

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday-Wednesday
March 27-28, 2007

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, March 27-28, 2007, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. The following members were in attendance: Dr. Edward Root, President; Mr. Dunbar Brooks, Vice-President; Dr. Lelia Allen; Mr. Henry Butta; Ms. Beverly A. Cooper; Mr. Calvin Disney; Mr. Brian Frazee; Mr. Richard Goodall; Mrs. Tonya Miles; Dr. Karabelle Pizzigati; Dr. Maria C. Torres-Queral; Mr. David Tufaro 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. Skipp Sanders, Deputy State Superintendent for Administration; Dr. Ronald Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent for Academic Policy; Dr. JoAnne Carter, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction and Academic Acceleration (who attended Wednesday's meeting only); and Mr. Anthony South, Executive Director to the State Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Disney, seconded by Dr. Pizzigati, and with unanimous agreement, the State Board approved the consent agenda items as follows (In Favor – 12)

Approval of Minutes of February 27-28, 2007
Personnel
Budget Adjustments for February, 2007

ANALYSIS OF THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PSAT PERFORMANCE AND SUCCESS IN AP COURSES

Superintendent Grasmick reminded the Board that Maryland has achieved national recognition for the gains that have been made in the number of students taking and performing successfully in Advanced Placement (AP) courses. She introduced Mr. Gary Heath, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Accountability and Assessment and Dr. Colleen Seremet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Instruction to provide the Board with new information provided to states and local school systems by the College Board on the relationship between student performance on the PSAT and selected AP tests. She said they will provide an understanding of the steps MSDE and local schools systems can take to improve AP opportunities for Maryland students.

Mr. Heath explained that the College Board did an analysis of AP course and testing taking patterns and found that the scores students achieved on the PSAT in ninth grade have a high correlation to their

performance on AP tests taken later in their high school careers. He explained that this affects school districts in the following ways:

- Many more students have the ability to successfully complete AP courses/exams;
- Schools can generate rosters of students who have a high probability of doing well in these courses based on their PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) scores;
- Schools can build rigorous programs;
- Schools can reduce the achievement gap.

He discussed the large numbers of African American and Hispanic students who took either the PSAT or NMSQT and scored high enough to show that they would likely have been successful on the selected AP exams had they been enrolled in the courses.

Dr. Seremet explained that Maryland has been offered several grants which can be used by school systems to waive the costs to students to participate in AP courses. She said “AP classes should reflect the diversity of our student population” and explained that this is a way to meet that goal.

In response to a question by Dr. Queral, Dr. Seremet said that many schools offer PSAT classes to help students prior to taking the test. She said that taking the test a second time often provides a much higher score and more understanding of the material by the students.

In response to questions by Dr. Pizzigati, Mr. Heath said that the Department does not require local school systems to include PSAT data in their master plans and that money is often a barrier for some students to enrolling in AP courses. He said that the Department provides grants to local school systems and that some school systems have funding in their budgets to assist students financially. Mr. Heath said that there will be a budget request in FY 2009 to address this issue.

Dr. Pizzigati said that it would be helpful for local school system master plans to reference this issue. Dr. Grasmick concurred with Dr. Pizzigati and reported that this information on the PSAT performance is being integrated in the Principals’ Development Program and hopefully this knowledge will encourage greater interest in providing a source of financial support for students requiring such support to enroll in AP courses.

Dr. Root thanked the staff for their presentation.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Dr. Grasmick reminded Board Members that last month they agreed to hold a monthly discussion through December 2008 on topics related to High School Assessments (HSA). She introduced Dr. Seremet; Mr. Heath; Mr. Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Howard County Public Schools (HCPS); Mr. Clifford Eichel, Director of Research and Assessment, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS); and, Ms. Judy Estep, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, CCPS, to discuss actions that are underway in local school systems to provide instructional programs and services to assist students in passing the HSAs.

