



**MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2015  
Frederick Campus**

(Due to water pipe damage at the Columbia Campus)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Julie Bourne; Sheryl B. Cooper, Ph.D.; John Ertel, Ph.D.; Dennis Galvan, Ph.D.; Roslyn Hannibal-Booker; Sandy Harriman; Ricardo Hernandez, Ph.D.; David Martin; Cynthia Neese-Bailes, Ph.D.; Debra Patkin, Esq.; Denise Perdue; and Jennifer Smart, Ph.D.

**SUPERINTENDENT:** James E. Tucker

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL:** William Fields

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Jennifer Lake

**INTERPRETERS:** Myra Foley and Brenda Kelly Frey

At 11:13am President Martin called the meeting to order.

The following changes to the Agenda were made due to the late start.

- Committee Meetings till 11:45am
- Recognition Event
- Will move History Presentation to May meeting
- No morning break
- Business Meeting will be moved to the afternoon
- There will be no tour
- The rest of the day will proceed as planned

Board broke out into Committee Meetings

**Recognition by the Board:** Columbia Campus Principal, Ms. Jennifer Yost Ortiz introduced Mr. Russell Koenig and Dr. Richard Jeffries. Dr. Jeffries explained why Mr. Koenig was being recognized. Mr. Koenig has worked at MSD for 5 years now and goes above and beyond his job duties. He works with the special needs students and organizes and chairs additional events, for example the Haunted House and Tri-State Basketball Tournament. He painted the Oriole Bird in the gym outside of his work hours. President Martin thanked Mr. Koenig for all of his hard work and dedication. Mr. Koenig thanked the Board for the recognition and said he does it all for the kids but the recognition will provide him with even more motivation.

**Open Forum:** No one signed up

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Agenda as amended at start of the meeting – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

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*Frederick Campus  
Established 1868*

*Columbia Campus  
Established 1973*



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A **MOTION** was made to approve the November 2014 Minutes – **SECONDED - PASSED**.

**President's Report:** Present Martin shared that Superintendent Tucker applied for the Gallaudet Presidency position so the Board has some work to do. Plans for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration will begin soon. Board elections will be this May.

**Vice-President:** Ms. Bourne suggested that the Board start working on a Succession Plan in hopes to have a working draft by May.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Ertel recommended that no changes be made to the Board's financial accounts at this time. With respect to the BB&T account Dr. Ertel needs an official letter on school letterhead empowering someone to close out the account on behalf of the Board. Dr. Ertel recommended the Board elect a new Treasurer and the letter come from the new Treasurer. Ms. Hannibal-Booker suggested that a copy of the minutes showing the Board approved the withdrawal of the funds be attached to the letter.

Ms. Bourne asked that the minutes reflect a request for Mr. Fields to look into getting student achievement data from the State by the May meeting.

**Superintendent's Report:** The Superintendent shared that the General Assembly is in session. The Superintendent met the new Governor before the State of the State and invited him to tour MSD. The Superintendent also met the Lt. Governor, the State Comptroller and the Treasurer. They have not identified a liaison for the School and the Governor yet.

Under former Governor O'Malley there was to be a 4% increase for public schools, however Governor Hogan has decreased that to 1%. The County schools intend to fight it. State employees are losing the 2% COLA they just received.

Enrollment is healthy at 516 students. Currently there are two challenges at MSD, PARCC and the new Common Core Curriculum and Teacher Certification. While the school is thrilled with the new curriculum standards and assessments it's all happening to quickly. A lot of technological challenges have come into play with the new on-line assessments as well. Several states are backing out of the Common Core.

Ms. Bourne brought up the staff losing the 2% increase but yet they are expected to do more work. Dr. Smart shared that she is worried about the morale among teachers.

Teacher Certification has become more complex. The Superintendent has been in communication with Ms. Jean Satterfield and she will request that the State Board set up a working group to review Teacher Certification.

