

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday
February 13, 2012

Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The Maryland State Board of Education held a special session on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 11 a.m. at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Ms. Nina Marks; Mrs. Madhu Sidhu; Mr. Guffrie M. Smith, Jr.; and Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Interim Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, Dr. James Gates, Ms. Luisa Montero-Diaz; Mr. Sayed Naved; Donna Hill Staton, Esq.; Dr. Ivan Walks; and Ms. Kate Walsh participated via conference call.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. John Smeallie, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Mr. Steve Brooks, Deputy State Superintendent for Finance and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director to the State Board.

MARYLAND'S ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)
FLEXIBILITY REQUEST

Mr. DeGraffenreidt called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. and thanked his colleagues for adjusting their schedules to make this meeting possible.

Dr. Sadusky thanked the Board as well and explained that the Department is going to submit an application for an ESEA flexibility request. He said a group of his staff met with thirty-seven stakeholders to ensure that Maryland's application is accepted. He explained that ten states have submitted waiver requests and been approved after several iterations of their submissions.

The Interim Superintendent reported that he recently received a call from a representative of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) with some clarifying information regarding future submissions. He reported that Maryland's submission addresses the issues noted by the USDE although they are requiring that the teacher and principal evaluation system be aligned with Maryland Regulations. Dr. Sadusky said that the Department will be expediting this process in light of this requirement since this issue will be paramount to the waiver approval process.

He invited Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Academic Policy; and, Ann Chafin, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student, Family and School Support Services to review Maryland's ESEA Flexibility Request with the Board.

Ms. Gable explained that she and other staff members reviewed the ten state applications that were approved by the USDE to refine Maryland's application and noted that the USDE, late Friday afternoon, notified her that the deadline for this round of applications had been extended to February 28, 2012. She reported that after posting the application for public input, ninety-four comments were received. She provided the Board with an Executive Summary of the application and called their attention to the definition of College and Career Readiness.

The President suggested that there be separate definitions for college readiness and career readiness since there are different metrics for measuring them. Dr. Finan reported that this discussion had occurred within the College and Career Readiness Task Force. This Task Force proposed a diploma with a notation to delineate between the college and career track. Kathy Oliver, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness, reported that the Department has encouraged the combination of the definition although she said the President's point is well taken regarding the metrics. Mr. DeGraffenreidt said that as long as the metrics are very clear, he has no problem with the combined definition.

In response to a concern expressed by the President about the need for college in order to be career ready, Ms. Oliver said that every career pathway requires some post secondary education. Mr. DeGraffenreidt said that it is important to make the distinction between requiring post secondary education and requiring college education. Dr. Dukes agreed saying, "The lines are more blurred than we believe."

Ms. Gable reviewed the following Principles included in Maryland's application:

1. College- and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students
2. State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support
3. Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership
4. Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden

Regarding Principle #1, Ms. Gable said that Maryland adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), is incorporating the Universal Design of Learning (UDL) strategies in the curriculum framework, joined the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment Consortium (WIDA) that provides English Language proficiency standards and assessments, and joined the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Ms. Staton urged that it be clear that UDL is incorporated throughout the curriculum not just for the special education cohort.

In response to a question by Ms. Marks, Ms. Cary reported that the State will be paying for the administration of the WIDA program.

In response to a question by Ms. Staton, Ms. Cary said that the PARCC assessments will be designed using UDL and that it is included in the Request for Proposals (RFP) signed by PARCC. Ms. Cary reported that a new Maryland regulation will be proposed requiring UDL in all schools. In response to another question by Ms. Staton, Ms. Cary said that professional development will be provided at the local level for implementing UDL.

Regarding Principle #2, Ms. Gable said that targets for all subgroups have been set for the next six years. She reported that Maryland will be publishing data in a Report Card for full transparency and brought the group's attention to page 66 of the Flexibility Request which reflects the State Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) in math and reading for all subgroups from 2011 through 2017.

To help Maryland's lowest performing schools and recognize those that are excelling, Ms. Gable said that Maryland will identify *reward schools* as Title I schools that meet all AMOs for all students for two consecutive years; *priority schools* which are the lowest five percent of Title I schools; and *focus schools*, Title I schools that do not require a school-wide systemic change but rather need to focus on the services to only one or two subgroups.

She provided a Maryland School Performance Index, an appraisal instrument that more comprehensively reflects the core values Marylanders have regarding their schools. Ms. Gable reported that a standard-setting meeting with numerous stakeholders was held last week that made recommendations to Dr. Sadusky. She said that their recommendations are being provided by the Superintendent to the Board for their approval.

Ms. Chafin reported on the monitoring system for Title I schools noting that Maryland has one of the best systems in the country. She said that local education agencies (LEAs) will be outlining their school improvement plans in their Master Plans.

In response to a question by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, Ms. Chafin said that the line between proficiency and non-proficiency is the most reliable. She said the line between advanced and non-advanced is not as reliable and, therefore, the word "proficiency" is used.

In response to a suggestion by the President, Ms. Gable said that an explanation of what is being measured and how Maryland is working on this issue will be included in the narrative of the application.

Ms. Gable discussed a chart outlining graduation rates under Option A State AMOs for all students broken down by cohorts beginning with 2011 and concluding with 2020.

Regarding Principle #3, Ms. Gable said that a draft *Teacher and Principal State Default Evaluation Model* was developed to assure that teachers and principals are effective in increasing student achievement. She said that a new regulation is being developed and will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

Regarding Principle #4, Ms. Chafin reported that the Master Plans have reduced duplication of effort by LEAs.

Ms. Gable distributed a list of assurances by the State Education Agency to be provided with the application.

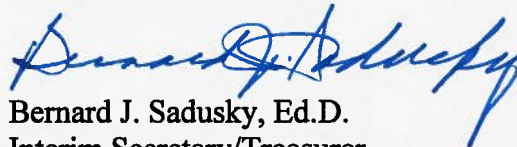
With no further discussion, Dr. Sadusky asked for approval to make the suggested changes and submit the State's ESEA Flexibility Request.

Upon motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Sidhu, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Superintendent's request. (In Favor – 9; Dr. Dukes, Ms. Montero-Diaz, and Professor Gates exited the teleconference prior to the vote.)

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.
Interim Secretary/Treasurer

Date: 2/28/12