Mr. Eichel reported on algebra assistance being provided to students and quarterly assessments which are conducted to help students in need of assistance. He said that schools in Charles County conduct mock HSAs in Algebra, Government, English II and Biology which provide valuable information to teachers to assist them in identifying and remedying deficiencies in student learning.

Ms. Estep explained that the school system is committed to having the test measure student readiness and proficiencies. She explained that “It is truly a team effort and takes everyone working together.” She noted that school planning and improvement teams are very important in this process. She said that summer programs in all high schools for incoming ninth and tenth grade students have been implemented. Mr. Eichel said that CCPS has created a data warehouse where longitudinal data is compiled on the academic performance of each student in the county.

Ms. Estep described extended learning opportunities in the schools which include summer school programs, tutoring, and a “pull out” program which offers students one-on-one work with teachers when the needs arise.

Mr. Glascock described the actions taken by the Howard County Public Schools to prepare for the HSA which include the following Readiness Factors:

1. Establish district targets for student academic performance;
2. Align district curriculum to the Voluntary State Curriculum;
3. Adjust scope and sequence of local curricula as appropriate;
4. Design K-12 academic intervention models;
5. Develop and implement formative assessments (local assessments) as a way to monitor student progress;
6. Develop K-12 intervention programming for students performing below grade level (K-8) or standard level of performance (high school);
7. Develop a process to identify students for academic intervention through the use of multiple sources of data;
8. Review and revise local policy to support efforts to implement academic intervention programs;
9. Provide job-embedded professional development through school-based coaches with a focus on analysis of student data to inform instruction;
10. Evaluate effectiveness of academic intervention programs.

He explained that job-embedded coaches have proved to be the most helpful program for teachers. He provided material which outlines the range of interventions for high school assessed courses. He noted that there are co-taught classes for special needs students and after school help for English Language Learners. Mr. Glascock said “In order to be successful, we have to be strategic and long-range. We can’t start in high school.”

Dr. Grasmick said that the HSA has prodded better instruction for students. She said “It isn’t about the test, it’s about instruction. This clearly indicates the commitment and effectiveness of our schools for helping students achieve. This has been a catalyst.”

Mr. Glascock said that the HSA has been a positive force for promoting the focus on instruction in high schools.

Mr. Frazee said “This is amazing. We can’t be okay with the status quo. Students need this quality instruction. If the instruction is good, they will pass the test. Thank you for what you are doing.”

In response to a question by Mr. Disney, Ms. Estep said that this item has been reported at each local board meeting. Mr. Disney suggested that this presentation be provided to every local school board.

In response to a question by Mr. Tufaro, Mr. Glascock said that there is increased awareness and interest in the school system’s HSA efforts by parents. Ms. Estep said that the school system created an informational campaign for parents. Mr. Glascock said that negative attitudes on HSAs are coming from parents of students who are struggling with the test. He said that school staff are working hard with struggling students to help them succeed.

Mr. Brooks and Dr. Pizzigati expressed the desire to hear from other jurisdictions, especially the “big five” on their approaches to meeting HSA goals. Dr. Grasmick said that the Board will be hearing from other jurisdictions as well.

Dr. Root said “Thank you for an outstanding presentation. It is good to see that you are using the HSA appropriately and it is causing reform.”

2006-2007 SCHOOL READINESS REPORT

The Superintendent introduced Dr. Rolf Grafwallner, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Development and acknowledged all of the early child care community groups represented in the audience including Head Start, family day care providers, family support centers, the Judy Centers, the Infant and Toddler Program staff and non-public nursery and pre-school workers. She reported that the enormous progress being made in Maryland has become a national model.

