

# MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday-Wednesday  
January 29-30, 2008

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

The Maryland State Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 29-30, 2008, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Dunbar Brooks, President; Ms. Beverly A. Cooper, Vice-President; Mr. Henry Butta; Mr. Blair G. Ewing; Dr. Mary Kay Finan; Mr. Renford Freemantle; Ms. Rosa M. Garcia; Mr. Richard Goodall; Dr. Karabelle Pizzigati; Mr. David Tufaro and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Secretary/Treasurer and State Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Lelia T. Allen and Dr. Charlene M. Dukes were absent from the proceedings for both days. Ms. Garcia was not present for the public session on Tuesday morning but participated in a portion of the session by conference call and did not vote. Dr. Pizzigati was absent for the Wednesday morning meeting.

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. Skipp Sanders, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Dr. Ronald Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy; Ms. JoAnne Carter, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction and Academic Acceleration; and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director to the State Board.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Dr. Pizzigati, seconded by Dr. Finan, and with unanimous agreement, the State Board approved the consent agenda items as follows: (In Favor – 9)

Approval of Minutes of December 11-12, 2007  
Personnel  
Budget Adjustments for December, 2007  
Permission to Publish:  
    COMAR 13A.08.06.01-.02 (Amendments)  
    Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Programs

Superintendent Grasmick reported that Ms. Kelly D. Colvin, Deputy Secretary, Regional Representative of Region III, for the U.S. Department of Education will be attending all State Board meetings but was not in attendance at this time.

Dr. Grasmick distributed a copy of a Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) Action Plan to each Board member and noted that a discussion and presentation will be conducted at the next Board meeting. She recognized the excellent work of Mary Gable, Director for Instructional Programs, Division of Instruction, on this project.

## **GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY**

The Superintendent reported that since 1998, the Department has participated in the career-oriented National Groundhog Job Shadow Day Program. She introduced Kathy Oliver, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Career, Technical and Adult Education, to tell the Board more about the program and introduce the guests who are participating in the program today.

Ms. Oliver introduced two students from Lansdowne High School and four students from Wilde Lake High School who will be job shadowing throughout the Department, stating that “these students represent our future.”

Mr. Brooks congratulated the students and Ms. Cooper urged them to visit the Reginald F. Lewis Black History Museum for an informative and exciting excursion. Dr. Finan also urged them to consider Frostburg State University as a higher education choice.

## **MILKEN AWARD WINNERS**

Dr. Grasmick explained that the Department has had an exciting partnership with the Milken National Educator Award Program for the past fifteen years. She said that the partnership not only supports quality education but brings well deserved recognition to some of the many outstanding teachers in Maryland. She explained that the criteria used to select Award winners are very rigorous and each winner receives an expense-paid trip to California and a check for \$25,000. She reported that since 1994, principals and teachers in Maryland have won more than \$1.3 million.

The Superintendent introduced Mabrooka Chaudry, a social studies teacher at Atholton High School in Howard County and Kiara Hargrove, a science teacher at Polytechnic High School in Baltimore City. She said that both teachers are loved and admired by their students who consistently score on a high level. She said, “Both teachers make us so proud” and noted that they are accompanied by family members and school staff.

Dr. Darla Strouse, Executive Director, Partnerships and Development, thanked all of the people who worked on these nominations and presented a short video depicting the surprise announcements to the Award winners.

Ms. Mabrooka said that she was “stunned” by the announcement and stated that “you are as good as your leaders. We have great leaders. It takes team work and good leadership.”

Ms. Hargrove said “teachers work so hard every day. This has been a great opportunity. I am so proud to represent the teachers.”

Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings Blake presented an award certificate to Ms. Hargrove stating “she is a role model for the ages.”

Mr. Brooks and Dr. Grasmick presented a certificate of appreciation to both award winners and Mr. Brooks said “The Milken Foundation made excellent choices. You are clearly great ambassadors for your profession. We appreciate everything you do for kids.”

### **QUALITY COUNTS REPORT**

Dr. Grasmick explained that on January 9, 2008, the results of this year’s Quality Counts Report issued by *Education Week* were announced. She reported that Maryland was rated third in the nation for the overall quality of public education. She asked Dr. Ronald Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Academic Policy, to review the highlights of the Report and explain the criteria used to rank the state.

