
Maryland School for the Deaf Board of Trustees

101 Clarke Place, P.O. Box 250
Frederick, Maryland 21705-0250
(301) 360-2005 (Voice)
(301) 360-1400 (Fax)
www.msdd.edu



David Martin, President
Julie Bourne, Vice-President
Sheryl B. Cooper, Ph.D., Secretary
Dennis Galvan, Ph.D., Treasurer

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

Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2016
Frederick Campus

MEMBERS PRESENT: Benjamin Bahan, Ph.D.; Julie Bourne; Sheryl B. Cooper, Ph.D.; Robert Davila, Ph.D.; John Ertel, Ph.D.; Dennis Galvan, Ph.D.; Ricardo Hernandez, Ph.D.; David Martin; Cynthia Neese-Bailes, Ph.D.; Robert Padden, Debra Patkin, Esq.; Denise Perdue; and Jennifer Smart, Ph.D.

SUPERINTENDENT: James E. Tucker

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL: William Fields

RECORDING SECRETARY: Samantha Brooks

INTERPRETERS: Myra Foley and Brenda Kelly-Frey

The board broke out into their committees to meet.

President Martin called the meeting to order at 10:23 am.

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

Ms. Julie Bourne proposed changing the wording in the previous meeting Minutes. It was suggested that the wording in the Education Committee Report be amended from “someone” to “the school”.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the February 2016 Minutes with amendment as noted - **SECONDED – PASSED.**

President’s Report: President Martin reminded members that their Financial Disclosure filings should have been completed by May 2, 2016. A discussion took place on who needs to complete the disclosures and how to do so.

President Martin shared that there has been a powerful response to a letter that was written by the Alexander Graham Bell Association recently. The letter was written as a response to a Washington Post article about Nyle DiMarco. A discussion took place about whether or not the Board should compose a letter about the situation. It was agreed that there had already been a large response from the community, so the Board decided not to draft a letter.

President Martin welcomed Dottie Wilson, the new Executive Associate, and mentioned that the Board would discuss farewell plans for Jennifer Lake and Suzanne Schwertman later in the meeting.

President Martin shared that he represented the Board at the MSD Spelling Bee in March.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Galvan shared that the BB&T account has been kept open and that he was unable to get a bank card but plans to do so soon. It was suggested that some funds from the account be used to purchase a farewell gift for Jennifer Lake and Suzanne Schwertman.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Tucker introduced his new executive associate, Dottie Wilson. He recognized Anny Currin for her support during the transition between executive associates.

The school budget will be increased by 0.7% and all state employees will receive a step increase. We will receive 11 new PINs.

It was announced that funds were approved for the capital improvement project for new pipes. This project is now out for bid and construction is expected to last for one year. There are two upcoming summer projects. The mass notification system will be installed in July and there are plans to replace the current Hessian Barracks' roof with new oak shingles.

Superintendent Tucker shared several notable points from the most recent legislative session. Governor Hogan signed into law a Bill that grants bilingual students graduating from a Maryland public high school an opportunity to receive a seal of biliteracy on their diploma. American Sign Language was specifically recognized as one of the eligible languages. The Class of 2017 will be the first graduates that are eligible to receive the seal.

Recipients of the Rawlings Scholarship are now able to use the award's funds to attend any out-of-state school, including schools in Washington, D.C. This means that students who are awarded this scholarship will now be able to utilize it to attend Gallaudet University.

A program has been established for closed captioning on videos posted on the Maryland General Assembly website.

The EHD advisory council has adopted a motion that advises EHD providers to issue a letter to every parent of a child that is identified as deaf or hard of hearing. The letter states that their child is at risk for language deprivation if they are not exposed to visual language in addition to English.

The Deaf Grassroots Movement was a great experience for MSD students. Superintendent Tucker, as well as the MSD Student Government President and Vice President, gave presentations at the event.

Hill Day was a great event to help raise awareness of HR3535, a Bill that would require all 50 states develop a state-wide plan for students that are deaf or hard of hearing, blind, or deaf-blind.

Superintendent Tucker recently attended several conferences including the EHDI conference in San Diego and the CEASD conference in Kansas. Superintendent Tucker's term as CEASD President ended three weeks ago. The impact of social media was one of the main focuses of the CEASD conference.

MSD is now filling the vacancies of two administrative positions, the Columbia Campus Principal and the Frederick Campus High School Assistant Principal. The School Psychologist position for Frederick Campus has been filled.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Night at the Frederick Keys will be on May 11, 2016.

The Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association Track and Field Championship will be on May 14, 2016.

A discussion took place about recent protests at Florida School for the Deaf and Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.

Executive Committee Report: No report.

Education Committee Report: No report. The Student Life Committee will report on the Handbook later in the meeting.

FM/FM Committee Report: Report was provided in previous reports.

Personnel Committee Report: Position vacancies were reported earlier.

Student Life Committee Report: The Student Life and Education Committees met today to review the Student Handbook. Approval for revisions will be proposed later today.

Trusteeship Committee Report: Dr. Cooper shared that the Board is supposed to have 19 members. Currently there are 16 members and there will soon be eight vacancies to fill. Potential new members were discussed to fill the current vacancies.

Recognition by the Board: Mr. Andy Bonheyo introduced Ms. Bridget Bonheyo and Ms. Amy Mowl. Mr. Bonheyo explained that Ms. Bonheyo and Ms. Mowl were responsible for making the 16th Annual Clerc Classic Basketball Tournament such a success. They planned and organized the entire event, which was recognized as one of the most successful tournaments ever. Mr. Bonheyo thanked the Board for their continued support.

The Board broke for lunch.

Open Forum – No one signed up.

Amy Mowl asked to take a quick video of the Board signing “Thank You” for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Old Business:

Ms. Julie Bourne inquired about the Bill related to testing and assessments. Superintendent Tucker shared that he sent information to the commission but has not yet received a response.

Superintendent Tucker shared that he agreed to host the 2016 Pan American Tournament at MSD Frederick from July 1-6, 2016. This is an international tournament and a large number of people are expected to attend. Dr. Hernandez suggested reaching out to OAS to provide support.

A **MOTION** to close old business – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

New Business:

1. A **MOTION** was made to accept the 2016-2017 Student Handbook with modifications as discussed – **SECONDED – PASSED.**
2. A discussion took place about out-of-state tuition. A **MOTION** was made to maintain the rate structure – **SECONDED - PASSED.**
3. Superintendent Tucker explained that the Board is required to approve the staffing plan. A **MOTION** was made to adopt the staffing plan with edits as discussed – need to delete staff members that are no longer employed at MSD – **SECONDED – PASSED.**
4. Meeting dates were proposed for the next four Board meetings. A **MOTION** was made to accept the proposed meeting dates – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

Dr. Bahan mentioned that the Education Committee met during lunch to discuss the ASL Acquisition plan. Dr. Bahan requested that the Education Committee present at the next Board meeting.

A discussion took place about how to best recognize Jennifer Lake and Suzanne Schwertman. It was decided that the Board will use \$150 for each from the BB&T account to purchase a farewell gift.

Superintendent Tucker shared that information from the Facilities Master Plan will be consolidated and presented at one of the upcoming Board meetings.

A discussion took place about the upcoming hearing for Clarence Taylor.

A **MOTION** to close new business – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

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 good content and discussions. The weaknesses discussed were the lack of PowerPoint and handouts and the uncomfortable temperature of the room.