Dr. Grafwallner introduced Louise Corwin, Executive Director, Ready At Five Partnership; Donna Stark, Program Director, Annie E. Casey Foundation; and Sandy Skolnik, Executive Director, Maryland Committee for Children. He noted that these individuals and groups represented in the audience are providing an impact on more than 350,000 children every day. He reported on the drop in the percentage of Caucasian children and the increase in Hispanic children in pre-school and child care facilities. Dr. Grafwallner noted an 18 percent gain since 2002 in children fully ready for school. He reported that several years ago, his office developed a five-year action plan with a target of 75 percent of all pre-school children being ready for school. He said that the goal has not been met thus far but the expectation is that the goal will be met next year. He reported that many children are fairly fluent readers by the end of kindergarten and noted the huge progress made among African American kindergarten children. Dr. Graffwallner reported on the disparities among Hispanic and White kindergarteners and children receiving special education services and their peers. He noted that in 2006-2007, children with prior school experience exhibited higher school readiness levels than those without school experience. He delineated the gains made in local school jurisdictions in school readiness for students entering first grade.

In response to a question by Dr. Grasmick, Dr. Graffwallner reported that Maryland’s program for early childhood education evaluation is the only one of its kind in the nation with more than 55,000 students

being assessed. He explained that it is a very intensive and elaborate process for teachers and administrators.

Dr. Pizzigati commended him and his staff explaining that, as President-Elect of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), she has found that other states are looking at Maryland as a methodology to adopt for a similar program.

Ms. Stark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation praised Dr. Grasmick for her support and discussed the partnership between the Foundation and the Department and the process used to improve school readiness. She listed the following as important items for success in providing early childhood school readiness:

1. Focus on the result – all children ready to learn
2. Use the data to make decisions
3. Accountability – for results
4. Co-investment on input and resources
5. Government – leadership of State Board, State Superintendent, local Boards of Education

Ms. Skolnik recognized and thanked M&T Bank for its commitment both emotionally and financially for this program. She reported on the various training programs provided for early childhood providers and a Teacher Training Model for Pre-school teachers.

Ms. Corwin reported on the distribution of the Maryland Model of School Readiness publication to all stakeholders and the implementation of learning laboratories provided to pre-school providers.

Dr. Grasmick commended all of the presenters and early childhood advocates.

Dr. Queral commended the group as well noting a change in the cultural mindset of those people coming from other countries that do not offer early childhood programs.

In response to a question by Ms. Miles, Dr. Graffwallner reported that there is a Voluntary State Curriculum for two, three and four-year olds as well as guidelines for birth to four years old.

Dr. Root noted the valuable impact these programs have on high school success for students. He expressed the Board's appreciation for the efforts of all the groups involved in this endeavor.

COMAR 13A.09.09 & 13A.14.13 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Grasmick introduced Sarah Spross, Acting Chief, Nonpublic Schools Approval Branch, Division of Certification & Accreditation (C&A); and Dr. Graffwallner to answer questions about proposed changes in COMAR required to facilitate the consolidation of licensure for child care, approved nursery schools, and accredited early childhood programs in the Division of Early Childhood Development.

Upon motion by Ms. Miles, seconded by Mr. Brooks, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted proposed regulatory changes to COMAR 13A.09.09 and the adoption of new regulatory language in COMAR 13A.14.13 Educational Programs Nonpublic Schools. (In favor – 12)

COMAR 13A.12.05.08 REINSTATEMENT

The Superintendent introduced Dr. Joann Ericson, Chief, Certification Branch, Division of C&A, to present a proposed change to COMAR 13A.12.05.08, Reinstatement, which governs the reinstatement of a certificate against which disciplinary action has been taken. She said the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) voted to publish the proposed regulation.

Dr. Ericson explained that the proposed amendment would expand the scope of the regulation to include reinstatement of certificates which have been voluntarily surrendered. She noted that the State Board has the option of requesting a joint conference committee with PSTEB to discuss this proposed amendment.

With no objection, the Board thanked Ms. Ericson for her presentation.

COMAR 13A.12.01.01D PERSONNEL NOT ELIGIBLE

Dr. Ericson presented a proposed change to COMAR 13A.12.01.01D – Personnel Not Eligible, which governs personnel educating students in Maryland, specifically, criteria determining ineligibility for certification. She said the PSTEB voted to publish the proposed regulation which would prohibit individuals who have voluntarily surrendered a certificate in Maryland or another state from holding certification during the period of ineligibility. She noted that the State Board has the option of requesting a joint conference committee with PSTEB to discuss this proposed amendment.