Dr. Peiffer explained that this Report is the “premier publication for education” and that it focuses on a variety of indicators in six major areas: K-12 Achievement, Chance for Success, Transitions and Alignment, School Finance, the Teaching Profession, and Standards, Assessments and Accountability. He explained that Maryland ranked second in the country on the K-12 Achievement index. third on Transitions and Alignment and sixth on the Chance for Success index.

Mr. Ewing congratulated the staff and Department for this excellent accomplishment. He noted his concern for the C- grade in the category of Teaching Profession.

Dr. Grasmick said that Department staff is doing an analysis of this issue explaining that it doesn’t speak to the quality of teachers in Maryland but rather the lack of a statewide salary scale for teachers in Maryland. She also noted that Maryland does not provide for pay differentials for teachers in critical shortage areas. She said that this area is where Maryland lags behind and reiterated that the percentage of highly qualified teachers was not the issue in this category. She said that following an analysis and recommendations by a teacher shortage committee, a presentation will be made to the State Board on their findings.

Mr. Tufaro expressed his appreciation for Dr. Grasmick’s leadership role in enabling Maryland to achieve this honor. He said, “We are fortunate to have Dr. Grasmick as our Superintendent.”

Dr. Pizzigati said that while there is always room for improvement, the Board should look at areas of high performance and identify the criteria used to find out why we did well in those areas.

Mr. Brooks noted the achievement in all Maryland school districts and congratulated all of its workers.

Dr. Grasmick said that she will include “what are the next steps” on the March Board agenda following her monthly meeting with the local superintendents of schools in early March.

### **CHANGES TO MARYLAND’S USDE ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN FOR NCLB**

Dr. Grasmick asked Dr. Peiffer to brief the Board on the Consolidated State Accountability Plan that the Department is required to develop to fulfill the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB)

and the proposed changes to that Plan. She recommended that the State Board approve the proposed revisions to Maryland's Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Peiffer explained that this is the fourth year in which the plan requires amendments. He explained the following proposed changes:

- Science Assessments.
- High School Assessment in Biology.
- AP/IB Substitute Tests for Science.
- Implementation of Modified Assessment.
- Modified Appeal Process for Specific Students.
- Status Model for Reporting HSA Scores.

Dr. Peiffer reported that the NCLB Accountability Plan will be sent to the federal government in February for approval.

In response to a question by Mr. Ewing about the timing of the addition of a modified assessment and its affect on students and parents, Dr. Peiffer said that this modification to the Plan is being requested as early as is possible due to federal constraints. He assured Mr. Ewing that the tests have been designed to be approvable and that parents and students will be notified in time to help them prepare adequately.

In response to a second question by Mr. Ewing, Dr. Grasmick said the modified assessments will begin in June 2008 and that this accommodation for qualifying students is already included in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). She asked Mr. Ewing to forward the names of parents who have expressed concern about the modified assessments so that staff can contact them to reassure them of the help their students will receive. She explained to the Board that this issue relates only to the two percent of the school population who are identified in their IEPs as eligible for special testing as mandated by the federal government. She explained that the State provides an alternative test for an additional one percent of students who have significant special needs. She assured the Board that the Department staff provides parent groups with a clear explanation of this process.

In response to a request by Dr. Pizzigati, Dr. Grasmick said that the Board will be provided with an outline of this process to clarify and answer any questions that they have.

Upon motion by Mr. Goodall, seconded by Mr. Butta, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the proposed revisions to Maryland's State Consolidated Accountability Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Education. (In favor – 9)

In response to a question about growth models from Dr. Pizzigati, Dr. Grasmick said that the Department is studying this issue and that the U.S. Department of Education has opened this up for states to consider. She said that it will be crucial to have all of the parameters in place such as individual student identifiers prior to the introduction of growth models. She suggested that that this discussion be placed on the February State Board agenda.

## SCIENCE ASSESSMENT STANDARDS SETTING

The Superintendent noted that Maryland schools will be introducing a science assessment in grades five and eight this year and that the Department is required to determine two levels of student performance: “proficient” and “advanced.” She explained that the Department is also required to determine an “advanced” level of performance on the high school biology assessment.

Dr. Grasmick acknowledged the following individuals who assisted in this standards setting process and who were present in the audience: former Assistant State Superintendent Gary Heath, who worked with the contractor on this project; Dan Cunningham, Director of Instructional Assessment, who worked with the Review and Articulation Committee; and Dr. Steven Wise, a member of the Psychometric Council and faculty member at James Madison University.

