

# MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday  
September 21, 2010

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

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President; Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, Vice-President; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Dr. James Gates, Jr.; Ms. Luisa Montero-Diaz; Mr. Sayed Naved; Mr. Gayon Sampson; Mrs. Madhu Sidhu; Mr. Guffrie M. Smith, Jr.; Donna Hill Staton, Esq.; Dr. Ivan Walks; Ms. Kate Walsh and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools.

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.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Grasmick directed the Board's attention to the appointment of Kathleen Cecil, who is being recommended as an Education Program Specialist in Instructional Technology, describing the position as "a very critical part of the Department's functioning." She also announced that Dr. Colleen Seremet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Instruction, will be retiring. The Superintendent said that Dr. Seremet has been an incredible leader in the instructional program and a key member of the core team for Race to the Top (RTTT).

Dr. Seremet thanked the Board and State Superintendent for their support over the years and said, "This is the second most difficult decision I've ever had to make." President DeGraffenreidt thanked Dr. Seremet, on behalf of the Board, for her distinguished service.

Upon motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Diaz, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the consent agenda as follows: (In Favor – 9; Dr. Walks, Mr. Sampson and Mr. Naved were not present at this time)

- Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2010
- Personnel (copy attached to these minutes)
- Budget Adjustments for August, 2010

## **RTTT UPDATE**

Dr. Grasmick reported that she met with staff of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) recently and that two states, which were approved for RTTT funding, have had their budget proposal approved as of the meeting date with USDE – Maryland and Massachusetts. She said that every school system will be required to submit a “scope of work.” She said that she discussed this with all twenty-two superintendents who signed on to the RTTT application. Dr. Grasmick said that she is working on an organizational chart which will reflect the integrated work of the entire Department. She also reported that the Department has developed a communications piece to keep all stakeholders updated on RTTT progress. The Superintendent reported that she plans to reconvene the RTTT Steering Committee that guided the development of the State’s application and would like to see the committee meet monthly to monitor and coordinate all RTTT activities. She noted that position descriptions have been written for the contractual positions that will be needed to implement RTTT activities and that the recruitment announcements should be issued within the next two weeks. She said that the U.S. Department of Education has stated its goal of being more supportive to States receiving RTTT funding. She also reported on the creation of the Maryland Council on Educator Effectiveness (MCEE) consisting of twenty-one members. Dr. Grasmick said that the Council must deal with a very short timeline to address the educator evaluation issue.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt said that, if it was possible, he would like to see the two nonparticipating school systems included in the implementation of the RTTT grant. Dr. Grasmick responded that they could be included given that the USDE had indicated that the two school systems in Maryland that did not participate in the RTTT application could become involved LEAs in the RTTT programs. RTTT Program Director Dr. Jim Foran said that Maryland can submit a written amendment to include the two local school systems in its final “scope of work” submission.

The Superintendent also reported that she had her first meeting with state leaders developing national assessments.

She distributed a document reflecting the allocation of RTTT funding along with the first printed RTTT update.

In response to a concern expressed by Dr. Dukes, Dr. Grasmick said that Department leaders have made seventy-nine presentations to local school system superintendents as well as key LEA staff regarding all of the RTTT issues. Dr. Foran said that the USDOE will be providing communication templates for States to use to keep information flowing to local school systems. The Superintendent said that the Department will be joining Facebook to enhance communication as well.

Dr. Grasmick said that she met with staff of the Delaware Department of Education to determine where they are in the educator effectiveness conversations.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Dr. Grasmick said that higher education will be an important part of the educator assessment piece and that higher education staff are included on the Steering Committee. She also noted that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are threaded throughout the RTTT application.

In response to a question by Dr. Dukes, the Superintendent said that the MCEE will make recommendations to the State Board. Dr. Grasmick introduced Betty Weller, Vice-President of the Maryland State Educators' Association and Co-Chair of the MCEE. Ms. Weller said that the Council needs to understand its charges and come up with a fair evaluation model. Dr. Foran explained that the USDE will be providing the group with the best research on educator effectiveness models.