With no objection, the Board thanked Ms. Ericson for her presentation.

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 Mr. Butta, seconded by Ms. Cooper, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Board of Education met in closed session on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, in Conference Room 8, 8th floor of the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building. All Board members were present. 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 Kameen and Jackie La Fiandra were also present. The Executive Session commenced at 12:35 p.m. (In favor – 12)

There were six appeals reviewed in executive session:

- *Lorraine Folkman v. Charles County Board of Education* - employee termination
- *D. H. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - early kindergarten entry
- *M. J. v. Prince George's County Board of Education* - student transfer
- *M. O. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - student transfer
- *K. W. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - student transfer
- *Piscataway Creek Montessori Communities, Inc. v. Prince George's County Board of Education* - denial of charter school application

Opinions will be issued in an upcoming Board meeting.

The Board authorized the issuance of five opinions.

- *M. B. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - student transfer
- *A. F. v. Prince George's County Board of Education* - student transfer
- *D. G. v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* - student discipline
- *D. H. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - request to attend magnet school
- *R. W. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* - student discipline

Liz Kameen updated the Board on matters in litigation concerning Talbot County, Kent County, and Montgomery County. The Board agreed to grant the Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum an extension of time to file a Response Brief.

Dr. Grasmick discussed personnel issues related to Baltimore City School System.

The Board discussed and approved recommendations for appointments to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The Board discussed two Internal Board Management issues concerning the evaluation process for the State Superintendent of Schools and the Executive Director to the State Board.

The executive session ended at 1:35 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Queral was absent.

COMAR 13A.02.06.02, 13A.08.01.01, 13A.08.02.01 STUDENT RECORDS

Dr. Grasmick introduced Marcia Lathroum, Specialist in School Counseling, Division of Student, Family and School Services, to answer any questions remaining about the definition of “days absent” to provide for greater consistency and accountability in the Maryland Student Records System Manual (MSRSM). She reminded the Board that the Maryland Student Records System Manual (MSRSM) was conditionally adopted in July 2006 with the definition of “days absent” to be revised. A new definition was drafted by representatives from local superintendents and staff from MSDE and accepted by local superintendents and the State Board. She recommended adoption of the technical changes to the MSRSM 2007 and the amendments to the Students Records Regulations.

Upon motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Ms. Cooper, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted the technical changes to the MSRSM 2007 and the amendments to the Students Records Regulations. (In favor – 11)

COMAR 13A.03.04.01 --.03 AND .07 TEST ADMINISTRATION AND DATA-REPORTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Superintendent introduced Mr. Martin Kehe, Operational Manager, Assessment Branch, Division of Accountability and Assessment, to discuss proposed amendments to COMAR 13A.03.04.01 -- .03 and .07 Test Administration and Data Reporting Policies and Procedures.

Mr. Kehe explained that, in consultation with legal counsel, the Regulations were revised to ensure that the Regulations (1) reflect the current State assessment programs and (2) apply to both local school system and Department staff, and (3) refer to testing and data media in current usage.

Upon motion by Dr. Pizzigati, seconded by Ms. Miles, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted the amendments to COMAR 13A.03.04.01 -- .03 and .07 Test Administration and Data Reporting Policies and Procedures. (In favor – 11)

COMAR 13A.05.01, 13A.05.02, 13A.08.03, 13A.08.04 SPECIAL EDUCATION REGULATIONS

Dr. Grasmick introduced Dr. Carol Ann Baglin, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Special Education, and Ms. Donna Riley, Policy and Resource Specialist, Division of Special Education, to discuss proposed amendments to the regulations for Special Education. She explained that the amendments were initiated to bring State regulations into compliance with new federal regulations.

Dr. Baglin reported that her Division published the amendments and held hearings in five areas which resulted in a tremendous response including more than sixty-seven comments included in the Board's materials.

