



**MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2012  
Columbia Campus**

FREDERICK CAMPUS  
101 Clarke Place  
P.O Box 250  
Frederick, MD 21705-0250

301.360-2000  
301.360.2001 TTY  
301.360.1400 FAX  
www.msdc.edu



*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:** Benjamin Bahan, Ph.D.; Sheryl B. Cooper, Ph.D.; Laurie Corcoran; John Ertel, Ph.D.; Shane Feldman, Ernest Hairston, Ph.D.; Roslyn Hannibal-Booker; Sandra Harriman; Ricardo Hernandez, Ph.D.; Robin Kittleman; David Martin; Khadijat Rashid, Ph.D.; Joseph Smail, Ph.D., NCSP

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Angela McCaskill, Ph.D.; Cynthia Neese-Bailes, Ph.D.; Heather Zeolla

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Demetria Tobias, Esq.

**INTERPRETERS:** Myra Foley; Brenda Kelly-Frey

The FM/FM committee met with everyone in attendance at 8:40am.

President Bahan called the meeting to order and introductions were made as the Board welcomed two new board members, Dr. Joseph Smail and Mr. Shane Feldman to their first official board meeting.

**President's Report:** President Bahan stated that Superintendent Tucker has been reporting on his trips to Annapolis to meet with the Legislators and with what is happening at the Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD). It is a reminder of just how important it is that the Superintendent stays in touch with the legislators and makes time to meet with them. The school will be publishing a collection of the history of black deaf students in honor of Black History month. When the school in Overlea closed the records did not transfer up to Frederick and everyone wondered what ever became of the records. MSD staff made a point of looking for the information on Overlea and they found hidden records that will be displayed in the museum throughout Black History month.

**Vice-President's Report:** Ms. Corcoran stated that the Board has been talking about places and dates to have the retreat. President Bahan suggested that plans for the board retreat be discussed under old business. Ms. Corcoran stated the need to conduct an orientation with the new board members.

**Secretary's Report:** No report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Ertel stated that the Foundation has been providing information on the Board's money and that given the economic climate, there is a slight improvement in the account. It's almost time for the yearly audit so there should be an invoice submitted soon requesting we reimburse the Foundation for the Board's share of the audit cost. At this time there are no additional emerging

financial requests from the school. Once the retreat plans are finalized funds will be needed to pay for the expenses. Dr. Ertel stated that he had the great pleasure of joining Superintendent Tucker, Ms. Schwertman, and Ms. Lake at a budget hearing in Annapolis. Senator Astle had recommended that Dr. Ertel make a plea for additional funds but things went very well and Superintendent Tucker and Ms. Schwertman represented themselves very well so Dr. Ertel decided to keep quiet.

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Tucker stated that the budget hearings were completed last week. Superintendent Tucker thanked Dr. Ertel for coming and supporting MSD in Annapolis. Superintendent Tucker explained that he had the opportunity to meet with all of the members of the committees before the hearings and there were no issues. MSD's funding is tied to the Public Schools so when they get an increase MSD gets an increase so MSD will see a 1.5% increase, however salaries for all state employees including MSD employees will be frozen and there will be no step increases and living cost increases for 5 straight years.

MSD will be impacted by two new bills. One will allow retired MSD teachers to come back and teach at MSD which helps MSD in many ways. Both bills were already implemented in the public school systems but the legislators missed MSD so the legislators are adding MSD to the bills. The second bill will allow teachers to claim tuition expenditures as tax deductions if they are not reimbursed by the school.

There is another bill that doesn't impact MSD directly but it will set up the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library which would be the first in the nation. This will have some fiscal impact however and since the State is still struggling with a deficit legislators may find that it is not a priority at this time.

Superintendent Tucker shared with the Board what is going on in Indiana and what it will mean for ISD.

Ms. Stacey Farone will provide a presentation this morning on the new curriculum. MSD has assigned four new positions this year, two math and two reading specialists. These four positions will help get the school ready to implement the new curriculum.

Superintendent Tucker invited the board members to contact Jennifer Yost Ortiz, Assistant Superintendent/Principal of the Columbia Campus to schedule a tour of the Columbia Campus.

On February 27, 2012, Superintendent Tucker will be accompanying the MSD football team and cheerleading squad to Annapolis to be recognized on both the Senate and House Floors.

Superintendent Tucker congratulated Ms. Schwertman, MSD's COO, for receiving what is MSD's first ever clean audit. A discussion took place regarding the significance of a clean audit.

Superintendent Tucker stated that he was going to be at Gallaudet this weekend for the Child First Campaign. Over the years the least restrictive environment meaning has changed. The

goal of the Child First Campaign is to go back to the original roots of IDEA which is to look at the needs of the individual. It will be a huge battle because Deaf children only represent 1% of the Special Ed population. Superintendent Tucker explained the challenge right now is funding as CEASD is the only organization so far contributing financially to the campaign.

MSD will be sending out a special edition of the *The Maryland Bulletin* on the Maryland School for the Colored Deaf and Blind. It is history that has to be told. It was discovered that the Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) had documents in a vault on their campus. Mr. Chad Baker, Director of the MSD Museum, along with Ms. Linda Stull and Ms. Mary Harris were permitted to collect and examine the documents in order to put together the special edition of *The Maryland Bulletin*.