In response to the President's concern about the need for a public record of the MCEE deliberations, Dr. Grasmick reported that there will be a website established and recording devices used during the Council meetings.

Dr. Finan, who is a member of the MCEE, reported on the first meeting activities. Ms. Walsh said she can provide the names of individuals in states that have made progress in defining teacher effectiveness.

### **COMMON CORE STATE CURRICULUM (CCSC)**

The Superintendent asked Dr. Seremet to brief the Board on the progress of the transition to the CCSC.

Dr. Seremet explained that last month the first round of the gap analysis between Maryland's current curriculum and the CCSC was conducted in which seventy-six people participated. She reported that the next step is to produce the final gap analysis report which will reflect what revisions need to be made. She said that her staff is designing assessments to measure the CCSC. In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Dr. Seremet said that as draft documents are produced they will be posted and public comments will be encouraged.

In response to a question by Dr. Dukes, Dr. Seremet said that consensus on the common core between high schools and institutions of higher education is part of Maryland's reform plan and is included in the RTTT application.

In response to a question by Mr. Naved, Dr. Leslie Wilson, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Accountability and Assessment, explained that the CCSC and assessments will be piloted in several schools next year with full implementation during the 2014-15 school year. In response to a concern raised by Mr. Naved about the possibility of Maryland losing its #1 national rating during this time of transition, Dr. Grasmick explained that every state participating in the CCSC will have the same challenges faced by Maryland.

In response to another question by Mr. Naved, Dr. Seremet said that all issues in the gap analysis will be addressed rather than prioritized and that costs associated with re-writing the curriculum will be minimal.

Dr. Wilson assured Board members that higher education personnel and teachers will be included in the national assessment project. Dr. Grasmick concurred with Ms. Walsh and Dr. Gates regarding the need to have top experts involved in this process.



In response to a question by Dr. Walks, Dr. Wilson said that there will be reviews for bias in the assessments. Dr. Walks noted that the best time to address biases is when selecting experts to work on assessment issues. Dr. Wilson assured the Board that everyone selected will be provided with diversity training.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt stated the need to establish in advance a mechanism to resolve disputes when trying to reach consensus on assessment issues.

In response to a question by Ms. Diaz, Dr. Grasmick said that STEM is woven throughout the RTTT application and that she will provide a presentation on the issue of turning around low-achieving schools. Dr. Wilson said that her staff is establishing a basic foundation for the longitudinal data system (LDS) and will be hiring additional personnel to work in specific areas.

The Superintendent said that she will provide updates on other components of the RTTT process at each Board meeting.

Dr. Grasmick recognized and thanked Dixie Stack, Director of Curriculum in the Division of Instruction, for her excellent work and announced that Ms. Stack will be retiring at the end of the month.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION (DLLR) ANNUAL REPORT—HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS BY EXAMINATION**

Dr. Grasmick reminded Board members that legislation in 2008 transferred the Correctional Education and Adult Education Programs to DLLR on July 1, 2009. She said that she and the Board President signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DLLR last year that established the roles and responsibilities of the DLLR and the State Board relative to the joint awarding of the high school diplomas by examination through either the External Diploma Program or the GED Testing Program. She explained that the MOU included a provision that required DLLR to provide an annual report to the Board on the awarding of high school diplomas. She introduced Secretary of DLLR, Alexander Sanchez to present highlights of the first year report.

Mr. Sanchez introduced Leonard Howie, Deputy Secretary; Elizabeth Sachs, Director of Policy Development; and, Paulette Francois, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning.

Mr. Sanchez reported that 5021 diplomas were awarded this past year and noted that the GED staff changed the processing time from sixty days to twenty days and discussed other various changes made in the GED and External Diploma Programs.