In response to a question by Dr. Pizzigati, Dr. Baglin assured the Board that a reference document will be disseminated to the public on computer discs as well as the MSDE website. She also reported that they are creating a parent-friendly process guide which includes not only support but examples for parents.

In response to a question by Dr. Root, Ms. Riley reported that after more than ten days in which a student has been removed from a classroom, there must be an evaluation of the student's IEP.

Upon motion by Mr. Frazee, seconded by Dr. Pizzigati, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adopted the amendments to COMAR 13A.05.01, 13A.05.02, 13A.08.03, and 13A.08.04, Special Education Regulations. (In favor – 11)

Dr. Grasmick recognized the staff of the Division of Special Education for the completion of this extremely difficult and tedious task. Dr. Baglin acknowledged Donna Riley for her excellent work on this project.

UPDATE: EDUCATION IN THE ARTS

Dr. Grasmick introduced Mr. Jay Tucker, Coordinator, Fine Arts Programs, Division of Instruction; and Mary Ann Mears, Member, Fine Arts Advisory Panel and Member, Arts Education in Maryland School

Alliance to give an update on recent activity in support of quality arts education. The Superintendent explained that since the early 1990s, the Board has been very supportive of quality arts education with evidence of the fine arts flourishing in every school in Maryland.

Mr. Tucker enumerated the following priorities set by the Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel:

1. Establish content and achievement standards for programs in fine arts;
2. Recommend priorities for incentive grants to local school systems to support strategic planning efforts that would encompass curriculum alignment and development in support of the State standards and teachers professional development opportunities that promote continuous growth;
3. Create model professional development programs for teachers that focus on translating research related to fine arts education into strategies for instructional practice; and
4. Recommend strategies and develop tools for evaluating the success of fine arts programs in meeting or exceeding State standards for the arts.

Ms. Mears recognized individuals who are involved in this work and thanked them for their dedication to the fine arts.

Mr. Tucker reported that the Panel developed a Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) which is available on the Department's website. He reported on the ongoing efforts and activities carried out to promote arts education and noted a new initiative being referred to as Portfolio Plus which is a comprehensive, multidimensional set of strategies that will be designed to ensure the quality of fine arts instruction.

Ms. Mears explained that fiscal cutbacks in arts education have disproportionately affected poorer students. She described the disappointment felt by parents across the State as the result of these financial cutbacks. She commended the President of the Maryland State Teachers Association (MSTA) and MSTA's editor on an excellent article on Arts Education in the most recent edition of MSTA's monthly newsletter.

In response to a question by Mr. Brooks, Mr. Tucker explained that arts education programs are not as robust in poorer subdivisions and are generally demanded more in affluent areas in the State.

In response to a question by Mr. Tufaro about what the State Board can do to force school systems to meet the guidelines of providing arts education, Ms. Mears said that a survey of what is being offered in school districts would be helpful. Dr. Grasmick explained that school systems have flexibility in this area. She noted that evidence shows that there is a direct correlation between arts education and high performance among students. She expressed optimism in the future of arts education in Maryland. She commended Mr. Tucker who has received many awards during his career and described him as "amazing."

Dr. Root expressed the Board's appreciation to the staff and supporters of fine arts education.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Root explained procedures by which the Board hears public comments and introduced Meg MacDonald, a representative of the MSTA, who provided favorable comments on newly adopted

Special Education Regulations. Ms. MacDonald was accompanied by two Charles County special education teachers, Lisa Jackson and Jamie Stephenson.

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Superintendent introduced Mary Clapsaddle, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Business Services and Michial Gill, Deputy Director, Governmental Relations, to provide the State legislative update. She explained that Renee Spence, Executive Director, Governmental Relations, was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Clapsaddle explained that the FY 2008 State Budget will be going into Conference Committee. She reported that the Department is hoping to maintain the funding for High School Assessments in the Budget. Dr. Grasmick explained that if the funding is cut, the Department will be required to issue a deficiency request for funding. In response to a question by Mr. Goodall, Ms. Clapsaddle said that there were no funds added for leadership development in the Supplemental Budget.