MSD has been a member of the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association since 1928 however our teams are just too strong so the Girls' Volleyball and Basketball Teams have withdrawn from competition. The Track and Field teams will still compete though. CEASD will lead a group to put in a bid for the ICED conference to be held in Washington, DC in 2015. CEASD has 62 member schools that can contribute in kind to help support the conference.

Work will begin shortly on the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration. At this time 25 people have volunteered to work on the committee. It will be a year-long celebration. Hopefully the celebrations will end with a Black Tie Gala.

The spring play this year will be *The Beverly Hillbillies*.

**Executive Committee:** No report.

**Personnel Committee:** Dr. Hernandez shared that the committee discussed the Succession Plan work that needs to be done. The Superintendent's job description was revised however it was never voted on and approved. There needs to be a clear plan of chain of command for the school. The Board is a governing board therefore the Board is responsible for the criteria, process, and final decision as to who is hired for the Superintendent position. The Personnel Committee recommended that a Succession Plan be drafted and approved as well as a Search Committee formed.

**Education Committee:** Dr. Neese-Bailes shared that the committee talked about the PARCC and that the committee was impressed with the Principal's thinking. The Principals are very concerned about the children. President Martin and Ms. Hannibal-Booker will work together to disseminate a letter school wide thanking the staff for all of their hard work. Discussion took place on whether to do just letter or a letter and event. Decision was made to distribute letter and plan an appreciation event for MSD staff.

**Fiscal Matters/Facilities Management Committee Report:** Dr. Ertel shared that the committee met with Ms. Schwertman and she explained there was a budget cut in the BRFA. Dr. Ertel applauded Ms. Schwertman's attitude that MSD will make it work. The staff will most likely receive a 2% cut to their salaries. Dr. Ertel thanked the Maintenance Staff who came in to deal with the burst water pipes at the Columbia Campus this past weekend.

**Student Life:** Ms. Perdue explained that there is a lot of staff at MSD getting ready to retire. The Diagnostic Center will be an added bonus to the campuses. Approximately 10 infants will probably be tested per year between the two campuses.

**Trusteeship Committee:** Dr. Cooper share that many of the new Board members have had their Senate confirmation at this point. There are 3-4 vacancies still on the Board that need to be filled. The Board is seeking Diversity.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**1) Committee for Succession Plan**

A **MOTION** was made to set up a committee to work on a Succession Plan – **SECONDED – DISCUSSION**. A **MOTION** was made to establish a committee to only work on a Succession Plan – A **MOTION** was made to close the **DISCUSSION – SECONDED – PASSED**.

Ms. Julie Bourne was appointed Chair of the Committee. President Martin, Dr. Ertel, Dr. Galvan and Dr. Hernandez will serve on the Committee.

The Committee will meet and work on a plan to bring to the May board meeting for the full Board to review.

**2) Letter Commending Faculty**

A **MOTION** was made to write a letter and host an event for the Teachers and Staff – **SECONDED – DISCUSSION**. The money from the BB&T account will need to be withdrawn to pay for the event. Ms. Hannibal-Booker will draft a letter and share it with the Board. The Executive Committee will decide on a date for the event. – **PASSED**.

**3) Letter Commending Ms. Schwertman and the Maintenance Department for their work at Columbia Campus**

A **MOTION** was made to send a letter of commendation to the men who repaired the recent emergency water pipe break at the Columbia Campus – **SECONDED – PASSED**.

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

A **MOTION** was made to close the meeting at 3:53pm – **SECONDED - PASSED**. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,  
*Roslyn Hannibal-Booker*

The Board evaluated itself on a scale of 0 to 5 with 0 being bad and 5 being excellent. The scores ranged from 4 to 5.

The strengths that the Board expressed regarding the meeting were the flexibility to accommodate the late start and still accomplish quite a bit and the establishment of the Succession Plan Committee.

The weakness that the Board expressed regarding the meeting was the need to stay on track during reports and to come more prepared to the meetings.