She then recommended State Board approval of the proposed performance standards for the new science assessments for grades five and eight and also the performance standard for the “advanced” level for the high school biology assessment. She asked Dr. Leslie Wilson, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Accountability and Assessment, to brief the Board on the rigorous standard setting process that was used to develop these recommendations.

Dr. Wilson reviewed the widely used and accepted steps used in the standard setting process. She reported on the various stakeholders included in the process and explained the next steps to be taken once these standards are approved. She reminded the Board that the adoption of performance standards for science will ensure that Maryland will be able to meet the assessment and accountability requirements of the *NCLB Act*.

Dr. Wilson explained that in addition to paper and pencil tests, fifth and eighth grade students will have the option of taking the tests on a computer. She assured Board members that support is given to school systems to ensure the availability of online testing and that there are only a few school systems that do not provide online testing options.

In response to a question by Mr. Tufaro regarding the need for each state to develop its own set of tests, Dr. Grasmick said that federal law requires that states must prepare their own tests which align with the state’s curriculum. She explained the difficulties in getting local and state school systems to relinquish their autonomy in this area. Dr. Pizzigati reported that this issue is being discussed at the national level through the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Mr. Brooks said that NASBE polled its members and found overwhelming support for national standards.

In response to a request by Mr. Ewing, Dr. Wilson said that she would share information on what constitutes “proficient” and “advanced” performance on the high school biology assessment.

Upon motion by Dr. Pizzigati, seconded by Mr. Goodall, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the proposed performance standards for the new science assessments for grades five and eight and also the performance standard for the “advanced” level for the high school biology assessment. (In favor – 9)

Mr. Tufaro said, “We are not the experts. We are expressing confidence in the process.”

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to § 10-503(a)(1)(I) &(iii) and § 10-508(a)(1),(7), & (8) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Tufaro, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, January 29, 2008, in Conference Room 1, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. All board members were present except Dr. Leila Allen, Dr. Charlene Dukes, and Rosa Garcia. In attendance were Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, Ron Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy, Skipp Sanders, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration, JoAnne Carter, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction and Academic Acceleration, 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 12:35 p.m. (In favor – 9)

The Board considered and deliberated the following appeals. Opinions will be issued at an upcoming meeting.

- *Sonya Barnette v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - health education curriculum
- *Hampshire Greens Community v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – boundary
- *Steven Mednick v. Baltimore County Board of Education* - magnet denial
- *Johanna S. v. Howard County Board of Education* - reconsideration of student transfer
- *Joan Taylor, et al. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - reconsideration of school policies
- *Thelma Wright v. Prince George's County Board of Education* - student transfer

The State Board approved eight decisions for publication.

- *Perseveranda B. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - early entry 08-01
- *Faraz C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - residency status 08-02
- *Mehdi K. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - student transfer 08-03
- *Pamela M. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - student transfer 08-04
- *Sharon P. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - student transfer 08-05
- *Farhad P. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - early entry 08-06
- *Matthew W. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - student transfer 08-07
- *Carina Y. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* - redistricting 08-08

Dr. Grasmick advised the Board of several still unannounced changes in local school system personnel.

Dunbar Brooks and the Board discussed two internal board management issues.

The Executive Session ended at 1:50 p.m.

## RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 2:10 p.m. Dr. Dukes and Dr. Allen were absent.

## MGT INTERIM REPORT

Dr. Grasmick reported that MGT of America, Inc., an independent evaluator for the Bridge to Excellence (BTE) Program, was awarded a competitive contract to provide three reports to the State Board and General Assembly. She explained that the first report was produced in December of 2006 and provided an overview of the first three years of Master Plans including strategies and financial information. She explained that today's report, delivered to the General Assembly in December 2007, includes more strategies and financial data as well as potential best practices being used by the districts that are experiencing success. The Superintendent reported that a hearing will be conducted this week before the General Assembly regarding this report. She acknowledged the work of Department staff for their role in assisting with this endeavor. She stated, "This is an independent evaluation" and introduced Dr. Jerry Ciesla, Senior Partner, Director of Program Evaluation for MGT of America, Inc.

