



**MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2012
Columbia Campus**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Benjamin Bahan, Ph.D.; Sheryl B. Cooper, Ph.D.; John Ertel, Ph.D.; Shane Feldman, Ernest Hairston, Ph.D.; Roslyn Hannibal-Booker; Ricardo Hernandez, Ph.D.; David Martin; Cynthia Neese-Bailes, Ph.D.; Khadijat Rashid, Ph.D.; Joseph Smail, Ph.D., NCSP; Heather Zeolla

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laurie Corcoran; Sandra Harriman; Robin Kittleman; Angela McCaskill, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL: Demetria Tobias, Esq.

INTERPRETERS: Bobbie Quinn; Brenda Kelly-Frey

Members of the Education and Student Life Committees met to review the Parent/Student Handbooks at 8:00am.

President Bahan called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Agenda – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made to approve the February 2012 Minutes– **SECONDED - PASSED.**

President’s Report: President Bahan requested that the Board find a way to make time for the committees to meet. Members should consider either meeting before the board meeting or the Board should consider starting their meeting later in the morning so that committees can meet.

Vice-President’s Report: No report.

Secretary’s Report: No report.

Treasurer’s Report: Dr. Ertel stated that based on the report received from the Foundation the Board’s money seems to be doing well. Dr. Ertel recommended that the Foundation be allowed to continue to manage the Board’s money. A bill for the Board’s portion of the audit should be coming soon so the Board will need to use some funds to pay for that.

Superintendent’s Report: Superintendent Tucker stated that this school year was a very fast year. Graduation will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2012 and Dr. Khadijat Rashid will be the commencement speaker. A reception to honor Dr. Rashid will be held on Friday, June 1, 2012 at 7:00pm in the Bjorlee Museum. Anyone interested in attending either event should contact Jennifer.

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.msd.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.

This is the first time in 20 years that the Legislatures did not complete the legislative session. Right before the Legislators returned for a special session MSD was told a 1.5% increase was approved and according to the newspapers the spending plan was approved. A 1.5% increase is wonderful as this will be the first increase in 5 years. The increase will allow MSD to offer a full day 3-year-old program.

Superintendent Tucker requested that the Board consider approving the following items:

- Parent/Student Handbook
- Employee Handbook
- Out-of-State Tuition – Right now MSD has 4 out-of-state students.
- Staffing Plan – The Staffing Plan is required. It is submitted with requests for Federal Funds. The purpose of the plan is to demonstrate that federal funds received by MSD are used for Special Education.
- Waiver of 2 Missed School Days – The first day of school MSD was closed due to Hurricane Irene. School is closed today, May 18, 2012 for the G-8 Summit. Frederick County Public Schools are also closed today and they have already received a waiver from the State.

Superintendent Tucker shared with the Board that he is on the CEASD Child First Campaign Steering Committee and the purpose of the campaign is to try and influence change to the IDEA law. It appears now that IDEA might be folded into the Elementary Education Secondary Education Act so current language in IDEA will carry on for a while.

The Hands & Voices (a national organization of parents of deaf and hard of hearing children and youth) have established a state chapter in Maryland. MSD has sent representatives to attend the meetings and MSD plans to develop a close relationship with the organization.

MSD is tweaking the Family Education Department. Ms. Maryann Swann is the current director of the program. Ms. Swann's title is being changed to Director of Birth through 5 and her position will be similar to MSD's Director of Student Achievement, who serves as MSD's liaison with MSDE for K-12, only Ms. Swann will serve as liaison for Birth through 5. Ms. Swann will focus more on outreach and building relations with the other counties. This change means that the current Family Education Supervising Teachers will report to the campus principals.

Proposed regulations to strengthen the current law on the books have been shared with the Assistant State Superintendent of Special Education. The proposed regulations will require all counties to invite a representative from MSD to attend all initial IEP meetings for any deaf or hard of hearing student. Superintendent Tucker is waiting for feedback from the Assistant State Superintendent.

Superintendent Tucker reported that student enrollment is healthy and our Academic Bowl team won the Gallaudet University National Academic Bowl Championship for a third consecutive time.

Superintendent Tucker stated that he was elected President-Elect of CEASD beginning July 1, 2012. It is a 6 year commitment (two years as President-Elect, two years as President, and two years as Past President) and his primary focus as President-Elect for the next two years will be planning the CEASD conferences. Superintendent Tucker shared that since the reauthorization of IDEA is now delayed, CEASD will be focusing on combating the negative messaging that is being put out there by Option Schools, Inc. CEASD is considering hiring a PR firm to help get positive, constructive information out to the public.

