



**MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2011
Columbia Campus**

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*Frederick Campus
Established 1868*

*Columbia Campus
Established 1973*



Maryland School for the Deaf does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, or disability in matters affecting programs, activities, or employment practices.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl B. Cooper, Ph.D.; Laurie Corcoran; John Ertel, Ph.D.; Roslyn Hannibal-Booker; Sandra Harriman; Ricardo Hernandez, Ph.D.; Robin Kittleman; David Martin; Cynthia Neese-Bailes, Ph.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Benjamin B. Bahan, Ph.D.; Ernest Hairston, Ph.D.; Angela McCaskill, Ph.D.; Khadijat Rashid, Ph.D.; Heather Zeolla

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL: Demetria Tobias, Esq.

INTERPRETERS: Myra J. Foley; Bobbie Quinn

Vice-President Laurie Corcoran called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Ms. Corcoran welcomed Mr. Shane Feldman as a guest and expressed her hope that the Governor approve the Board's recommendation to appoint Mr. Feldman to the Board of Trustees.

President's Report: No report.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Ertel explained that he was surprised to learn that the Board has another account which appears to be for Petty Cash with BB&T. Dr. Ertel stated that the Maryland School for the Deaf Foundation sent him a report in the summer and they seem to be taking good care of the Board's money. A report from June was distributed to the Board for their review. A discussion on the Petty Cash account took place regarding how the account should be handled. Dr. Ertel spoke with a BB&T representative and the account cannot be switched to show MSD as the account holder because it requires a social security number tied to an individual. It was suggested that the \$450 balance be handed over to MSDF to place in the Board's account since to leave the money as is would require updates every time there was a new Treasurer for the Board.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent James E. Tucker stated that there were a few highlights that he would like to share with the Board. MSD opened its 144th year this school year however we opened 1 day late, for what is believed to be the first time in history, due to Howard County Public Schools being closed because for damages sustained from the Hurricane. We have 4 new Administrators and we will introduce them later this morning. We had a very successful ASDC conference in June. We have completed our MSD/CEASD self-evaluation this year.

The budget continues to be a challenge. Ms. Schwertman will present this morning on the FY13 budget proposal. We will have to enter closed session to discuss another budget. Fiscal Year 2012 is in place but we got a last minute call that we needed to give back \$80,000 to cover personnel costs. We are making adjustments to allow for this. One of the proposals is to make a 20% across the board cut to Athletics.

We are proposing a Social Networking Policy in response to an incident this spring where a staff member was texting a student and we want to deal with it now and make the issue transparent.

We created a new position over the summer called Director of Student Achievement. We are getting ready to implement the 3rd new curriculum in 20 years so we felt that we needed 1 person to handle this. She will serve as the liaison between MSDE and MSD.

In order to meet one of the accreditation standards pertaining to the Board, the Board will need to recognize students and or staff from here on out at every Board meeting.

I met with President Bahan and he would like to put a hold on the Board Retreat until new members are appointed to the Board. We had a long discussion on hearing students joining MSD. I will meet with Ms. Tobias on Wednesday to discuss this. The hearing students would need to be fluent in ASL.

There are two new State Level Administrators to replace Dr. Grasmick and Dr. Heath. I am meeting with them both. I met with the new Superintendent of FCPS, Dr. Alban and she has suggested an exchange program.

CEASD is working hard on the "Child First Campaign." Ms. Connie Garner, a lobbyist, is working for CEASD now. LRE is still being misapplied for many deaf and hard of hearing children. We want LRE to be spelled out differently for deaf and hard of hearing children. We represent only 1% of the Special Education population. Ms. Tobias and I have been working on how to share with parents about MSD. A few schools in the country do admit hearing students who can sign. I think we would easily get 20 students if we open the doors to hearing students who can sign. If we look at MSD as a language school and not a Deaf school the Board could establish strict guidelines for a Pilot Program so that if it is not working the program can end. Perhaps the name of the school could be changed to the Maryland Academy. A discussion on LRE took place.