Dr. Ciesla introduced Dr. Mary McKeown-Moak, Senior Partner, MGT of America, Inc. and Dr. Elena Vinogradova, Research Analyst, RITA International, Inc.

Dr. Vinogradova reported on the following key improvements in local school systems (LSS) attributed to the Bridge to Excellence (BTE) by local school system officials:

- Increased strategic planning, accountability and alignment of goals throughout the system
- Increased use of data for planning and instructional decision making
- Increased quality and quantity of teaching staff
- Increased communication and stakeholder involvement
- Improved instruction

She discussed potential systemic and school-level best practices gleaned from interviews with school personnel and provided examples to the Board such as an electronic data warehouse which she was told has had a "dramatic impact on students and teachers." She explained that MGT is going to conduct a survey of all Maryland teachers in the spring to find out to what extent they are using these best practices.

Dr. Ciesla explained various graphs depicting statewide trends in student achievement in reading, math and English 2 by all students and subgroups. He noted that the trends show "everybody is getting better" and that "students are on track."

Dr. McKeown-Moak discussed the statewide financial trends noting the tremendous increases in state funding for education since 2001-2002 of more than \$2 billion. She said that the majority of BTE money was spent on instructional programs including more than 10,900 new staff positions through the 2006-2007 school year. She explained that of the 10,900 new positions, eighty percent were teaching positions.

Dr. Ciesla discussed the preliminary conclusions drawn thus far. In response to a question by Mr. Butta, Dr. Ciesla said that this report deals only with “additional funding” and that funding for professional development is difficult to determine since many programs have embedded professional development included in the materials.

In response to Mr. Butta’s question as to whether a conclusion will be drawn next year on the impact of additional funding for professional development, Dr. Vinogradova said “yes.”

In response to Ms. Garcia’s question regarding what percentage of Thornton funding was spent on the lowest performing students, Dr. Ciesla said that a requirement of the master planning process for LSSs is to identify and provide special interventions for that cohort of students. Ms. Garcia asked for data on graduation and dropout rates in the schools.

Dr. Grasmick explained that the implementation of a unique student identifier is needed to accumulate accurate data on graduation and dropout rates. She said that the use of a unique student identifier for each and every student will be fully implemented by 2011 and will provide this type of data more accurately.

In response to a question by Mr. Ewing, Dr. Ciesla said that Appendix E of the Report included “substantial education enhancements” for each local school system and assured Mr. Ewing that he will update the report to include data on the current school year.

In response to another question by Mr. Ewing as to the ability to identify whether the enhancements are serving minority groups, Dr. McKeown-Moak said that MGT is attempting to pull out as much information as possible. Mr. Brooks requested that MGT staff get data from local school systems on specific Title I schools receiving additional funding.

Mr. Tufaro requested information on how much new money went to each school in each school system. He said that he would provide specific comments on his concerns to be transmitted to the MGT staff.

In response to a question by Dr. Pizzigati, Dr. Ciesla said that future plans for accruing case studies of schools successfully implementing best practices related to significant improvements in student performance will not be limited to enhancements but rather will be wide ranging.

In response to a question by Ms. Garcia about data specific programs for Latino students, Steve Brooks, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Business Services, explained that two of the four Thornton Commission guiding principles were simplicity and flexibility. The Commission consolidated state categorical programs into one fund for specific special needs students.

With no further discussion, President Brooks and Superintendent Grasmick thanked the presenters for their informative report.



## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Brooks explained procedures by which the Board hears public comments. The following person provided public comments:

Diane Mikulis, a member of the Howard County Board of Education, representing the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) provided remarks on the Quality Counts Report and the hard work put forth by local school systems in concert with the State to improve student achievement.

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Dr. Grasmick introduced Renee Spence, Executive Director, Governmental Relations, to provide a legislative update and status of issues relative to the beginning of the 2008 Maryland General Assembly session.

Ms. Spence provided a synopsis of Departmental bills which included the following:

- Family Law – Child Care Centers – Emergency Suspensions
- Prince George’s County Board of Education – Repeal of requirement for a Comprehensive Review
- Children, Youth, Families – Local Coordinating Councils – Membership
- Tax Credits for Qualifying Employees with Disabilities – Sunset Extension
- Education – Public School Employees – Criminal Convictions

Ms. Spence provided the Board with a synopsis of legislative bills relative to education that are being monitored by the Department and explained various components of each bill.

