

ASBO Matters

ASBO-MD&DC



Volume XXXIV, No. 1

Imagine the Possibilities: Professional Growth

Fall 2001

The Maryland Connection ASBO International comes to Baltimore

As is common knowledge, ASBO International® is holding its Annual Conference and Exhibits at the Baltimore Convention Center October 12-16, 2001. The Renaissance Harborplace, just three blocks east on Pratt Street, is the headquarters hotel.



Baltimore.

The Annual Conference pin (left) was created especially for this event by Steve Grey, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, as was the design for the 5K Run t-shirt. The gold pins will have red, white, and blue accents and the logo represents the stars

in the United States flag and the outline of Ft. McHenry.

Mark Smolarz, recently named Chief Operating Officer for Baltimore City Public Schools, will bring a welcoming greeting

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Two receive Certificates of Excellence

ASBO International®

recently announced those districts who received Certificates of Excellence in Financial Reporting from June 15 to August 15, 2001. Carroll County Public Schools and Montgomery County Public Schools were winners from Maryland for Fiscal Year 2000.

The Certificate of Excellence Program encourages and recognizes excellence in school system comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs). The primary objective of the program is to promote quality school system financial reporting through the use of a CAFR.

The guidelines of the program, contained in the Self-Evaluation Worksheet,

continued on page 3

Annual ASBO scholarship winners

The purpose of the Association of School Business Officials of Maryland and the District of Columbia is to promote the highest quality, exemplary school business practices that contribute to measurable improvement in school performance. With this in mind, ASBO-MD&DC awards scholarships to citizens of the State or District to secure a college education. Scholarships are awarded to deserving undergraduate students pursuing a career in business or education at an accredited institution of higher education in Maryland or the District of Columbia.

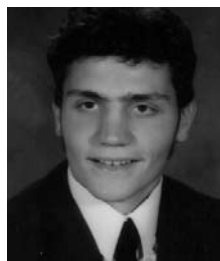
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Atkins



Andrews



Ray



Walker

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From the President...

Kathy P. Jackson

The new school year has started with an enormous tragedy that has befallen our region and our nation. The terrorist attacks on America that occurred on September 11, 2001, will forever have an impact upon each of us. Let me take this opportunity to extend sincere condolences to every member of ASBO-MD&DC who was directly and indirectly affected.

At this hour, it is important for us to turn to each other to seek and to offer support. We must provide encouragement and understanding to one another as we grieve our losses and work through the healing process. We must also continue to be productive within our organizations. We can do this by staying connected to our families, our co-workers, and our spiritual lives.

Now is a special time to connect with family members. Our parents, spouses, and children are undoubtedly feeling insecure, anxious, and full of emotions with which they may be unfamiliar. Let us take time to talk and to listen to them. Our families are the source of our strength. As school business officials, we will need that strength in order to endure during these difficult times.

Our colleagues at work may also require our special attention. Our focus needs to be directed to productive activities enabling us to make a difference in the lives of others. Giving blood and offering monetary donations are examples of emergency relief efforts that enable us to feel less powerless. It is through these acts of giving that we provide a connection between our greater community and ourselves.



Connecting to our spiritual center is of the utmost importance. When our shock and grief subside, we may be tempted to let anger and hatred propel us to negative behaviors. It will be through quiet reflections that we will find peace. Let us all pray for peace—inner peace, peace for our family and friends, and peace for our nation.

Together we will overcome this tragedy. In the meantime we will continue to provide quality services for our students and staffs.

May God continue to bless and keep you and yours.

Visit ASBO-MD&DC on the Web

<http://asbo.org>

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...Certificates

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provide a resource for school business officials and auditors to use when preparing a CAFR. The worksheet, based upon Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and standards set by the Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB), is a comprehensive checklist developed by experienced accounting professionals with a background in governmental accounting and auditing.

A review panel performs a technical review, prepares comprehensive comments, and determines whether a school system's CAFR meets the criteria to receive the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award. Reviewers are professionals experienced in governmental accounting and auditing in the fields of consulting, certified public accounting, higher education, and school system financial management.

...Scholarships

...continued from page 1

The following four students were awarded scholarships for the 2001-2002 school year:

Jennifer Andrews graduated from Clear Spring High School in 2000 and is currently a sophomore at Villa Julie College majoring in Information Systems. Jennifer was secretary of her high school senior class, tri-captain of the varsity soccer team and is currently involved in the Association of Information Technology Professionals and the Villa Julie Student Government Association.

