maryland State Board of Education Welcomes Five New Members; Thanks Departing Members for Years of Service to Maryland's Children**

*Dr. Monica Goldson, Samir Paul, Nicholas Greer, Dr. Irma Johnson, and Abisola Ayoola to begin their terms in July*

**BALTIMORE, MD (July 11, 2023)** – The Maryland State Board of Education is pleased to welcome five new members to the State Board. **Dr. Monica Goldson**, a lifelong educator and administrator who recently completed her term as CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools. **Samir Paul**, who is an attorney with experience in government, in the private-sector technology industry, and as an award-winning computer science teacher. **Nicholas Greer**, who joins the State Board as the parent member of the Board but who is also a long-time educator in Baltimore City Public Schools, non-profit executive, and education consultant. **Dr. Irma Johnson**, who served for many years as an educator and administrator in Baltimore City Public Schools and currently is an Assistant Professor for Educational Leadership at Coppin State University. **Abisola Ayoola**, who joins the State Board as the student member and recently completed a term as the student member of the Howard County Board of Education.

These new members bring a wealth of hands-on educational experience and historical perspective on our State's school system to the Board. "In this pivotal time for transformational educational change in Maryland, the State Board is thrilled to bring on members with a variety of experiences and skills that will be invaluable in bolstering the Board's and MSDE's priority of implementing the Blueprint and our Strategic Plan with fidelity and ensuring that we get results on improving outcomes for our children", said Board President Clarence Crawford. "I am excited to get to work with them immediately to continue moving our schools in the right direction."

All five incoming State Board members were appointed by Governor Wes Moore. Each of the new Board members will be seated for the State Board's next regular meeting on July 25th but will begin their service immediately upon being sworn in.

"Having diverse leadership with many perspectives and experiences will be critical in implementing lasting, transformational change for Maryland's education system," says State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury. "We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to

provide our students with an excellent and equitable education. I welcome the new board members as they join us in our unwavering efforts to provide every Maryland student, especially those who have been historically underserved, with a world-class education.”

The Board also would like to thank departing members for their unwavering commitment and service to the students of Maryland. “Jean Halle, Chip Dashiell, Gail Bates, Lori Morrow, and Merin Thomas have served with distinction and helped to guide our State’s school system through unprecedented and difficult times”, said Board President Clarence Crawford. “On behalf of the Board, I want to thank them for their immeasurable contributions to our State.”

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