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**Maryland School for the Deaf Board of Trustees**

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*Engage. Challenge. Achieve.*

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**David Martin, President**  
**Julie Bourne, Vice-President**  
**Roslyn Hannibal-Booker, Secretary**  
**Dennis Galvan, Ph.D., Treasurer**

**Frederick Campus** *Established 1868*  
**Columbia Campus** *Established 1973*

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**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 13, 2015**  
**Frederick Campus**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Julie Bourne; Sheryl B. Cooper, Ph.D.; Robert Davila, Ph.D.; John Ertel, Ph.D.; Dennis Galvan, Ph.D.; Ricardo Hernandez, Ph.D.; Stephen Hlibok; Robin Kittleman; 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 Bobbie Quinn

President Martin called the meeting to order at 9:12am.

President Martin welcomed new board member, Dr. Robert Davila. President Martin thanked Vice-President Bourne for running the previous meeting. Dr. Davila was assigned to the Education Committee. The Education Committee will need to select a new chair.

The Board broke out into their committees to meet.

**Presentation on Social Media at MSD by President Martin:** (see file for copy of presentation). Ms. Amy Mowl attended at President Martin's request. A social media policy for MSD will be discussed at the Board's spring meeting. President Martin encouraged the members to follow the school on the school's social media sites.

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

A **MOTION** was made to approve the September 2015 Open Session Minutes – **SECONDED-DISCUSSION** - with revisions - **PASSED.**

**President's Report:** President Martin stated he feels blessed to work with this Board. He encouraged the Board to stay strong. There are currently 14 vacancies for Superintendents of schools for the deaf across the country. The MSD Board is made up hearing and deaf and the hearing here have a vested interest in ASL as a language and the education of deaf students. The Maryland School for the Deaf Foundation raised about \$29,000 at their recent Golf Tournament. President Martin encouraged board members to contribute to the Foundation. President Martin

will speak with President Phelps about having a board member attend each of the Foundation's meetings.

Mr. Tucker and President Martin continue to meet regularly for school updates and Board/school communication.

**Vice-President's Report:** Vice-President Bourne reminded members that at the last meeting the Board discussed the need for agendas for the committee meetings. For the February meeting she will follow-up in advance to give people more time to prepare.

**Secretary's Report:** None at this time.

**Treasurer's Report:** It was recommended by Dr. Ertel that two names be put on the Board's BB&T account.

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Tucker shared that the FY17 budget looks promising. Enrollment is healthy at 505 students.

Tonight is the opening night of the Fall Road Show here at MSD. There will also be performances at Gallaudet, Towson, Walkersville High School, etc. The MSD Volleyball team had a wonderful season and was selected as National Champions. The MSD Football team was also selected as National Champions this season.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dr. Bahan will be bringing 8 ASL storytellers from Gallaudet for a day of story-telling and poems for MSD students. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, President Buckley will be presenting all day to MSD students.

A discussion took place on ways to try and increase the teaching hiring pool. Mentorship programs, new legislation, incentive programs such as student loan payoffs for pursuing certain fields, etc. Mr. Fields suggested Superintendent Tucker have a conversation with Assistant State Superintendent, Dr. Marcella Franczkowski.

**Recognition Event:** MSD Athletic Director, Mr. Andy Bonheyo, introduced Coach Vicki Kitsembel and acknowledged her many years of dedicated service and her outstanding record as Head Volleyball Coach. President Martin presented Coach Kitsembel with a certificate and thanked her for her dedication to her players and to MSD. Coach Kitsembel expressed her appreciation and her love for the game. Superintendent Tucker introduced Ms. Suzanne Schwertman, MSD's CFO and COO. Per the Board's request at a prior meeting, Ms. Schwertman was recognized for her dedication and hard work to keep MSD operating and running smoothly from both a fiscal standpoint and an operational one, as well as for her leadership and vision for construction projects completed at both campuses. President Martin presented Ms. Schwertman with a certificate and thanked her for her dedication to MSD. Ms. Schwertman thanked everyone and expressed her gratitude for her team members who work alongside her to get the job done.

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

**Executive Committee Report:** None at this time.

**Education Committee Report:** Dr. Neese-Bailes shared that second term appointments for Dr. Bahan, Ms. Kittleman and herself expire in 2016 so there will be a need for new members for the Education committee. The committee discussed the amount of testing that occurs in schools and the reduction in the amount of testing last year at MSD. The committee asked for a detailed report by the next meeting on the types of tests, amount of testing, etc. that occurs at MSD. The committee discussed the issues with recruiting and retaining teachers.

**FM/FM Committee Report:** Dr. Galvan shared that Superintendent Tucker, Ms. Schwertman and Ms. Currin met with Department of Budget and Management Secretary David Brinkley. The State approved the Faculty Pay Plan. The water pipe system needs to be upgraded to accommodate sprinkler systems in the buildings. The funds to pay for this project will come out of the State's Capital Improvement budget. The letter was written and mailed to BB&T bank requesting that the needed changes be made to the account. Superintendent Tucker shared that community forum dates were sent out to the community so that feedback for the next 15 year facility master plan could be collected. Dr. Galvan stated that Ms. Schwertman shared that the Columbia Campus facilities will require future work.

**Personnel Committee Report:** None at this time.

**Student Life Committee Report:** President Martin shared that some changes had been made in the dorms. There used to be a Dean of Students, but that position is now 2 positions, Dean of Girls and Dean of Boys. It's more equal and the new positions are accountable for one another. Mr. Strachan has assumed leadership over the Dorms as Ms. Bonheyo is out on Medical Leave. President Martin asked that the Board be copied on any future communications that are sent out to parents. The committee thanked Ms. Lori Bonheyo for her service. President Martin asked members to thank Mr. Strachan as he has assumed additional duties at this time and needs the Board's support. Student Life is not the most appropriate name for the committee and a new name is being considered.

**Trusteeship Committee Report:** Dr. Cooper shared that the committee has received a lot of names for potential consideration. Dr. Cooper stressed the need for diversity among the Board. President Martin reminded members who needed to submit renewal paperwork to do so as soon as possible.

**Old Business:** None at this time.

**New Business:**

A **MOTION** that the administration present to the Education Committee by the next meeting (send out prior to meeting so committee can review before the meeting) information about testing at both campuses, what has been done to reduce the testing, the current state of testing, and test prep. Also include a copy of the testing schedule. – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** to go to dinner after the next board meeting – **DISCUSSION - AMEND** motion to go out for a long lunch during the next board meeting – **SECONDED - PASSED.**

President Martin proposed that the name of the Student Life Committee be changed to the Student Affairs Committee. A discussion took place. A **MOTION** to change the name of the committee from student life to student affairs – **SECONDED – DISCUSSION**. A change in committee name will require a change in the by-laws. The proposed changes need to be in writing and sent out 3 weeks before the change is brought to the full Board for a final vote. President Martin will contact the committee before the next meeting as well as Dr. Ertel - **MOTION WITHDRAWN**.

A **MOTION** to adjourn meeting at 3:04pm - **SECONDED – PASSED**.

Mr. Fields hopes to have the requested student data for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students by the February meeting.

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 strength that the Board expressed regarding the meeting was the open conversation on subjects and the respect demonstrated by all members for what others had to say. The Board expressed the desire to see students attend the recognition events or even portions of the meeting itself. For example a government or social studies class could observe some of the meeting to learn more about what a board is, what the board's role is, and how a board functions.