



**MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2013  
Columbia Campus**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** James E. Tucker

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

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Jennifer Lake

**INTERPRETERS:** Bobbie Quinn and Myra Foley

At 10:15am President Bahan called the meeting to order. Due to delay it was recommended that the tour be removed from the agenda. All members agreed to the change.

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

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

A **MOTION** was made to approve the November 2012 Closed Session Minutes– **SECONDED - PASSED.**

**President’s Report:** President Bahan stated since the last meeting the Board received a letter just prior to the September meeting from a mother who expressed concerns about her son who was enrolled at the Frederick Campus. The Board also received a letter from a former Columbia Campus staff member regarding recent events at the Columbia Campus. Present Bahan stated that the matter was being investigated and that the Superintendent was keeping him well informed.

**Vice President’s Report:** Ms. Corcoran stated that she had no report but thanked everyone for their well wishes.

**Secretary’s Report:** Ms. Hannibal-Booker stated that she received correspondence from a designated staff member at the Columbia Campus which she then sent to the entire Board. Ms. Hannibal-Booker stated that she just received a second email asking for a detailed response about the Board’s process and how it would be shared with the staff. Ms. Hannibal-Booker explained the Open Forum process to the staff member.

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.msds.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.

Dr. McCaskill stated that she saw an email from a staff member asking to have their name removed from the petition. President Bahan stated that he received it and forwarded it to the Personnel Committee to handle.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Ertel stated that he did have some information on the Board Retreat which was held last fall but that it was not the numbers he was expecting so he will confirm the information with Ms. West. Dr. Ertel stated that the Board's fund growth is good, despite the fact that the economy is still not good.

**Superintendent's Report:** The Superintendent stated that the enrollment numbers continue to grow. Right now the school's total enrollment is 520. The migration from mainstream schools continues. The Superintendent commended Columbia Campus Principal Jennifer Ortiz for her leadership which has brought the Columbia Campus enrollment number to its highest ever. With the growing enrollment numbers, additional resources are needed. The Fiscal Year 2014 budget looks good with a 4% increase which will help to support the growing enrollment numbers. Most of the 4% increase will go to teachers' salaries which have been frozen for the past 5 years.

The Superintendent shared that while he was in Annapolis a lot of the Legislators were talking about the shooting in Connecticut. MSD is waiting for new standards for school safety to come out from MSDE and those standards could require funds.

The Superintendent encouraged the Board to come and see the play as the Director, Ms. Corey has announced that she is retiring and this will be her last play at MSD.

At 10:45 a.m. a **MOTION** was made to go into Closed Session to discuss privileged executive information – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** James E. Tucker

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

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Jennifer Lake

**INTERPRETERS:** Bobbie Quinn and Myra Foley

At 12:40 p.m. a **MOTION** was made to return to Open Session – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

**Open Forum:** Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Tobias welcomed the individuals who signed up to speak during Open Forum to the Board. Ms. Tobias stated that each speaker would have 5 minutes to speak and the Board may ask questions. Depending on the subject matter the Board

may not be able to respond. Upon the conclusion of Open Forum the Board may enter a closed session in order to discuss matters. The Board will respond at a later time.

Ms. Elizabeth Reed, Columbia Campus staff member spoke first. She explained that she along with the other 4 Columbia Campus staff members were selected by a larger community who signed the petition to represent them at the Open Forum. Each staff member introduced themselves to the Board: Ms. Ann Drechsler, Ms. Shannon Negussie, Ms. Shelly McCully and Mr. Michael Dunham. Each staff member read a portion from a prepared document (see attached document). Mr. Dunham stated that they sent the petition to the Board but have heard nothing back. Board members asked questions and for clarification regarding what was being asked of the Board. Ms. Reed stated that they wanted the Board to conduct its own investigation and reconsider the personnel issues/decisions that were made. President Bahan thanked the staff members for coming and acknowledged that it was not an easy thing to do. He shared with them that the Board would need to meet to take on the issue and decide what to do.

A **MOTION** was made to reopen consideration of the Agenda – **SECONDED - PASSED**.

A **MOTION** was made to delete all committee reports except those that require action – **SECONDED – PASSED**.

A **MOTION** was made to organize the Agenda with consideration for those items that need to occur – **DISCUSSION**.

A **MOTION** was made to go into Closed Session – **DISCUSSION**.

A **MOTION** was made to withdrawal the first motion on the floor and second the motion to go into Closed Session – **SECONDED - PASSED**.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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

**INTERPRETERS:** Bobbie Quinn and Myra Foley

A **MOTION** was made to return to Open Session – **SECONDED – PASSED**.

**Recognition by the Board:** Columbia Campus Principal Jennifer Ortiz introduced Ms. Liz Hill, Reading Specialist at the Columbia Campus. Ms. Ortiz stated that Ms. Hill is a very dedicated teacher, she has been working at MSD for 6 years now, she has a Masters in Deaf Education and certification as a Reading Specialist. Last year MSD participated in a Read Across America event in which Ms. Hill was the Chair. The event was amazing. It was so successful it is now an

annual event. This fall Ms. Hill brought back the Scholastic Book Fair and it was so successful that each student received a book and the library received 75 new books. President Bahan thanked Ms. Hill on behalf of the Board for all of her hard work and stated that the Board was both inspired and touched by her hard work and dedication.

**Presentation on Student Achievement at MSD by Ms. Stacey Farone, Director of Student Achievement:** Ms. Farone stated that she went through and broke down the data as requested by the Board. A discussion on the challenges of working with small data groups took place.

A **MOTION** was made to cancel the Committee Meetings for today – **SECONDED – APPROVED.**

**Old Business:** Board Retreat Discussion - Dr. Ertel stated that the idea of integrating a retreat with a meeting and to allow some time to meet with people in the community had been discussed and that if the Board was still interested in this then moving forward with planning would be a good idea. President Bahan stated that he liked the idea of having working meetings but the purpose of placing this item on the agenda was to review the retreat summary and decide where to go from here. President Bahan requested that time be set aside at the May meeting to review the notes from the retreat and make a plan for moving forward.

A **MOTION** was made to close Old Business – **SECONDED – APPROVED.**

**New Business:** President Bahan stated that the letter from the mother that he mentioned at the beginning of the meeting will be reported on at the next meeting.

A **MOTION** was made to close New Business – **SECONDED – APPROVED.**

Dr. Hernandez stated that Dr. Beth Benedict was a good selection for the 2013 MSD Commencement Speaker.

Mr. Feldman stated that he started a new job in Virginia as the Executive Director of RID and that because of the location he and his family would be moving to Virginia and therefore he would no longer be able to serve on the Board. He stated that he will miss working on the Board and thanked President Bahan for his leadership and wished everyone well.

President Bahan stated that there was good open discussion at today's meeting and that there are some challenges that need to be dealt with.

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:45pm-**SECONDED-APPROVED.**

Respectfully,

*Roslyn Hannibal-Booker*