Mr. Gill explained that his short career in the Governmental Relations Office has been a very rewarding and learning experience. He reported that the General Assembly has signed more than 2500 bills thus far during its Session which concludes on April 9, 2007. He discussed briefly the education bills submitted and the status of those items.

In response to a comment by Mr. Goodall about H.B. 1199 Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program, Ms. Clapsaddle said she would investigate whether meals are being over-ordered causing an abundance of wasted food and funding.

Dr. Pizzigati reported that the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) held its Legislative Conference on March 15-16 which included a briefing from U.S. Department of Education Secretary Spelling. She said the conference included information on the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) priority issues, children's health care and national standards. She reported that conference participants met with members of Congress and said that Rep. John Sarbanes spoke very highly of the work of the MSDE.

Dr. Grasmick stated her pride in Dr. Pizzigati's selection as NASBE's next president and her desire to attend Dr. Pizzigati's installation at the NASBE annual conference in October.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Dr. Pizzigati, and with unanimous agreement, the Board adjourned its meeting at 4:15 p.m. (In favor – 10) Dr. Allen not present.

RECONVENE

The Board reconvened at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. Mr. Disney was absent.

MARYLAND DELEGATES TO THE 2007 UNITED STATE SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

Dr. Grasmick introduced Ms. Ann Chafin, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student, Family and School Services, and Mr. Richard Scott, Specialist, School Counseling and Career Development, and asked them to introduce the two students who were selected to represent Maryland at the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) in Washington, D.C. on March 3-10, 2007.

Ms. Chafin reported on the nomination and selection process and introduced Sage Tivona Snider, a junior at Severna Park High School in Anne Arundel County and Sean Quigley Dzierzanowski a senior at Paint Branch High School in Montgomery County. Each honoree was asked to comment on their experience and what they had learned at the Youth Program.

Ms. Snider stated that she was impressed with the knowledge and eloquence of the members of Congress as well as her experience learning about the Library of Congress. She said it was also very educational and interesting meeting student leaders from across the country. She said “the opportunity was amazing.”

Mr. Dzierzanowski thanked Dr. Grasmick, the Board and Mr. Scott for giving him an opportunity to represent the students in Maryland. He said that the experience increased his desire to serve his country. He said that the student representative got a behind-the-scenes look at the workings of government and that it was an “incredible experience to meet the large group of America’s next leaders.” He said they all felt a desire to serve their country.

Dr. Grasmick said, “You bring a lot of pride to the State of Maryland.”

Ms. Snider introduced her principal, her parents and her sister who were in attendance. Mr. Dzierzanowski introduced his parents as well. Dr. Root and Dr. Grasmick congratulated the students and presented each of them with a recognition certificate.

Mr. Frazee introduced his predecessor, Joshua Michael, who is currently a freshman at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE: WORKFORCE IMPLICATION FOR MARYLAND

The Superintendent reminded Board Members that last month they had an opportunity to hear comments from Norman Augustine regarding the impact of global economics on the U.S. workforce. She introduced Dr. Daraius Irani, Assistant Director, Economic and Workforce Development and Director of Applied Economics, Regional Economic Studies Institute, Towson University, to enlighten them on what skills Maryland students need to master and reap the benefits of changes brought about base realignment and closure (BRAC).

Mr. Irani reported that Maryland faces a critical labor shortage relative to the large number of senior citizens who will be vacating their positions by 2012 and the declining number of young adult workers to replace those workers. He reported that educational requirements of the workforce have changed dramatically because knowledge has become the driving force of economic growth. Mr. Irani presented important facts about job opportunities in Maryland as a result of BRAC. He noted that a large percent

of jobs will require security clearances and that many people, especially younger workers, are not able to get security clearances due to poor credit histories. He also explained that there is a large backlog of security clearance applications which delays the process of employment. He said, “As a State, we are challenged. These jobs are coming. We want them filled by Maryland residents. These jobs cannot be outsourced.”

