

**PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 11, 2025 – 2 PM VIA ZOOM**

**In Attendance:**

Mr. Jack Pumphrey, Committee Chair

Ms. Marion Mullauer, Board Chair

Mr. Craig Ballew

Dr. Lorraine Costella

Mr. Lou Smith

Dr. Joanne Waeltermann

Mr. Rob Hair, MSB Superintendent

Dr. Josh Irzyk, MSB Education Director

Ms. Maureen Bisesi, MSB Residential and Related Services Director

Ms. Diane Colburn, MSB Outreach and Statewide Services Director

Mr. Bill McCubbin, MSB Campus Operations Director

Ms. April Tucker, MSB Human Resources Director

Ms. Valerie Johnson, MSB Executive Assistant

**Absent:**

Dr. Nancy Grasmick

Rabbi Lauren Tuchman

**Call to Order:** Mr. Jack Pumphrey noted that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 2 pm.

**Approval of November 14, 2024 Minutes:** Mr. Pumphrey made a motion, seconded by Dr. Lorraine Costella, to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

**Post Graduation/Discharge Survey Work Group Update:** Mr. Pumphrey shared that the work group is finalizing survey questions. Mr. Lou Smith has organized volunteers—including Alumni Association members and Board members Ms. Robin Zimelman, Dr. Karen Rigamonti, and Dr. Joanne Waeltermann—for mock interviews. Two methods will be used: phone surveys and written surveys, with feedback helping to finalize the questions. The finalized survey will go to graduates and students who left MSB in the past three years.

A parent networking event is scheduled for March 27 during Parent Visitation Day, led by Ms. Sharon Peer and Ms. Kelly Gealy. It’s designed for parents of students in grades 8–12 to share experiences and resources.

**Statewide Student Services/Outreach Report:** Ms. Diane Colburn provided a detailed report on statewide outreach efforts. Here are the key points:

**Outreach and Enrollment:** Outreach activities are slightly below last year due to snow cancellations, but the team is entering a busy season with several spring events planned, including a family picnic.

**County Engagement:** MSB is active in 19 of Maryland’s 24 LEAs. Engagement is rising in rural areas like Wicomico and Washington counties, thanks to targeted short courses and training.

**Key Partnerships:** A new MOU with Howard County supports expanded core curriculum (ECC) programs—like cooking and independent living—with MSB staff providing grant-funded support.

**Outreach Activities:** Efforts include short courses, professional development, parent education, non-IEP consultations, classroom support, and equipment loans.

Notable events: the Abacus Bee and math carnival.

**Summer Programs:** Expanded offerings run June 29–July 27. Open to MSB students, even without ESY eligibility:

* **YMCA Camp Patapsco**: Overnight camp for ages 8–11 with 12 MSB scholarships.
* **Camp Abilities**: Two sessions with cricket, track, and field.
* **ROX Mini Conference**: Empowerment camp for girls 11–14 and their female mentors.
* **ELL Camp**: Pilot for English Learners with a focus on IEPs and independent living.
* **Freedom Schools**: Literacy camp with Elev8.
* **Regional Camps**: Day camps in Carroll, Frederick, and Alleghany counties.

**Continuous Improvement**: Parent and stakeholder feedback is shaping program design. Mr. Pumphrey asked Ms. Colburn to present satisfaction survey results, including pre- and post-test data for students and parents at the next meeting.

**Student Services Report:** Dr. Josh Irzyk and Ms. Maureen Bisesi reported the following:

**Student Demographics:** MSB currently has 208 students, including 48 residential. Most are male. There's a strong representation of Black/African American students and a growing number of Hispanic/Latino students.

**IEP Goal Achievement:** IEP goal attainment has improved by 67.19% since the pandemic baseline. This progress is tied to stronger professional development around goal writing and assessment.

**Secondary Transition Survey:** A survey sent to families of students aged 14–21 had a 47% response rate (43 total responses).

Key findings:

* 65% have begun transition planning.
* Parents want more information on recreation, housing, jobs, and funding (DDA, DORS, SSI).

**Next Steps**

* Staff will follow up with families to help with applications.
* A new Secondary Transition webpage is being developed.
* A guidance document is underway to support staff.
* A steering team is actively improving the program.

Mr. Pumphrey requested that the Committee be updated on the work of the Secondary Transition Steering Committee.

**Professional Development (PD):** Mid-year feedback showed strong satisfaction with strand trainings, with notable improvement from last year. PD is being tailored to better serve both new and experienced staff.

**HR Updates:** Ms. April Tucker reported on the following:

**Turnover:** Q2 FY25 turnover was 3.0%, down from 3.4% last year. Cumulative turnover from August–March was 5.5%, a major drop from 10.7% the prior year.

**Staffing:** All 53 teaching positions are filled. 104 of 106 paraeducator roles are filled, with just two open. There are 22 total vacancies, mostly in hard-to-fill areas like O&M, PTs, and nursing.

**Recruitment:** MSB is building partnerships with universities, such as Coppin State to grow the TVI (teachers of visually impaired) pipeline. Recruitment efforts emphasize work-life balance and benefits to attract candidates for tough-to-fill roles.

**Intern Program:** Nine interns joined this year—three with teachers, six with related services. Plans are in place to expand the intern program next year.

**Executive Order/DEI:** The DEI committee will not launch as planned. Instead, MSB will focus on ensuring equity and opportunity without a formal committee structure.

**Constructions Updates:** Mr. Bill McCubbin reported on the following:

**Athletics Facility:** The project is out to bid, with bids due Thursday. A draft GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) is expected March 20.

**Demolition:** Demolition of the Bledsoe Cottages and Sipple Pool is complete.

**Dashboard – Bledsoe Cottages:** Final closeout is anticipated by the end of the month.

$45,000 in recent change orders:

* $20,000 for furniture removal from Thompson, Randall, and Bledsoe.
* $20,000 for asbestos abatement during demolition.

**Superintendent’s Report:** Mr. Hair reported on the following:

**FY26 CIP & Financial Planning:** The state budget includes the full $62M (state 100% cost share) for the athletics facility. The FY26 allocation is $10M. A draft GMP is due March 20. MSB is working with Callowhill Capital Advisors on a financial plan, exploring tax-exempt bridge loans and use of the money market account.

**Legislative Update:** The session ends April 6. Mr. Hair has met with key budget legislators to advocate for MSB and highlight the risk of Blueprint funding cuts. He presented a model showing the gap those cuts would create.

**Bill Ratchford Outdoor Learning Center:** Over $55,000 has been raised. Furniture is installed, with more features underway. A dedication ceremony with Mrs. Nancy Ratchford and her daughters is planned for later this year.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Pumphrey acknowledged the wide range of updates covered—construction, outreach, summer programs, HR, and the Superintendent's report. He thanked the team for their hard work and noted the progress across departments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.