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**LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 @ 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM**

**In Attendance:**

Craig Ballew, Board Chair

Karen Malinowski, Committee Chair

Scott Wales

Robin Zimelman

John Stierhoff, Venable, LLC

Rob Hair, MSB Superintendent

Kibian Vazquez, MSB CFO

Valerie Johnson, MSB Executive Assistant

**Excused:** Dr. Joanne Waeltermann

**Absent:**

Delegate Stephanie Smith

Senator Guy Guzzone

**Call to Order:** Ms. Malinowski welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

**Approval of May 14, 2025 Minutes:** Ms. Malinowski asked if there were any edits to the minutes. On a motion by Ms. Zimelman, seconded by Ms. Malinowski, the minutes were approved.

**FY26 Legislation Priorities and Strategies:** Mr. Rob Hair and Mr. John Stierhoff reported on the following:

**Workforce Development:** Mr. Hair noted a critical shortage of TVIs statewide and nationally. The strategic plan will build partnerships with Towson, Coppin State, Morgan, and Kutztown to create a teacher pipeline, with certification and internships at MSB. Legislative advocacy will tie this strategy to funding requests and emphasize the need for sustained state support.

**Campus Master Plan and Construction Updates:** Mr. Hair reported that trenching and foundation work is underway for the Athletic Facilities project. The IAC approved a $12M target allocation for FY27–28, up from the $8M minimum in prior years. MSB will request more than $12M for FY27, with continued advocacy to maximize funding.

**Legislative Advocacy and Engagement Strategies**: Mr. Hair commented that advocacy efforts for the 2026 session will prioritize funding stability to avoid a possible gap between the annual funding increase and formula funding needed for the FY27 budget and relationship-building with legislators.

A discussion took place regarding widening advocacy participation to current students, parents of current students, parents of graduates, graduates, board members and alumni. There was an emphasis on inviting key legislators to campus to experience the school environment firsthand.

Ms. Robin Zimelman commented that in the past the school would have a “special day” in Annapolis during the legislative session where board members, parents, students and staff would meet with their respective legislators to speak on behalf of the school and ask for their support. She noted that parents and students would sometimes present testimony at legislative hearings as their stories can be impactful and compelling to legislators.

Mr. Craig Ballew suggested identifying graduates from 5 years to possibly 10 years ago with compelling stories and soliciting their participation in legislative advocacy efforts.

The Committee endorsed broader stakeholder involvement and discussed the logistics and benefits of reviving this practice including developing handouts and “giveaways” to leave with legislators. This would also present a diverse group of stakeholders to advocate for legislative support.

Mr. Hair reported that Senator Carl Jackson is scheduled to visit the school on September 17th.

**Governor Appointee Nominee:** Mr. Hair reported that Lou Smith’s passing created a Governor appointee vacancy. The Governor’s Office requested an interim nominee until Senate confirmation in 2026. Ms. Malinowski agreed to serve as interim. Mr. Hair also noted that Terri Nettles, Alumni Association President, is interested in nomination to the Board. He will share her information with Ms. Zimelman for the HR/Nomination Committee.

**Adjournment:** With no further business to discuss, Ms. Malinowski adjourned the meeting at 10:57 am.