



**MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2008**

**Frederick Campus**

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*Frederick Campus  
Established 1868*

*Columbia Campus  
Established 1973*



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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anjali Desai-Margolin; David Birnbaum; E. Bernard Palmer; Barbara Raimondo, Esq.; Carol Stevens; Laurie Yaffe; Benjamin Bahan, Ph.D.; David Severn, Esq.; Cynthia Neese-Bailes, Ph.D.; William Bowman; H. Mitchell Goldberg; Ernest Hairston, Ph.D.;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Connie Briscoe-Woodruff; Charles Poyer; Robin Kittleman; Sandra Harriman; John Ertel, Ph.D.

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Demetria Titus-Tobias, Esq.

**INTERPRETERS:** Brenda Kelly-Frey; Roberta Quinn.

President Raimondo called the meeting to order at 9:15am. Roll call was taken bypassing around the roll call sheet.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the agenda for the meeting – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made to approve the minutes from the November 2007 meeting – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made to approve the minutes from the February 2008 meeting– **SECONDED – PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Closed Session minutes from the February 2008 meeting– **SECONDED – PASSED.**

**President's Report:** President Raimondo reported that the Board will be breaking up into small groups later on in the day to discuss the recent Board of Trustees Open Forum, the Staffing Plan, and the recommendations for the 2008-2009 Parent/Student Handbook.

**Vice President Report:** No Report

**Secretary's Report:** No Report

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Bowman reported on the recent financial statements of the Board of Trustees investments

**Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Tucker shared that MSD has received healthy appropriations from the Maryland Department of Budget and Management.

Mr. Tucker discussed the CEASD annual conference he attended in Great Falls, Montana.

The Superintendent shared the updates to the MSD "master plan": new Frederick Elementary School/ Family Education Center is due to be completed 11/08, the new cafeteria and student center will replace a high school dorm in Fall 2009, old Elementary school will be torn down and then the dorm "cottages" will be built.

Mr. Tucker has asked the Board of Trustees for their assistance in coming up with a name for the new Elementary School/ Family Education Center. A discussion about the process to do this followed. Assistant Attorney General Demetria Tobias agreed to research the legal aspects. Fiscal Matters/Facilities Management (FM/FM) Committee Chair Mitch Goldberg agreed to work with the FM/FM Committee to establish a process for naming the building.

Mr. Tucker announced that the Grand Opening of the museum (formerly the Bjorlee Library) will be Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am till 5pm.

The Superintendent spoke of the upcoming graduation weekend. Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>, MSD is hosting a reception for commencement speaker Stephen Weiner. Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup>, MSD will be holding commencement ceremony for 38 seniors.

Mr. Tucker proudly announced that the team representing MSD placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the National Academic Bowl held at Gallaudet April 26-29, 2008.

MSD hosted a NASDSE training on the Columbia Campus on May 7-8, 2008. Maryland Department of Education and the Department of Special Education were represented.

Mr. Tucker announced that Ms. Erin Buck will be our new Coordinator of Outreach. Erin will be sitting in on all the IEP meetings for deaf children in Maryland Public schools and spreading the word about MSD.

Enrollment is steady. With the new elementary being completed we need to work on recruiting.

Mr. Tucker informed the Board of Trustees of changes to the Maryland State Standards on diplomas. Only the Maryland State Department of Education High School Diploma will be issued to qualifying students. Failure to follow this mandate would result in the loss of Federal funds.

The Superintendent introduced two new initiatives he would like to begin at MSD. The first would be a "school within a school" model for five emotionally disturbed deaf students. MSD has been in discussions with Carol Ann Baglin, of MSDE, on how the school can effectively handle emotionally disturbed students. The second is increased emphasis on spoken English for some children in Family Education. ASL and verbal instruction would be used for students.

Several discussions were held on the prospects of both programs.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the “Emotionally Disturbed Students” pilot program—**SECONDED – PASSED.**

Further discussion will be held before the spoken English initiative is approved. A meeting time of 6:00pm on Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup> was suggested so that further discussions of the recommended changes to handbook and this effort could be discussed.

**Presentations:**

1. Ms. Elsie Durland, a Human Resources Specialist, did a training and orientation on how to complete Mr. Tucker’s 360 degree evaluation.
2. Principal Melinda Padden and Elementary Assistant Principal Mary Lynn Lally reported on the new program for Special Needs children at the Frederick Campus. The program will include children in Pre-kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Resources and specialists from the Columbia Campus have been identified to train Frederick teachers and support success of the new program in Frederick. Ms. Padden and Ms. Lally reported that the Frederick campus is prepared to meet the needs of these students.

**Executive Committee Report:** No Report.

**Education Committee Report:** The Education committee will be meeting again at the Columbia Campus on the evening of June 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Parent/Student Handbook further.

**Fiscal Matters/Facilities Management Committee Report:** No Report.

**Personnel Committee Report:** The committee met to discuss the recent changes to the MSD Personnel Handbook. A **MOTION** was made to approve the recommended changes – **SECONDED – PASSED.**

**Student Life Committee:** No Report.

**Trusteeship Committee:** President Raimondo reminded the Board of Trustees members that Board members of all State Agencies are required to attend at least 50% of all Board meetings or they are considered to have resigned.

**Accreditation Committee:** No Report.

**Open Forum:**

1. Mary Sue Boxer, President of the Alumni Association, asked the Board of Trustees to recommend changing the time of the MSD Homecoming Game to the afternoon. Ms. Boxer stated that more senior alumni would be better able to attend an afternoon game. She also expressed her belief that it would be more profitable for school organizations if the game were played earlier in the day.

2. Erica Hill, an MSD Senior, asked the Board if they would consider keeping Driver's Education as an option for all MSD students. Ms. Hill presented several reasons why it is difficult for deaf students to take the driver's course at other educational institutions: expense and availability of good interpreters.

### **New Business**

A discussion was held about the Open Forum which was held Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, simultaneously on both campuses. The topics discussed at the Columbia Campus Open Forum focused around dorm space and when the new athletic field will be available. The topics discussed at the Frederick Campus Open Forum were: discipline concern for night shift dorm staff and the difficulty of discipline follow through for students, lack of a Driver's Education program, concerns of so much school time spent "teaching to the test".

The MSD Foundation has requested that the MSD Board of Trustees allow them to change some of their bylaws.

A MOTION was made to approve all of the proposed amendments to the MSD Foundation bylaws recommended by the Foundation except for the amendment to Section 2.13 "Conflicts of Interest", and with the addition of a "\$2,500.00 maximum" limitation for signatures by only one officer as proposed in the amendment for Section 5.01 "Corporation Funds". SECONDED – PASSED.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the 2008 Staffing Plan– SECONDED – PASSED.

New Dates were decided for the next four Board of Trustees meetings:

- Friday September 5, 2008 at the Columbia Campus
- Friday November 21, 2008 at the Frederick Campus
- Friday February 20, 2009 at the Columbia Campus
- Friday May 8, 2009 at the Frederick Campus.

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting– SECONDED – PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Anjali Desai-Margolin  
Secretary