Executive Committee Report: No report at this time.

Education Committee Report: No report at this time.

FM/FM Report: No report at this time.

Personnel Committee: No report at this time.

Student Life Committee: No report at this time.

Trusteeship Committee: No report at this time.

Presentation of the FY13 Budget and Facilities update by Suzanne Schwertman, Chief Operating Officer: Ms. Schwertman presented a power point presentation to the Board in which she explained the current budget first and then the proposed budget for FY13. Ms. Schwertman then explained that there was no money in the budget for facility repairs and that the projects going on now are from 2 years ago, but they have just now gotten through all of the procurement process.

At 10:15 a.m. a **MOTION** was made to go into Closed Session to discuss privileged executive information – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

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At 10:25 a.m. a **MOTION** was made to return to Open Session – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

Update on Accreditation by Marcia Virts, Lead Internal Coordinator: Ms. Virts presented to the Board her 6th reaccreditation update. Ms. Virts introduced Ms. Elizabeth Reed, one of the internal coordinators for the Columbia Campus. Ms. Virts explained that the Action Plans are currently being written for the next 7 years and that the Accreditation Planning Team continues to meet and plan for the site visit in November. The Chairs of the Validation Team will visit 4-6 weeks prior to the Validation Team coming to make sure that we are ready and to develop the daily schedule. The self-study report is a 500 plus page document and once it's approved it will be mailed to each team member. Please reserve Tuesday, November 15th to come and meet with the Validation Team.

Common Core Curriculum by Stacey Farone, Director of Student Achievement: Ms. Farone presented a power point presentation on the Common Core Curriculum which must be completely implemented by 2014. By 2015 PARCC will replace the current assessments used. The goals of the Common Core Curriculum are to prepare students for a competitive Global Economy, better prepare students for careers, and better prepare students for college since colleges have reported that students are not prepared when they arrive to begin their college program.

How Accreditation for Growth and the Common Core State Standards will be aligned and implemented at MSD presented by Ms. Stacey Farone and Ms. Marcia Virts: Ms. Farone and Ms. Virts presented a power point presentation and explained that the Accreditation For Growth (AFG) and Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are more alike than different.

Report on Student Achievement for the 2010-2011 School Year by Susanna Oliver, Compliance Officer: Ms. Oliver presented a power point presentation that reported on student achievement. Ms. Oliver stated that the No Child Left Behind Act was a great idea but the elaborate system that was designed to measure disabled children masks what MSD students are really doing because they are being compared against white/middle American hearing children. Compounded by schools with large numbers, our numbers at 500 or under make us look like we are not meeting the standards. It's hiding that MSD has students who are at college level and the fact that we have students who transfer to MSD late and are behind and MSD supports them to progress as much as possible in the short time that they are here. Ms. Oliver stated that Family Ed and Preschool should be commended for the one year increase that they made in language and literacy.

Introductions of new Administrative Staff by Superintendent Tucker: Superintendent Tucker introduced the new Assistant Superintendent/Principal of the Columbia Campus, Ms. Jennifer Yost Ortiz, the new Director of Student Affairs of the Frederick Campus, Ms. Lori Bonheyo, and the new Assistant Superintendent/Principal of the Frederick Campus, Mr. Kevin Strachan. Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Bonheyo, and Mr. Strachan each said a few words and were welcomed by the Board.

Recognition of Center Stage Students and Staff from the Columbia Campus: The Board recognized the Deaf Orioles Theater, the drama club at the Columbia Campus. Ms. Stella Antonio, the Drama Teacher, explained that they won awards for the 3 plays that they developed and performed. The students introduced themselves to the Board.

Open Forum: No one signed up.

Old Business: As stated this morning the Board will wait to have a retreat once new members are appointed by the Governor.

New Business: The Board does not meet quorum therefore the board meeting will need to be adjourned and members from the Executive Committee will convene to vote on any Board business.

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn at 1:05 p.m. – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

Respectfully,

Roslyn Hannibal-Booker