

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday
June 27, 2016

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

The Maryland State Board of Education met in special session on Monday, June 27, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building.

The following members were in attendance: Mr. Guffrie M. Smith, President; Dr. S. James Gates, Jr., Vice-President; Ms. Linda Eberhart; Dr. Michele Jenkins Guyton; Ms. Laurie Halverson; Ms. Stephanie R. Iszard; Mrs. Madhu Sidhu and Dr. Karen Salmon, Acting State Superintendent of Schools. (Note: Information sessions are optional meetings intended for information sharing and discussion. No board action is taken).

Elizabeth Kameen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General and the following staff members were also present: Dr. Miya Simpson, Executive Director to the State Board.

SEED SCHOOL

Acting State Superintendent Salmon introduced Carol Beck, Office of School Innovations, MSDE, who provided a brief history of the SEED School of Maryland, a public residential boarding school for at-risk students.

Ms. Beck introduced the presenters: Jon Tucker, Head of the SEED School; Keniq Coney, Chief Schools Officer; Tiffany Evans, Director of Student Life; Jessica Wilson, Director of Academics; JoAnn Robinson, Chief of Staff and Kevin Ridgely, Managing Director/CFO.

Ms. Beck reported that the SEED School serves more than 400 students from thirteen jurisdictions in Maryland noting that the school will take up to two students from every county every year. She outlined the admissions risk criteria to identify risk factors.

In response to a question by Ms. Sidhu, Ms. Beck said there are no academic requirements for admission to the school and noted that the majority of students read below grade level when they enter the school. She reported that the school receives more than 200 applications each year and that a lottery system is used to select students for participation in the SEED School Program.

In response to a concern expressed by Ms. Eberhart about the large percentage of students who are lost before sixth and twelfth grades, Mr. Tucker said, "There are a lot of different challenges." It was reported that school personnel are working to provide more after-school activities as well as addressing the need for more athletic programs.

Mr. Tucker reported that every student is provided with an electronic notebook to provide interventions online which has greatly improved the success of their students. He discussed program highlights and the support provided by MSDE.

He reported that school personnel are providing assistance to parents with technology issues and that the school has expanded its social media presence.

In response to a question by Dr. Guyton, Ms. Robinson explained that she is a parent of a student who attended the SEED School and stated that placing her child at the SEED School was the right decision for her family. Mr. Tucker said that school staff is working to increase parent involvement although many parents live more than two and one-half hours away from the school. He said they are working to grow their Parent/Teacher Organization.

In response to a question by Ms. Halverson, Mr. Tucker said that students are transported by bus to within twenty-five miles of their home when they return home for the weekend.

In response to a question by Dr. Gates about interventions surrounding depression, Mr. Tucker said that the school employs five full-time mental health counselors who provide counseling services both day and evenings. He also noted that the school partners with outside agencies as well to provide support for students. It was also explained that there are community meetings every Monday to talk about what happens over the weekend for students.

In response to a question by Ms. Iszard about providing parental counseling, Mr. Tucker said, "We are trying to grow our Parent Resource Center with online tools."

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Mr. Tucker said that school staff is planning to provide more information to students around career training. Ms. Wilson said, "We are being very clear for students to be college ready no matter what they want to do."

Ms. Sidhu said, "You follow all students six years after they graduate. I get a sense that you are on the right path."

In response to a question by Ms. Eberhart, Mr. Tucker said that students may chose to leave the school in order to attend a school with a special focus.

In response to a question by Ms. Eberhart about PARCC scores, Ms. Wilson said that scores were disappointing and that changes are being made by providing individualized interventions and building a culture around "wanting to do your best." It was noted that the technology gap for students taking the online test had an impact on PARCC scores.

Mr. Tucker reported that there are *endorsed colleges* that provide many support services for SEED School students.

In response to a question by Dr. Salmon, Mr. Tucker said that the school is evaluated by MSDE and must report to its Foundation on its Program success. Dr. Salmon suggested the school have an external evaluation conducted to identify any needs of the school.

In response to a suggestion by President Smith, Mr. Tucker said that he has hired a staff member to reach out to communities to increase student participation from all parts of the state.

In response to a question about priorities and plans moving forward, Mr. Tucker indicated an interest in increasing the number of students (expanding the cap) and expanding the type(s) of eligible students.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Dr. Salmon shared that she appointed Dr. Lynn Gilli (currently Program Manager, Career and Technology Education) to serve as Acting Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Career and College Readiness, and introduced Jeanne-Marie Holly and Patricia Mikos, CTE Program Managers, to provide an update on MSDE's Career and Technology Education Program (CTE).

Dr. Gilli reported that CTE in Maryland is a P-20 System of Education and provided an outline of the career preparation provided to students from kindergarten to their post-graduation employment. She also outlined ten CTE career clusters (www.mdcteprogams.org).

In response to a question from Dr. Gates about the *shelf life* of the list of career clusters, Ms. Mikos explained that the framework allows for changes in career clusters.

In response to a question by Ms. Eberhart about the filling of Information Technology (IT) positions, Dr. Gilli said there needs to be more IT experience offered in pre-K and kindergarten. Dr. Salmon reported that a Computer Science curriculum and a toolkit have been created for K-6 grade teachers.

Dr. Gilli provided a sample student schedule for grades nine through twelve for career and college preparation.

Ms. Mikos provided data surrounding CTE students, noting that it is a local decision as to what CTE programs are offered in school districts. She provided graphs depicting STEM-Related CTE Programs of Study, CTE student enrollment, student industry certifications and students meeting USM entry requirements and she provided a link for Board members to view district level programs (<https://mdctedata.org>).

In response to a concern expressed by Dr. Gates, Ms. Mikos explained that there are a limited number of CTE schools in Allegany County and that Prince George's County has Academies that do not provide CTE courses. She reiterated that these are local decisions.

Ms. Mikos explained that it is difficult to keep computer skilled teachers in the teaching profession.

Ms. Holly discussed the benefits of the "new" CTE to students and stakeholders. In response to a question by Ms. Eberhart, Ms. Holly said that CTE programs are based on national standards across the country. Dr. Gilli said, "Credentials are not nationally portable. We are working on this."

In response to a question by Dr. Gates, Dr. Gilli said that parent's, in reference to CTE programs, say, "It is the best thing they have seen." She noted there is a high hiring rate and that students enjoy what they are doing. Dr. Salmon said, "We are focusing the perception of CTE programs. It is a work in progress." She said, "We need to define college and career ready."

Ms. Mikos said, "LEAs would expand their programs if they could get certified teachers."

Ms. Sidhu suggested placing posters in schools informing students of the earning capacity in specific careers.

Ms. Holly reported on the dire news of federal funding for CTE programs. Ms. Mikos reported that the business community does provide much needed assistance through time and money.

Dr. Salmon said, "We need to bring this to the Governor's Conference. There are creative ways to look at this."

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: 7/26/16