The President congratulated Mr. Sanchez on the excellent job being done in this area and asked about the progress being made in procuring a new Baltimore City testing site. Mr. Howie explained that there are severe limitations for testing sites due to security issues. He reported that they are looking at universities and communities colleges to be used as testing sites.

In response to a question by Mr. DeGraffenreidt about testing violations, Mr. Howie said that proctors are educating people on test taking policies and that any violations are dealt with immediately. Mr. Howie said that all monitoring reports are available for review by State Board members. Mr. Howie said that there have been several testing examiners replaced due to transition issues. He explained that by the end of this fiscal year all of the changes listed in his report will be completed.

In response to other questions by the President, Mr. Howie reported on the GED Testing Office primary database, MGETS, and the professional development being offered to examiners. In response to Mr. DeGraffenreidt's question about desk audits, Mr. Howie reported that one hundred percent of the desk audits of the National External Diploma Program sites were approved.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Pat Tyler of DLLR explained that the GED Testing Service is working on a new test to accommodate the implementation of the CCSC.

Board members thanked the presenters for their open and honest presentation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMAR 13A.04.17 (REPEAL AND ADOPT NEW)**  
**COMAR 13A.03.02.01 (AMEND)**

Dr. Grasmick introduced Don Baugh of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and reviewed the history of the creation of the Maryland State Environmental Literacy Curriculum. She asked Dr. Seremet to explain the changes that are proposed in COMAR related to Environmental Education. She recommended State Board adoption of the proposed changes to COMAR 13A.04.17 and the granting of permission to publish proposed amendments to COMAR 13A.03.02.01.

Dr. Seremet said that the regulatory process provided overwhelming support for the inclusion of this curriculum. She explained that the proposed amendment to COMAR 13A.03.02.01 reflects the responses which encouraged the incorporation of environmental literacy as a graduation requirement not only at COMAR 13A.04.17 but also at this COMAR site. She suggested that the Board vote on these items separately.

Mr. Sampson expressed concern that students will be required to meet an additional graduation requirement. The Superintendent explained that this curriculum would be threaded throughout the curriculum and would not require a separate test.

In response to a concern raised by Ms. Staton, Dr. Grasmick said that superintendents took no exception to embedding this curriculum in their current programs. Dr. Seremet said that instructional leaders had no problem with embedding this curriculum as well.

Several Board members expressed concerns about this graduation requirement and President DeGraffenreidt suggested that publishing the amendment would provide public comment for the Board's perusal.

Upon motion by President DeGraffenreidt, seconded by Mr. Smith, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted COMAR 13A.04.17, Environmental Education. (In Favor – 12)

A motion to grant permission to publish the amendment to COMAR 13A.03.02.01 regarding graduation requirements, failed. (In favor – 4; Opposed – 8)

### **MARYLAND'S SAT, PSAT AND AP RESULTS**

The Superintendent introduced Dr. Roni Jolley, Liaison, College Board/Advance Placement Staff, Division of Instruction, to provide a brief presentation on the recently released results of Maryland student performance on the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, ACT and AP assessments. The Superintendent also introduced Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Office of Academic Policy, to provide comments on Maryland's excellent results and acknowledged Marcus Lingenfelter, a representative of the College Board, who was seated in the audience.

Dr. Jolley presented graphs depicting the results of SAT and PSAT/NMSQT scores for Maryland students in 2009 and 2010 as compared to the national average reflecting an increase from 2009 to 2010. She noted that students taking the PSAT often fare better on the SAT than those that don't take it.

Ms. Gable discussed graphs reflecting ACT participation trends since 2004 which show a tremendous increase in participation and performance among Maryland students. She noted that Maryland ACT trends outpace the nation.

Ms. Gable also noted that Maryland out performs all fifty states with 67.3 percent of its high schools offering AP in four core subject areas for 2009. She reported that the national average is 33.9 percent. She provided data on the five-year trend for AP participation among African American and Hispanic students reflecting an increase in ethnic diversity.

