

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday
January 26, 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, January 26, 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. Sylvester J. Gates, Jr.; Mr. David H. Murray; 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; Dr. Ronald Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director to the State Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. DeGraffenreidt asked for approval of the Consent Agenda and invited Dr. Grasmick to report on the proposed amendments to COMAR 13A.05.05.06 & .07, Program of Pupil Services—Student Health Standards.

Dr. Grasmick explained that the first set of amendments brings the regulations into alignment with new requirements for hearing and vision screenings established in statute in 2008. She explained that the other amendment responds to current statute which eliminated the requirement for scoliosis screening. The elimination of scoliosis screening requirement is consistent with the recommendation of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She recommended Board approval of the Consent Agenda.

Upon motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Dr. Finan, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows: (In Favor – 6; Ms. Staton, Dr. Dukes, Ms. Walsh and Dr. Walks arrived late)

- Approval of Minutes of December 10-11, 2009
- Personnel (copy attached to these minutes)
- Budget Adjustments for December 2009
- Permission to Publish:
 - COMAR 13A.05.05.06 & .07 (AMEND AND REPEAL)
 - Program of Pupil Services
 - PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

MILKEN EDUCATION AWARD WINNER

The State Superintendent reported that for the past seventeen years Maryland has participated in a partnership with the Milken Family Foundation that resulted in the identification of 54 outstanding Maryland educators, each of whom received an unrestricted cash award of \$25,000. She introduced Kimberly Jakovics, Social Studies Academic Chair at Annapolis High School in Anne Arundel County, this year's Milken Award Winner for Maryland. She asked Darla Strouse, Executive Director, Partnerships and Development, to provide additional information on the award and this year's winner.

Dr. Strouse introduced Don Lilly, Principal of Annapolis High School, and Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Superintendent of the Anne Arundel Public Schools, who were in attendance to support Ms. Jakovics. She acknowledged several former Milken Award winners who were also in attendance saying, "These people are still making huge contributions to the education community."

Dr. Strouse introduced Ms. Jakovics' family and explained that the nomination of these awardees is a confidential process and that the awardee does not know they were nominated until the award is given out.

Mr. Lilly and Dr. Maxwell gave brief remarks about the work of Ms. Jakovics and the excellent progress made at Annapolis High School.

Ms. Jakovics said, "I love being a teacher." She expressed her gratitude for receiving this honor and said, "This recognition is not mine alone." She recognized her colleagues and her family for their excellent support.

The President and Superintendent congratulated Ms. Jakovics and presented a citation lauding her work.

INTERNATIONAL SPANISH ACADEMY RECOGNITION

Dr. Grasmick said that the Department has been extremely supportive of international education. She said that the Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Spain's Ministry of Education and reported that Kemp Mill Elementary School in Montgomery County is being recognized for being accepted by the Embassy of Spain as an International Spanish Academy. She invited Susan Spinnato, Specialist, World Languages, Division of Instruction, to introduce the guests attending the Board meeting.

Ms. Spinnato introduced Floyd Starnes, Principal of Kemp Mill Elementary School; Mr. Diego Fernandez Alberdi, Counselor of Education, Embassy of Spain; and, Roas Lopez Bullon, Education Advisor, Embassy of Spain.

Mr. Starnes explained that Kemp Mill has a dual language program in which English and Spanish speaking students are learning together. He said that this is the most effective language

learning model currently being used in schools. He expressed his deep appreciation for this recognition.

Mr. Alberdi explained that the Embassy's objective is to expand the teaching of Spanish and multi-cultural education and said that he is honored to be a part of this recognition.

The President and Superintendent presented a Certification of Recognition to Mr. Starnes for his staff and students.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Dr. Grasmick reported that a requirement for the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) to submit an annual report to the State Board was included in the City/State Partnership legislation passed in 1997. She introduced Dr. Andres Alonso, CEO, BCPSS, to provide highlights of the report. She reminded the Board that the legislation requires the State Board to provide comments to the General Assembly on the progress made by BCPSS in achieving managerial and education goals.

Dr. Alonso thanked Dr. Grasmick for the support that is provided by Department staff and said, "We have had a really good year." He noted the huge progress in the readiness of students entering kindergarten. Dr. Alonso provided charts that reflect the excellent gains in reading and math scores, advanced placement participation, graduation rates, and decreases in the drop out and suspension rates. He concluded by saying that the school system is working very hard with parents and the communities to make schools in Baltimore City a community project.

In response to a request by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, Dr. Alonso said that there are currently twenty-seven charter schools in Baltimore City with two more scheduled to open in August. He said that charter schools reflect an attempt to not only give parents choices but to hold onto students who would most likely drop out of school.

In response to questions by Dr. Gates, Dr. Alonso explained that he is working closely with the MSDE to respond to the requirements of the Race To The Top (RTTT) awards and that, in regard to web-based instruction, there is a disconnect between what is available in classrooms explaining that the System has limited capacity to provide web-based instruction. Dr. Alonso said that he is hoping to use stimulus funding to enhance the System's data warehouse. In response to Dr. Gates' question about information technology rules for the classroom, Dr. Alonso said that this is an area of challenge for the school system.

In response to questions by Ms. Walsh, Dr. Alonso said that the KIPP Charter School has been working with the Baltimore Teachers Union to reach an agreement on teacher salary issues. He also reported that he expects attendance rates to be down this year due to flu related issues and that he believes that schools need to "hook" students with incentives such as providing job skills to keep students in school until graduation.