Dr. Grasmick recommended the State Board take action to oppose Senate Bill 203, Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) – Consolidation of Workforce Development Functions – Transfer of Adult Education and Literacy Services and Education Programs for Correctional Facilities. Ms. Spence explained that this bill is designed to create two new divisions in the DLLR and move certain adult education staff and programs to that agency.

In response to questions by Mr. Butta, Kathy Oliver, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning, reported that it would cost approximately \$5 million to transfer these programs. She reported that Maryland’s adult and correctional education programs are considered top performers in the country and that the transfer would cost the Department \$17 million in state and federal dollars. Ms. Oliver said that the Department was not involved in the discussions creating this bill.

In response to a question by Ms. Garcia, Ms. Oliver said that Maryland ranks very low in it’s per pupil expenditure for adult education. She reported that there are approximately 5,000 individuals on the waiting list for these services.

Ms. Spence said that adoption of this bill does not require that funding be provided for the program.

In response to a question by Dr. Pizzigati, Ms. Oliver explained the current structure of the program stating that the State Board of Education is the governing body which oversees the program.

Ms. Spence reported that the bill, if enacted, would take effect in July 2008.

Dr. Grasmick stated that this bill was not based on the merits of the quality of the services provided since the Department was awarded a federal grant based on its highly regarded status. She reported that a hearing will be held on this bill on February 7, 2008.

Upon motion by Dr. Pizzigati, seconded by Mr. Butta, the Board voted to oppose SB 203. (In favor – 8; In Opposition -- 1) Ms. Garcia dissented and Mr. Ewing abstained.

### **WAIVER REQUEST FROM GARRETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dr. Grasmick reported on a request from the Superintendent of the Garrett County Public Schools for permission to hold school on one and possibly two scheduled holidays to make up for days that schools were forced to close due to inclement weather. She asked for Board approval to grant his request and grant her the authority to consider and authorize similar requests that may come in from other school systems for the remainder of the school year.

Upon motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Goodall, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Superintendent's requests. (In favor – 10)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Pizzigati discussed the recent meeting of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). She reported on its upcoming Legislative Conference scheduled for March 13-14, 2008, and urged Board members to attend.

Mr. Brooks announced that the State Board will participate in a dinner meeting with MABE on February 26, 2008, and that the State Board would hold a retreat for the remainder of the day following the Board meeting on February 27, 2008.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Goodall, and with unanimous agreement, the Board meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. (In favor – 10)

## RECONVENE

The State Board Meeting reconvened at 9:03 a.m. on Wednesday, January 30, 2008. Dr. Allen, Dr. Dukes and Dr. Pizzigati were absent. Dr. Grasmick announced that she would be leaving the meeting early to attend a Board of Public Works hearing.

## TASK FORCE ON UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Dr. Grasmick reminded the Board of the Department's long history of support for early childhood education. She reported that the support for pre-kindergarten (pre-K) programs began as early as 1980 with the creation of the Extended Elementary Education Program. The Superintendent explained that, in 2006, the General Assembly passed legislation creating the Task Force on Universal Preschool Education and charged it with developing a framework and specific recommendations as to how the access to pre-K can be extended to all children. She introduced Dr. Rolf Grafwallner, Co-Chair of the Task Force and Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Education, to review the highlights of the Report and to answer questions about the recommendations.

Dr. Grasmick acknowledged the work of Dr. Daraius Irani, Director, RESI Applied Economics, Towson University, on a cost-benefit analysis on voluntary pre-kindergarten for all children in Maryland.

Dr. Grafwallner acknowledged the work of the many members of the Task Force, the early childhood practitioners and advocates of early childhood education. He introduced Patricia Gordon, Task Force Member and President Elect, MABE; Charles Wainwright, Task Force Member, and representative of the Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA); and Sky Woodward, Task Force Member and parent.