Dr. Jolley said, "Preparation is key. Students and families are prepared."

In response to a question by Mr. Sampson, Ms. Gable said that in order to increase ACT participation, students should be given the option while they are looking at specific colleges. She said that ACT staff is reaching out to school counselors to increase participation by encouraging students to take both the ACT and the SAT.

In response to a concern expressed by Mr. Sampson about the lack of information for students on the availability and advantages of AP courses, Dr. Jolley urged that students become ambassadors and help get the word out of the advantages of taking AP classes. Mr. Sampson urged that school counselors should be encouraging more minority students to participate in AP classes. Ms. Gable said that PSAT scores can be very helpful resource to school personnel who are trying to identify students who might benefit from AP courses.

In response to a question by Ms. Staton, Dr. Jolley said that Baltimore City currently pays for students taking the SAT but that the policies vary throughout the State on who shoulders the



burden of costs for these tests. Dr. Jolley reported that all high schools in Maryland offer AP courses. Ms. Staton asked for data on the number of AP courses offered in all Maryland schools. Dr. Jolley said that there are strong online AP courses being offered as well.

Dr. Gates requested data on the impact of participation in the PSAT on SAT scores. He also requested that data on the PSAT and SAT results be disaggregated by gender.

Mr. Naved noted that the number of students taking AP courses has increased while performance has decreased.

Board members discussed the issues of test score requirements for AP credits and the disparity of colleges accepting AP credits. Mr. DeGraffenreidt requested data on the percentage of students who take AP classes and receive college credit for them. Ms. Jolley said she will provide the Board with more detail as requested for an additional discussion of this issue.

### **SEED SCHOOL REPORT AND UPDATE**

Dr. Grasmick reported that the SEED School of Maryland was created as the result of legislation approved by the General Assembly in 2006 authorizing a State residential boarding education program for at-risk students. She introduced Jerry Kountz, Head of the SEED School, Jallon Croskey, Director of Academics, Stan Estremesky, Managing Director, and Anna Williams, Director of Student Life.

Mr. Kountz reported that this is year three for the SEED school which houses 240 students from thirteen Maryland school systems. He provided data on the numbers of students in each grade level, six through eight, noting that there are thirty new staff members and that the school provides an eight hour academic day. He noted that the average class size is fifteen students and that evening programs begin at 4 p.m. Mr. Kountz said that character education is provided to all students. He noted that the SEED school did not meet Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) as mandated by the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) but that new strategies are in place to turn this around.

Ms. Croskey explained the new strategies being implemented and explained that assessments are used to determine student interventions. She reported that the school is offering before and after-school programs to provide additional assistance and moving to gender specific classrooms this year with critical gender specific professional development being offered to teachers.

Mr. Kountz reported that the campus is being enlarged and that they are working to attract a more diverse population.

Ms. Walsh expressed concern about student reading scores and offered to provide some suggestions for increasing student achievement in reading. She also expressed concern about the high suspension rate. Mr. Kountz said that staff is working with students to acquire a better understanding of the causes of their learning problems and is also providing peer mediation programs. Ms. Croskey said that the school is offering PBIS training as well as a SEED Scholars

Program which provides money as incentives for educational progress. Ms. Walsh requested more information on what programs are and aren't working.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Mr. Kountz said that last year the school did not have a formal math assessment program but that this year they have a data driven program to better measure student growth in mathematics.

In response to a question by Dr. Dukes, Mr. Kountz said he and his staff have visited other schools to learn their best practices. He said they are also working on building a mentoring program with outside organizations.

In response to a question by Ms. Diaz, Mr. Kountz said that the survey they did reflects that staff members don't trust other staff members and that there will be additional professional development provided to meet these challenges.

In response to a question by Mr. Naved, Mr. Kountz said that students who are suspended are either sent home or put in isolation in their dorm.