Dr. Grasmick reported that legislation passed which created a subcommittee for coordination of state agencies to deal with BRAC. She also stated that pre-engineering programs will be offered in fifty-four schools in Maryland.

In response to a question by Mr. Goodall, Mr. Irani said that applicants can be placed in jobs while awaiting a security clearance with certain limitations.

Mr. Tufaro noted the importance of keeping expectations of students high through the HSA requirement to meet the demands of the future workforce.

Ms. Miles thanked Mr. Irani for a “brilliant presentation” and asked that she be provided with a digital copy of Mr. Irani’s and Mr. Augustine’s presentations. She urged that these presentations be provided to all local school boards.

Mr. Brooks noted that other needs such as mass transit, roads, schools, and housing will require a large and well-trained workforce. He said that if Maryland can’t produce the workers, they will be acquired from other States.

Dr. Root said “yesterday’s schools, yesterday’s standards will not compete.” He urged Mr. Irani to give this presentation to many other groups.

MARYLAND CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION TRANSITION YEAR PLAN

Dr. Grasmick introduced Kathy Oliver, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning, and Jeanne Marie Holly, Program Manager, Career and Technology Education Systems Branch, to brief the Board on the proposed Transition Year Plan for Career and Technology Education. She recommended State Board approval of the Transition Year Plan.

Ms. Oliver explained that the Maryland Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program provides preparation for careers with a focus and emphasis on a degree credential. She said the program has been focusing on students completing a continuous program. She reported that there are partner agencies which approve courses in addition to the MSDE. Ms. Oliver noted that there are approximately 134,650 students enrolled in CTE courses in high schools and 54,572 enrolled in CTE programs at the community college level. She listed the ten career clusters offered to students and noted that staff are organized into cluster teams. Ms. Oliver explained that the staff is working with industry partners to bring professional development to teachers. Ms. Oliver noted that there is a cluster which prepares high school students for an Associate Arts Degree in Teaching. Students graduating from this program can then move to a four-year program at a college or university. She reported that one of the clusters provides training in homeland security at an entry level position and that a biomedical science program

will be piloted next fall. Ms. Oliver said that CTE helps students decide what careers they want to pursue and opens the doors to post-secondary programs.

Ms. Holly discussed the preparation of the transition year plan which involved input from more three hundred people. She reported that a panel of staff met with employers to discuss emerging occupations as well as accountability measures to assure quality and program improvement.

Dr. Grasmick explained that the Department has ratcheted up career training defining it as “seamless.” She commended Ms. Oliver and her staff for putting a progressive face on CTE. She said “it is a very different world.”

Dr. Queral said “Congratulations, your Division has changed into the 21st century. You are the point person to let us know what the needs of industry are.” She suggested that CTE staff coordinate with staff involved in BRAC in developing curriculum. She urged that the public be apprised of the career and training needs of students in Maryland and how the Department is meeting those needs.

Mr. Goodall noted his experiences with business leaders who have difficulties finding skilled workers to fill jobs. He said “The bottom line is, if we can train them, businesses will hire them.”

In response to a question by Dr. Pizzigati, Ms. Oliver said that the five-year plan will include accountability and reporting system. She said that data collection is a challenge and that it is imperative to encourage school systems to adopt the various CTE programs. Ms. Oliver said that they must ensure that schools reach out and include all students in career preparation to ensure that they succeed.

Dr. Grasmick explained that the Department needs substantive technical assistance and feedback to determine whether our students are succeeding. She noted that feedback would provide information on what adjustments must be made to the curriculum. She noted the importance of internships and mentoring to students.

Upon motion by Mr. Goodall, seconded by Mr. Butta, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the Maryland CTE Transition Year Plan. (In favor – 11)

FY 2008 REVISIONS TO MARYLAND STATE PLAN FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY

The Superintendent asked Kathy Oliver to brief the Board on the FY 2008 revisions to the Maryland State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy.