Dr. Grafwallner reported on the representation on the Task Force on Universal Preschool Education and the advantages of children attending preschool and entering kindergarten ready to learn. He reported that national research shows that attendance in pre-K programs has contributed (significantly) to closing the gap among special needs students and students from low socio-economic areas. He discussed the following four Task Force Recommendations:

1. Expand Pre-kindergarten to provide access to all four-year olds regardless of income
2. Provide pre-K access in diverse early childhood settings
3. Maintain current pre-K standards
4. Improve the workforce in early childhood education

He discussed the following next steps:

1. Establish work group to develop business plan
2. Establish estimated costs for Pre-K expansion
3. Set pilot sites

Ms. Gordon, a member of the Howard County Board of Education, reported that the establishment of regional centers for pre-K education has been very positive and that first grade teachers have found that students who attend pre-K programs are better prepared to learn. She stated that the ten standards set forth by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) for high quality Preschool Education should be a framework for Maryland's universal preschool program. She reported that while full-day kindergarten in Howard County has been extremely beneficial it has been especially costly as well and that local funding for pre-K education in Howard County would not be possible at this time. She reported that the States of Georgia and New York have made universal pre-K possible by partnering with existing pre-K centers.

Mr. Wainwright reported that the MSCCA fully endorses the recommendations of the Task Force noting that there is an economic return on the dollars spent on these programs.

Ms. Woodward urged that certification for teachers in Maryland's pre-K program should exceed the minimum qualifications and that it should not be mandatory. She said that the recommendations made by the Task Force are good for the State, the children, the parents and the schools.

Mr. Tufaro expressed many questions about the program such as the readiness of Maryland to take on another challenge, the lack of a specific definition of pre-K, standards being raised beyond the capabilities of the State and LSSs, and which entity would run the program -- public or private pre-K.

Dr. Grafwallner explained that the Task Force recommended expanding and building upon the current programs and that local boards of education would have oversight over the pre-K programs.

Mr. Tufaro said, "What's voluntary, becomes mandatory" and expressed concern that the Report has not demonstrated that all children will benefit from this program.

Mr. Wainwright stated that 60 to 75 percent of children under six are being raised out of the home during the school day while parents are in the workforce. He said that public education needs to be involved in the education of these children.

Dr. Grafwallner said that the Task Force is very interested in parental choice as well as improving and making consistent the pre-K programs currently available to families. He said, "It is a balance between parental choice and what we consider to be high quality programs to support the families."

President Brooks asked Mr. Tufaro to put his concerns in writing so that Dr. Grafwallner and the other Task Force members can address his issues in a more in-depth way.

Ms. Garcia asked the following questions:

- With a shortage of early childhood education teachers across the State, what are your plans to address this issue?
- How is the State doing in preparing ESOL providers? and
- How is the State doing in preparing community-based providers?

Dr. Grafwallner said that while there was a shortage of early childhood teachers years ago, that shortage has been eliminated. He said, there is still a need to provide better access to providers to take courses, either online, in the evenings or on weekends. He said that higher education institutions are aware of this need and are working to provide easier access for these adults.

Regarding Ms. Garcia's question about ESOL providers, Dr. Grafwallner directed the Board's attention to recommendations on page 40 of the Report which referenced representatives from the culturally and linguistically diverse populations serving in an advisory capacity to the Department to create a statewide agenda of priorities for diversity issues. He also noted the recommendation regarding the use of workforce development dollars to build the professional capacity of limited-English proficient (LEP) providers. He noted that the recommendations also include creation of Child and Family Network Centers to offer services to LEP families.

Mr. Ewing said that evidence shows that a strong early childhood education can have a very positive impact on pre-school children as long as it is done well. He noted the importance of follow-up to ensure high quality programs are being conducted.

Dr. Grafwallner reported that a study shows that for every dollar invested today, there is an 800 percent return on the dollar.

Dr. Grasmick explained that she was required to leave the meeting to attend a Board of Public Works Hearing but expressed her deep commitment to early childhood education. She said, "We are very fortunate to have this group of people to provide high quality programs." She reported that research proves that critical periods of learning precede five years of age and that children who are not prepared to learn in kindergarten are the students who drop out of school later and struggle throughout their lives. She suggested that since the program is very costly, it may have to be phased-in over several years.

Ms. Garcia said, "This is a critically important issue" and that having children ready to learn helps close the achievement gaps. She said she would like to see demographic data on the children currently being served and commended the Task Force members for their excellent work.

Dr. Finan reported that Frostburg State University is currently piloting a program offering evening courses in early childhood education toward a four-year degree. She agreed that early childhood education providers should be certified and reiterated the importance of pre-K for all children.

Mr. Butta concurred with Board members on the advantages for children of a quality pre-K education.