President DeGraffenreidt thanked the presenters for their comprehensive report.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to §10-503(a) (1) (i) & (iii) and §10-508(a) (1), (7), of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Dr. Dukes, seconded by Dr. Finan, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, in Conference Room 1, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building. All board members were present except Ivan Walks. In attendance were Dr. Nancy Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools; Dr. John Smeallie, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Steve Brooks, Deputy State Superintendent for Finance; and, Tony South, Executive Director to the State Board. Assistant Attorneys General Elizabeth M. Kameen and Jackie La Fiandra were also present. The Executive Session commenced at 1:15 p.m. (In favor – 11; Dr. Walks was absent)

The State Board approved five decisions for publication.

- *L.A. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – request for reconsideration – Opinion 10-36
- *Vincent Downs v. Maryland State Department of Education* – Termination/MSDE Professional Assistant – Opinion 10-37
- *Samuel Lowe v. Wicomico County Board of Education* – employee termination – Opinion 10-38
- *Marsha Powell v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – employee transfer – Opinion 10-39
- *David & Linda S. v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – harassment/bullying complaints – Opinion 10-40



The Board deliberated four cases.

- Nathan A. Blazejak, et al. v. Kent County Board of Education – redistricting
- Jon Everhart v. Prince George’s County Board of Education – teacher discipline
- *Humanitarian Outreach Development Group v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – charter school application
- *Angelique W. v. Howard County Board of Education* – residency

Opinions in those cases will be published at a future Board meeting.

The State Board received a legal update concerning its proposed regulations implementing the RTTT reform. Counsel also presented legal issues concerning school fees. President DeGraffenreidt requested that a letter to all school systems be drafted seeking information on the fees school systems charge.

Steve Brooks and Rich Baker presented the 2012 State Education Budget Proposal in detail for Board review.

Irene Padilla and Rachel Croft presented the Public Library Capital Grant Budget projects to be recommended to the Governor for funding.

Dr. Grasmick presented the proposed MSDE Reorganization Chart reflecting reporting changes based on the Race To The Top Reform Initiative.

At 2:30 p.m. all staff members left the meeting, and the Board discussed the Performance Evaluation of the State Superintendent.

The Executive Session ended at 2:55 p.m.

### **RECONVENE**

The meeting reconvened at 2:55 p.m. In the absence of Mr. DeGraffenreidt, Vice-President Dukes led the meeting. Dr. Walks was absent as well.

### **REVIEW OF MARYLAND’S CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Dr. Grasmick introduced the following panel members – Bobbi Macdonald, Executive Director of the City Neighbors Foundation, Jason Botel, Executive Director, KIPP Baltimore, and Patrick Crain, Maryland Regional Director, Imagine Schools, Inc.

Ms. Macdonald reported that the City Neighbors Foundation operates three schools in Baltimore City: City Neighbors Charter School, City Neighbors Hamilton Charter School, and City Neighbors High School. She reported that parents of students who attend these schools are required to provide forty volunteer hours per year and that the average student to teacher ratio is

fifteen to one. She reported on the schools' project based learning, arts integration, and their unique governance models.

Mr. Botel reported that KIPP Baltimore operates two charter schools in Baltimore City: KIPP Ujima Village Academy and KIPP Harmony Academy. He provided the Board with KIPP Baltimore's Mission, Vision, Values, and its core operating goals. Mr. Botel also provided data on the student populations, alumni participation in college preparatory high schools and highlights of student achievement. Mr. Botel discussed the challenges facing his schools which include being subject to a collective bargaining agreement to which school leadership is not a party as well the need to provide extended time to students. He urged the need for new charter school legislation.

Mr. Crain reported that Imagine Schools operates two schools in Prince George County: Imagine Foundations and Lincoln Image and one school in Baltimore County: Imagine Discovery. He reported that Imagine Schools, Inc. is a national organization that operates seventy-two schools across the country. He reported that Imagine Schools offer a variety of curricula and approaches based on the needs of the community. Mr. Crain provided information measuring academic achievement in the schools as well as parent satisfaction, financial sustainability, character development, shared values and the challenges and recommendations for the schools. He expressed the same challenges being faced by other charter schools regarding the lack of control over staffing, budget and facilities.