Ms. Oliver explained that in order for the Department to access federal funds for FY 2008, Maryland must extend its existing State Plan for one additional year while the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is being reauthorized. She said that the Superintendent is requesting approval of revisions to that State Plan.

Upon motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Dr. Pizzigati, and with unanimous agreement, the Board approved the revisions included in the Maryland State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy and the one year extension. (In favor – 11)

CHINESE GUEST TEACHER PROGRAM IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Dr. Grasmick introduced Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent, St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS), to tell the Board about a new program in St. Mary's County.

Dr. Martirano introduced two of his Board members, William Mattingly and Mary Washington, and the Chief Operating Officer of SMCPS, Brad Clements. He reported that Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world and that the Asian and Pacific Islanders populations are projected to grow by 213 percent in the United States. Dr. Martirano reported that, in China, all students start learning English in the third grade whereas only 24,000 children in the U.S. are studying Chinese. He noted that our students must be prepared to be competitive in the global economy.

Laura Carpenter, Supervisor of Instruction for Gifted and Talented, reported on her visit to China which she described as follows: "...opened my eyes to the need to prepare students for challenges of the 21st century." She said that she toured elementary, middle and high schools and heard best practices from teachers and administrators.

Dr. Martirano introduced Zhijun Peng, a guest teacher from China, who provided students at Hollywood Elementary School introductory language and vocabulary and information on Chinese culture. She said that the main purpose of her visit is to give an international view of students in China to American students. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to experience American culture.

Dr. Martirano reported on the next steps in building this program in SMCPS. He thanked the Superintendent and Board for the opportunity to inform them of this exciting new program.

Dr. Grasmick reported that there are currently seven school systems offering Chinese. She said that she has organized an international discussion group among Department staff to look at international opportunities for the schools in Maryland.

Ms. Roni Jolley, Liaison, College Board/Advanced Placement Staff, introduced a Delegation of Chinese guests who are visiting the U.S. to make cultural presentations in Baltimore County, Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County. The presenters are as follows:

- Ms. Huan Zhang, Hanban representative
- Mr. Huaxing Yan – Senior Consultant, Principal of Wuhan Foreign Language School
- Ms. Shushong Wang – Culture Presenter, Lecturer of Renmin University of China
- Jin Junfang – Chinese teacher in Tianjin Language Training and Testing Center

The audience and Board welcomed and applauded them.

Mr. Tufaro said, "I look at the world not as competition but as expanded opportunities." He applauded Dr. Martirano's leadership and thanked the presenters.

Dr. Allen said, "I have been awed by this." She discussed her experience in China as a Fulbright Scholar and noted the high motivation of students in China.

Mr. Frazee said, "It is really exciting to see this happen around the State." In response to his question, Ms. Peng said that students in China are more restricted in opportunities to explore in the classroom due not only to space constraints but stricter discipline in the classroom.

In response to a question by Dr. Root, Dr. Martirano reported that Mandarin Chinese is being taught. He introduced Mr. Jeff Maher, Director of Professional and Organizational Development, SMCPS, and thanked the Board for this opportunity to present his program.

Ms. Peng stated that she hopes more Chinese teachers are able to visit schools in the U.S. and that the friendly relations between China and the U.S. will continue.

OPINIONS

Ms. Kameen then announced the following Opinions:

- 07-11 M.B. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – student transfer* (supported the local board's decision)
- 07-12 A.F. v. Prince George's County Board of Education – student transfer* (affirmed the local board's decision)
- 07-13 D.G. v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – student discipline* (affirmed the local board's decision)
- 07-14 D.H. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – request to attend magnet school* (affirmed the local board's decision)
- 07-15 R.W. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – student discipline* (affirmed the local board's decision)

With no further business before the Board and upon motion by Mr. Disney, seconded by Mr. Brooks, and with unanimous agreement, the meeting adjourned at 11:30.m. (In favor – 11)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Grasmick
Secretary, Treasurer

NSG/rms

APPROVED: April 26, 2007