Dr. Grafwallner suggested that additional members of the Task Force attend a future meeting of the Board to address some of the issues and concerns discussed today.

Mr. Brooks thanked the presenters for their "work and passion for what you do."

## **REPORT ON MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION**

Mr. Brooks reported on the adoption of the *Education That is Multicultural* regulation by the State Board in 1993 to build an understanding of and appreciation of diversity in the schools.

Dr. Sanders introduced Woodward Grant, Chief, Equity Assurance and Compliance Branch, MSDE; Linda Shevitz, Senior Education Equity Specialist, Equity Assurance and Compliance Branch; and Dr. Judith Smith, Director, Curriculum and Instruction, Multicultural Education and Diversity, Baltimore City Public School System (PCPSS); to brief the Board on the status of implementation of the regulation at the state and local levels. He noted that the State Superintendent is recommending State Board acceptance of this report.

Ms. Shevitz noted that both Milken Award winners introduced to the Board yesterday were involved in multicultural programs. She reported that Maryland is one of ten states that provides facts and figures on student diversity and called the Board's attention to a chart showing the increase in diverse populations in Maryland since 1996. She reported that Hispanic students are the fastest growing population in Maryland schools.

Mr. Grant discussed the monitoring responsibilities of the Department and the need to provide all teachers with professional development to promote diversity training in the schools. He discussed the results of a local school system survey and noted several continuing challenges to be met in the schools.

Ms. Shevitz reported on the creation of a state Education That is Multicultural and Achievement (ETMA) network to provide professional development re-certification courses. She explained that the ETMA network produced a publication entitled *A Practical Guide to Accelerating Student Achievement Across Cultures: Strategies for Administrators, Teachers, Students and Parents*.

Dr. Smith reported on the BCPSS Bridges Network which liaisons with the Baltimore City schools to dialog and share ideas to implement *Education That is Multicultural*. She reported that approximately 89 percent of students in Baltimore City Public Schools are of African descent. She discussed the Vision of the *Education That is Multicultural* program, membership on a Steering Committee formed and materials provided to schools through the Bridges Network. In response to a question by Ms. Cooper, Dr. Smith said that there are parent representatives on the steering committee.

Mr. Grant provided the statewide recommendations and on-going MSDE initiatives and stated "We are trying to create a school culture where every child can achieve."

In response to a question by Ms. Garcia, Ms. Shevitz said that Montgomery County has the largest Latino population in its schools and that there are several programs being conducted in that school system. Ms. Shevitz said that Department staff are meeting with school system personnel on a monthly basis to glean what programs are being provided and are successful.

In response to a question by Ms. Garcia about programs being conducted in other states, Ms. Shevitz said that this is an area where improvement is needed and asked Ms. Garcia to provide some assistance in this matter.

Mr. Grant discussed the challenges in getting Latino parents involved in their schools. Dr. Sanders explained that a Baltimore City elementary school increased its Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) from 6 to 89 when the principal went out into the community to meet with parents personally.

Mr. Ewing expressed his concern about Asian American refugees who are often ignored due to certain stereotypes. Ms. Garcia requested information on the experiences of diverse immigrants in the schools across Maryland.

Mr. Grant stressed the need for bilingual programs in the school curricula to assist in communication with the immigrant population.

Mr. Brooks remarked about the need to reach out to the community and the importance of removal of barriers to communication with parents.

Mr. Grant said that the Department needs to work on a tighter accountability system in this area.

Mr. Goodall noted that if there are not good leaders to implement these goals, the goals can't be met. He urged the need for more money for leadership training.

In response to questions by Mr. Tufaro, Dr. Smith reported that the African-American Curriculum has been embedded in the social studies curriculum for two years and that Philippine teachers have been coming to ongoing training provided by the Bridges Network in Baltimore City. She noted that there is a cultural disconnect for them and, therefore, that they are required to co-teach before teaching in a classroom alone. She invited Board members to a training session for Philippine teachers on February 23, 2008, in which 140 teachers are registered.

Dr. Sanders said there needs to be continuing improvement and "we have so much more to do."

In response to a question by Ms. Garcia, Mr. Grant said that there has been a vast amount of improvement since 1991 on the implementation of the *Education That is Multicultural* regulation.