In response to a question by Ms. Walsh, Ms. Macdonald provided test score information noting the large population of special education students in her schools. She explained that the schools have financed much of the expense for renovations.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Mr. Botel said that KIPP Baltimore has placed STEM college students in classrooms to increase student interest in STEM. Mr. Crain said that although Imagine does not run any high schools, their schools emphasize science and have performed very well. Ms. Macdonald explained that many student projects are being done in the science area.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates about teacher effectiveness, Ms. Macdonald said teachers and principals have created a collaborative partnership to measure their effectiveness. Mr. Crain reported that students are given a pre- and post test to determine student growth and, therefore, teacher effectiveness. Mr. Botel said that KIPP personnel are in favor of teacher effectiveness being linked to student achievement.

In response to a question by Ms. Staton, Mr. Crain said that charter schools need more flexibility on curriculum, the use of staff and more financial autonomy.

In response to another question by Ms. Staton, Mr. Botel said that Dr. Alonso, head of the Baltimore City Public Schools, has set up a network of teams to discuss best practices and included charter school leaders.

In response to Mr. Sampson's concern about low math scores, Ms. Macdonald said that it takes several years for students who are below grade level to advance to grade level. She said that her schools have created a supplement to the math curriculum to accelerate math learning.

The presenters answered questions about gender specific classes, class size, the selection of students by lottery, dress codes and suspensions and expulsions. The presenters explained that suspensions and expulsions are done in accordance with local school system policies.

In response to a question by Mr. Sampson, Dr. Grasmick said that charter schools conform to the state curricula but have flexibility in its delivery. She thanked the presenters for their presentations.

### **WAIVER OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS**

Dr. Grasmick reported that the USDE has allowed states to apply for certain waivers for schools and local school systems that participate in the Title I School Improvement Grant Program. She introduced Ann Chafin, Assistant State Superintendent, and Maria Lamb, Director of Program Improvement, in the Division of Student, Family and School Support Services, to explain waiver requests for selected schools and how the waivers would impact the schools to which they would be granted. She recommended that the Board grant the requested waivers and allow the identified schools to “start over” in the school improvement process and to exempt the “receiving schools” under the Title I Public School Choice Option.

Ms. Lamb gave a brief history of the school improvement process and said the superintendents in the specific school districts are in favor of the grant waivers. The requested waivers would allow these schools to start over in the school improvement timeline and exempt these schools as “receiving schools” under the Title I Public School Choice Option. The waivers would be granted as part of Maryland’s approved Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG); the schools are identified as non Title I SIG Tier II schools.

Upon motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Sidhu, and with unanimous agreement, the Board granted the requested waivers for Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts High School in Baltimore City; and Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, Drew Freeman Middle School, G. James Gholson Middle School, and Thurgood Marshall Middle School in Prince George’s County. (In Favor – 10)

### **ANNUAL UPDATE ON FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Dr. Grasmick asked Steve Brooks, Deputy State Superintendent for Finance, to provide a quick overview of the annual financial reporting requirements for local schools systems and background information on the action requested of the Board. She recommended that the State Board grant her authority to notify the Comptroller to withhold ten percent of the November State aid payment and each subsequent installment for any system that is not in full compliance with Section 5-114 of the Education Article.

After a brief overview by Mr. Brooks, and upon motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Dr. Finan, the Board approved the Superintendent’s request unanimously. (In Favor – 10)



## **PUBLIC LIBRARIES CAPITAL GRANT PROJECTS**

Dr. Grasmick reported that the Board received a report during Executive Session on the list of projects that are proposed for funding under the FY 2012 Public Libraries Capital Grant Program as well as the projects recommended for supplemental grant funding from the statewide contingency funding during FY 2011. She recommended Board approval of the lists of projects recommended for funding. She introduced Irene Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Library Support and Development Services, to answer any questions posed by Board members.