President Bahan stated that Superintendent Tucker's job is the school but also going outside into the state community and outside of the state of Maryland because what happens out there, in the larger community affects the school, and so this should be taken into consideration when the Board evaluates the Superintendents roles and responsibilities.

Presentation of the Quest Program at the Columbia Campus by Tim McCarthy: Introductions of the Quest staff and Columbia Campus staff responsible for implementing the Quest program were made. Mr. McCarthy explained that the Theatre Bridge program is a 4 year research study sponsored by the United States Department of Education. The program at the MSD Columbia Campus is nearing the end of the 2nd year. The overall goal of the program is to assist with the development of communication skills for the students at MSD. Elements of the program were explained along with a demonstration of some of the activities the program has to offer. Data is being collected. The MSD staff participating in the program had very positive things to say about the success of the program with the students.

Executive Committee Report: No report.

Education Committee Report: Dr. Hairston reported that the Education committee, along with the Student Life committee met this morning to review the Parent/Student Handbooks.

FM/FM Committee Report: Dr. Ertel stated that the committee only has 2 members and no matters to present to the Board at this time however the committee will need to meet early before the September Board meeting. Dr. Ertel pleaded with members to join the committee.

Personnel Committee Report: None.

Student Life Committee Report: Mr. Martin stated that the Student Life committee, along with the Education committee met this morning to discuss the Parent/Student handbooks. Only minor changes were suggested so the committee will recommend that the Board approve the handbooks, with the recommended changes, under New Business.

Trusteeship Committee Report: No report.

Student Achievement at the Maryland School for the Deaf: Superintendent Tucker shared with the Board data that demonstrates that students who have been at MSD the longest do better than students who are at MSD the shortest. Students who have been at MSD for 7 years or more actually outperform the national average. A discussion took place regarding what information to look at within the MSD groups and who best to compare MSD's results to, other Maryland students or the National Average.

Recognize the Academic Bowl Team & Coaches: President Bahan stated the Board recognizes and commends the Academic Bowl Team on their outstanding achievement, winning the National title three straight years. Superintendent Tucker will present the students with their certificates on our behalf and we will look forward to a 4th straight championship. Superintendent Tucker stated that it is the team's 3rd consecutive championship, but their 4th championship throughout the history of the tournament.

Open Forum: No one signed up.

Old Business: Plans for the Board Retreat. President Bahan asked to move the discussion on the Board Retreat to New Business so that the retreat dates could be decided based on the meeting dates for the next school year.

New Business: Approval of 2012/13 Frederick & Columbia Campus Parent/Student Handbooks. Mr. Martin as chair of the Student Life committee recommended that the Board approve the Parent/Student Handbooks with the submitted revisions as discussed at the handbook meeting earlier in the day. There was a discussion about the recommended revisions and which counties within the State to look at when developing policies and procedures.

A **MOTION** was made to close the discussion - **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Parent/Student Handbooks with the recommended revisions – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

Approval of 2012/13 Employee Handbook. Dr. Hernandez as chair of the Personnel committee made a **MOTION** that the Board meet as a whole to review the changes recommended for the Employee Handbook – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A discussion lead by Ms. Currin, MSD's Personnel Director, took place regarding the changes made in the Employee Handbook.

A **MOTION** was made to accept the changes to the Employee Handbook and the section regarding a 20% reduction in Athletic and Non-Athletic compensations should be removed from discussion until clarified/resolved by the Superintendent and Ms. Currin. If it turns out its something the Board has to approve then it should be brought back to the Board. – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Employee Handbook – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made to waive the 2 missed days of school for the 2011-2012 school year – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Out-of-State Tuition since it is the same as last year – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Staffing Plan – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made that the Board should meet 4 times a year on Fridays similar to the past – **SECONDED – DISCUSSION.**

A **CHANGE in MOTION** was made to move to an open discussion on the meeting schedule for the Board for the next school year – **SECONDED-DISCUSSION.**

Board Meeting dates selected for the 2012-2013 school year are:

- Friday, September 7, 2012 at the Columbia Campus
- Friday, November 16, 2012 at the Frederick Campus
- Friday, February 8, 2013 at the Columbia Campus
- Friday, May 10, 2013 at the Frederick Campus

A discussion took place on when to hold the Board retreat. The Board agreed to hold a regular meeting through Open Forum and then adjourn for the retreat. President Bahan selected the following individuals to serve on the Retreat Committee – Ms. Corcoran, Dr. Ertel, Mr. Martin, Dr. Hernandez, and himself. The retreat dates will be September 7-8, 2012.

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn at 2:25 p.m. – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

Respectfully,

Roslyn Hannibal-Booker