Upon motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Garcia, and with unanimous agreement, the Board accepted the Report on the status of the *Education That is Multicultural* Program. (In Favor – 9)

### **FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE/FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR THE 2008 CONGRESS**

Dr. Sanders introduced Debra Lichter, Director, Departmental Coordination and National Legislation Liaison, MSDE, who provided an update on federal legislation and Departmental priorities for the 2008 Congress. She reported that the 2008 Federal Budget was adopted in December, 2007. She provided charts outlining the state and national funding of State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs for Education. Ms. Lichter reported that national funding for education increased by approximately \$1 billion with an 8.3 percent increase in Title I funding but that Maryland will only receive a 2.52 percent increase in federal funding. She noted that the Maryland budget includes a decrease of .28 percent of education funding for a total of approximately \$1.5 million. She said that it is unclear what effect this will have on local school system budgets.

Ms. Lichter explained that each year, MSDE is asked to submit to the Governor's Washington Office its priorities for PreK-12 Education for consideration during the upcoming session of the United States Congress. She provided and discussed a list of funding requests, in priority order, and explained that the

State Superintendent is recommending State Board approval of the Federal Priorities for the 2008 Congress for submission to the Governor.

Ms. Lichter also reported on a proposed Medicaid regulation which would prohibit school systems from getting reimbursement for some services. She noted that the regulation would take affect in early March and that the Maryland Delegation is trying to get this regulation amended.

Mr. Ewing expressed his concern about receiving Board materials too late for him to study and prepare for discussions and suggested that materials be provided to the Board at least two weeks prior to its meeting. He also suggested that a list of discussion and approval items be provided in advance so that Board members can better prepare for their meetings.

Upon motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Goodall, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Federal Priorities for the 2008 Congress for submission to the Governor. (In Favor – 9)

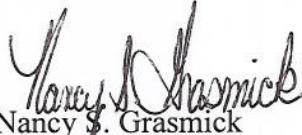
### OPINIONS

Ms. Kameen then announced the following Opinions: (all Opinions affirmed the local board's decisions)

- 08-01 *Perseveranda B. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – early entry into kindergarten
- 08-02 *Faraz C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – residency status
- 08-03 *Mehdi K. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer
- 08-04 *Pamela M. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer
- 08-05 *Sharon P. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer
- 08-06 *Farhad P. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – early entry into kindergarten
- 08-07 *Matthew W. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – student transfer
- 08-08 *Carina Y. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – redistricting

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy S. Grasmick  
Secretary, Treasurer

NSG/rms

APPROVED: 3/4/08



# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## CLOSED SESSION

On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of **January 2008**, at the hour of 11:50 (am/pm), the Members of the State Board of Education voted as follows to meet in closed session:

Motion made by: Ms. Cooper

Seconded by: Mr. Tufano

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, demotion, 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 the following:

1. Discuss six legal appeals.
2. Review eight draft opinions.
3. Receive legal advice on a requested personnel action by the Board
4. Discuss several local personnel matters.
5. Discuss two internal Board management matters.



\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE January 29-30, 2008 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>
Bishop-Oshoko, Angeline	Program Manager IV, Credentialing Branch Program Manager	22	Early Childhood Development, Office of Child Care	TBD
Keller, Royce A.	Education Program Specialist I, Special Education Support Services and Grants Management	21	Special Education/Early Intervention Services	TBD
Mfume, Kevin	IT Systems Technical Specialist	19	Office of Information Technology	TBD
Quarterman, Chezia A.	Education Program Specialist II, Nonpublic School Accreditation	22	Certification and Accreditation	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>
Broderick, Daniel F.	Teacher, Special Education	IEPP	Career Technology and Adult Learning, Correctional Education Program	01/16/2008
Miller, Kevin R.	Teacher, Correctional Adult Basic Education	IEPP	Career Technology and Adult Learning, Correctional Education Program	01/16/2008
Seibert, Claire R.	Teacher, Correctional Adult Basic Education	IEPP	Career Technology and Adult Learning, Correctional Education Program	01/30/2008
Smith, LoriAnn	Teacher Lead	IEPP	Career Technology and Adult Learning, Juvenile Education Services	01/30/2008

**III. Other Actions:**

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

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE January 29-30, 2008 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>
Gross, Steven D.	Principal	IEPP	Career Technology and Adult Learning, Juvenile Services Education Program	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				