Upon motion by Ms. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Sampson, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the list of projects recommended for funding. (In Favor – 10)

## **MSDE'S 2012 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND BUDGET ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS**

The Superintendent requested State Board approval for submission of the Department's 2012 Budget Estimates and Budget Enhancement Requests to the Maryland Department of Budget and Management.

Upon motion by Ms. Staton, seconded by Dr. Finan and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Superintendent's request. (In Favor – 10)

## **STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Dr. Grasmick distributed President Obama's Back-To-School Speech and an MSDE produced *Parents' Guide* which focuses on elementary age students. She reported that a magnificent art exhibit is on display at the USDOE Headquarters in which Maryland students are featured. She brought the Board's attention to an article in *The Baltimore Sun* about the exhibit.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. DeGraffenreidt explained procedures by which the Board hears public comments. The following person presented comment: Thomas A. Carr, Vice President of the Garrett County Board of Education and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), provided remarks on the upcoming MABE Annual Conference.

## **OPINIONS**

Ms. Kameen announced the following Opinions:

10-36 *L.A. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – request for reconsideration (denied request)

- 10-37 *Vincent Downs v. Maryland State Department of Education* – Termination/MSDE (affirmed decision of MSDE)
- 10-38 *Samuel Lowe v. Wicomico County Board of Education* – employee termination (affirmed the local board's decision)
- 10-39 *Marsha Powell v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – employee transfer (dismissed)
- 10-40 *David and Linda S. v. Baltimore County Board of Education* – harassment/bullying complaints (dismissed)

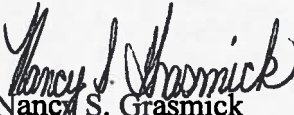
**EXECUTIVE SESSION II**

Pursuant to §10-508(a)(1), of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Ms. Diaz, seconded by Ms. Diaz, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, in the Caucus Room, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. All board members were present except James DeGraffenreidt, Jr., Ivan Walks, and Kate Walsh. In attendance were Dr. Nancy Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools; Dr. John Smeallie, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Steve Brooks, Deputy State Superintendent for Finance; and, Tony South, Executive Director to the State Board. Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth M. Kameen was also present. The Executive Session commenced at 4:40 p.m. (In favor – 9)

The Board considered a personnel matter and on the motion of Dr. Gates and seconded by Guffrie Smith granted approval to Dr. Grasmick to move forward to hire Mary Cary as Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Instruction, subject to formal Board approval in October.

The Executive Session ended at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy S. Grasmick  
Secretary, Treasurer

NSG/rms

APPROVED: 10/26/10





**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**CLOSED SESSION**

On this 21st day of September 2010, at the hour of 4:40 ~~pm~~/pm, the Members of the State Board of Education voted as follows to meet in closed session:

Motion made by: Ms. Montevero-Diaz

Seconded by: Dr. Finan

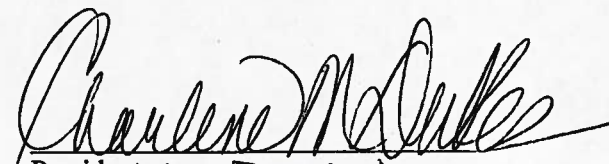
In Favor: 9 Opposed: 0 - Member(s) Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

The meeting was closed under authority of §10-503 (a) (1) (I) and §10-508(a) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland for the following reason(s): (check all which apply)

- (1) To discuss: (I) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, ~~emotion~~, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.
- (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business.
- (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.
- (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.
- (5) To consider the investment of public funds.
- (6) To consider the marketing of public securities.
- (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
- (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.
- (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.
- (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (I) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.
- (11) To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination.
- (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct.
- (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.
- (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