This year the drama club will be performing *The Wizard of Oz*. Please come and see a performance if you can.

**Presentation on the new Core Curriculum and the Partnership for Assessment Readiness for College and Careers by Ms. Stacey Farone, Director of Student Achievement:**

Ms. Farone shared the projected timeline for the implementation of the new curriculum and a discussion took place. A copy of Ms. Farone's power point presentation has been placed in the board file.

Ms. Farone shared with the Board that she has been meeting with both, CEASD and PARCC Maryland, on developing the new assessments. The groups are trying to accommodate for all types of learning styles and needs.

A discussion took place on the content areas of the new curriculum. Ms. Farone stated that currently 47 states have adopted the Common Core Curriculum. Each county will look at the curriculum and decide on the specifics to use to teach it but the curriculum framework will be same.

Superintendent Tucker stated that CEASD is very concerned with the assessments as they contain questions that are not fair to deaf and/or blind students.

President Bahan asked Ms. Farone and her team members what are the challenges involved with switching to the new curriculum. A discussion took place regarding the perceived challenges and the need to make sure that the new curriculum is presented as family friendly and as user friendly as possible since the curriculum demands more starting at the younger ages.

Superintendent Tucker stated that the data that was collected regarding student performance for those students who arrive early at MSD verses those students who arrive late would be made available at the May board meeting.

**Recognition of Family Education Staff who provide ASL Story Time:** Superintendent Tucker introduced Ms. Maryann Swann, the Director of the Family Education and Early Childhood Department. Ms. Swann shared with the Board the specifics regarding the ASL Story Time program which is available to the deaf, hard of hearing, and the hearing community ages 2-5 at a public venue. Ms. Swan introduced the team responsible for the program, Ms. Louise Rollins, Ms. Sarah Fairbanks, Ms. Patty Muldowney, Ms. Mary Ann Richmond, and Ms. Janell Bunn-Verdin. President Bahan thanked everyone for all of their efforts and for donating their personal time to ensure that the program was a success. President Bahan and Superintendent Tucker presented a framed certificate to each member and photos of the event were taken.

**Executive Committee Report:** No report.

**Education Committee Report:** No report.

**FM/FM Committee Report:** Dr. Ertel stated that everyone should have received copies of the statements from the past month. The funds available in the account should easily support the retreat. Dr. Ertel stated that there is a need for an additional member on the committee if anyone is interested in joining.

**Personnel Committee Report:** No report, however now that there are more board members people should be encouraged to join the board committees.

**Student Life Committee Report:** No report.

**Trusteeship Committee Report:** There are currently 3 vacancies still remaining on the board. Ms. Corcoran stated that she would sit down with the new members to determine a date and time for orientation.

**Open Forum:** No one signed up.

**Old Business: Plans for the Board Retreat.** Ms. Corcoran shared with the Board that a possible location for the board retreat could be the Sheraton Hotel in Columbia. A decision on how much to spend on the retreat needs to be made. A discussion on the goals for the retreat took place. Ms. Corcoran stated that the goals of the Board seem to have gotten a little blurry, for example what is the purpose of the Board, what should the subcommittees be doing, what are the responsibilities of the subcommittees, and of concern is the attendance rate of some of the members. The goal therefore should be to get cohesion again and to establish the board's goals for the next 1-2 years.

A discussion took place regarding possible agenda topics, the use of a facilitator, whether to include MSD Administrators and Staff, and how much time would be needed to accomplish the agenda. Ms. Tobias informed the Board that she would need to work with the Board regarding possible facilitators if they are to receive payment for their services to make sure that there are no ethics issues involved. Possible dates were discussed. Ms. Tobias stated that a regular board

meeting can be combined with a retreat so long as the official board meeting time and location for board business are advertised. Once the official board meeting is closed a retreat can begin.

A **MOTION** was made to hold the Board retreat May 17-18, 2012 in Frederick starting Thursday evening and concluding by Friday evening– **SECONDED - PASSED.**

One of the agenda items for the board retreat will be how best to evaluate Superintendent Tucker. Each committee member should submit a wish list to the committee chair who will in turn submit the requests to the ad hoc committee in charge of planning the retreat.

A **MOTION** was made to close old business- **SECONDED-PASSED.**

**New Business:** No new business.

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn at 2:11 p.m. – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

**Additional Comments:**

Mr. Feldman requested that the board packets be sent through email as attachments from now on. The entire Board agreed with the request to receive the board packets electronically from now on. Mr. Martin asked that it be put on record that Ms. Schwertman should be recognized for the clean audit at the next board meeting.

The Board evaluated itself upon the conclusion of the meeting and the scores ranged from 3.5 to 4.5.

The strengths that the Board expressed regarding the meeting were the time to interact with staff for the recognition event and the improvement in meeting attendance/participation.

The weaknesses that the Board expressed were sometimes straying from the discussion topic and the room set up was not conducive for visual communication.

Respectfully,

*Roslyn Hannibal-Booker*