The topics to be discussed during this closed session include:

1. Personnel Matter

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President Vice-President

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE September 21-22, 2010 BOARD MEETING**

**I. Appointments Grade 19 and above:**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
Swainson, Angela L.	Education Program Specialist I, Instructional Technology	21	Instruction/ Instructional Technology and School Library Media	TBD

**II. Appointments Grade 18 and below:**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
Snider, Kate	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I	12	Rehabilitation Services/ Workforce and Technology Center	09/08/2010

**III. Other Actions:**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
None				



Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools

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September 20-21, 2010

**BOARD LIST**

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

**Name:** Angela L. Swainson  
**Position:** Education Program Specialist I, Instructional Technology  
**Division:** Instruction  
**Salary Grade:** 21 (\$55,419 - \$80,940)  
**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**Education:**

Master's Degree or equivalent 36 credit hours of post-baccalaureate course work in Education, Education Administration/Supervision, School Library Media or a related field.

**Experience:**

Four (4) years of professional administrative, library media, or teaching experience within an education setting; experience using multi-media technology is preferred.

Note: Two additional years of experience as defined above may be substituted for a Master's Degree.

**JOB DESCRIPTION:**

This is a professional position responsible for providing leadership and technical assistance for implementation of the federal Title II-D Education Technology Program, the Maryland Plan for Technology in Education, and other State and federal grant programs and initiative for the integration of technology into teaching and learning in Maryland Schools



Angela L. Swainson  
Page two

**Qualifications:**

University of Virginia (Charlottesville, Virginia) 2000 – Master of Arts Degree in Educational Policy

New York University (New York, New York) 1995 – Bachelor of Arts Degree in Film and Television Production, Dramatic Writing

**Experience:**

3 ActMedia (Edgewater, Maryland)

2004 – Present: Senior Director of Programs

VWSC (Halethorpe, Maryland)

1995 – 2003: Director, Education Programs and Events

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS:**

New Hire

Revised 9/24/2010

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE September 21-22, 2010 BOARD MEETING

I. Appointments Grade 19 and above:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
Cecil, Kathleen	Education Program Specialist I, Instructional Technology – Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities	21	Instruction/ Instructional Technology and School Library Media	TBD

II. Appointments Grade 18 and below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
None				

III. Other Actions:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY GRADE</u>	<u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>
None				



Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools

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September 20-21, 2010

**BOARD LIST**

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

**Name:** Kathleen W. Cecil  
**Position:** Education Program Specialist I, Instructional Technology -Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities (MVLO)  
**Division:** Instruction  
**Salary Grade:** 21 (\$55,419 - \$80,940)  
**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**Education:**

A Master's Degree or equivalent 36 credit hours of post-baccalaureate course work in Education, Education Administration/Supervision, School Library Media or a closely related field.

**Experience:**

Four (4) years of professional administrative, library media, or teaching within an education setting. Experience with an e-learning program preferred.

**Note:** Two additional years of experience as defined above may be substituted for a Master's Degree.

**JOB DESCRIPTION:**

This position is responsible for providing leadership, technical assistance, and support for the MVLO program at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local school systems, collaborates with stakeholders and provides consultation services for virtual learning, administration of the learning management and teleconferencing systems, and expands virtual e-learning in Maryland.

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Kathleen W. Cecil  
Page two

**Qualifications:**

Towson University (Towson, Maryland) 1991 – Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education;  
1984 - Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood Education

46 Credits in Administration and Supervision – 1992 to Present: Goucher College, Hampton University, and Loyola College

**Experience:**

Baltimore County Public Schools (Towson, Maryland)

2009 – Present: Title I Gifted and Talented Catalyst

2002 – 2007: Gifted and Talented Catalyst

1997 – 2000: Library Media Specialist

1984 – 1995: Kindergarten and Third Grade Teacher

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2006 – 2009: Education Program Specialist I - MVLO (Contractual)

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS:**

New Hire