Erin Atkins graduated from Salisbury Christian School in 2001 and is a freshman at Salisbury State University majoring in Elementary Education. Erin received the Distinguished Christian High School Student Award and was a member of an award-winning drama group. She is looking forward to becoming a "teacher that can make a difference."

Jeremy Ray graduated from Fort Hill High School in 2001 and is a freshman at University of Maryland, College Park, majoring in Business. Jeremy was ranked first in his class and participated in many clubs and teams including the varsity soccer team, school newspaper and Chem-A-Thon Team. He also received several merit awards in English, chemistry, math and foreign language.

Amy Walker is a senior at Salisbury State University majoring in business. Amy has worked at AAA throughout her college years to pay the cost of her schooling that was not supported by scholarships and awards. In high school, Amy earned over 500 hours of community service.

Congratulations to these four accomplished young people. We wish them the best in college and in life.

— Michille Hyde, Carroll County
Scholarship Committee Chair

I am another ASBO-MD&DC VOLUNTEER!

I am interested in becoming more active in the areas checked below:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards & Recognition | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> Constitution & Bylaws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibits | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Oversight | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations | <input type="checkbox"/> Policies & Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Certification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships | <input type="checkbox"/> Section Leader/Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Seminars & Workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Name: _____ School System/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO:

John T. Case, ASBO-MD&DC
PO Box 451, Jarrettsville MD 21084-0451

Highlights of the State Board of Education Meeting

At its August 28-29, 2001, meeting, the Maryland State Board of Education:

THORNTON COMMISSION UPDATE

Heard Dr. John Augenblick, consultant to the Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence (Thornton Commission), review his experiences in other states and his work in Maryland since June 2000. He reviewed the methodology and results of the adequacy studies he, and others, have conducted to determine enhanced per pupil funding amounts sufficient to achieve state performance standards.

He described in detail the two approaches selected by the Commission to determine an adequate level of funding for public schools: 1) the professional judgment approach, and 2) the successful schools approach. Under the successful schools approach, 59 schools in 10 counties qualify under a school performance index developed by MSDE for a cost accounting of the funds being provided to each school and a determination of what level of per pupil funding would be necessary for all schools to reach successful levels. This study recommended a per pupil funding level of \$5,969 and did not consider additional funding for students with special needs.

Under the professional judgment approach, panels of experts met to determine what resources (personnel, services, technology, supplies, etc.) would be needed to allow students to meet state expectations. Those expectations include satisfactory MSPAP and functional tests scores, and satisfactory attendance and dropout rates. The needed resources were then costed out, and other system costs were added in, to establish a level of funding for prototype schools and systems. The professional judgment approach concluded that the current per pupil foundation of \$4,124 should be raised to \$6,612. Dr. Augenblick described the weights which are then applied to this enhanced foundation to increase per pupil funding for special education (2.17), Limited English Proficiency (LEP)(2), and students receiving Free and Reduced Price Meals (FRPM)(2.39). Dr. Augenblick described his confidence in the 2.17 weight for special education and his concern that the 2.39 weight for at-risk students is dramatically higher than what has been recommend-

ed in other states, particularly when applied to the recommended increased foundation amount. The Board discussed with Dr. Augenblick what other states' responses have been to similar adequacy funding recommendations and the need to identify potential funding sources.

Received an update from Tina Bjarekull, MSDE Assistant State Superintendent, on the August 23 Thornton Commission meeting and analysis of funding scenarios under consideration. Ms. Bjarekull described the Commission's review and selection of a general approach to funding reform based on scenarios presented at the August 23 briefing. The Commission selected a base cost approach retaining separate categorical programs. Ms. Bjarekull reviewed the Commission's direction that staff analyze potential cost of living adjustment methodologies to supplement the recommended per pupil enhancements. She outlined the "overlap issue" involving the students eligible for increased weighted funding for special education, LEP, and FRPM, recognizing that 79% of FRPM students are not a subset of any other at-risk population. Therefore, MSDE recommended, and the Commission adopted, a formula to eliminate more than 99% of the overlap by reducing the FRPM weight from 1.39 to 1.10. Ms. Bjarekull noted that the scenarios assume increasing the kindergarten student full-time equivalency from .5 to 1.0. She addressed the Commission's interest in pursuing a guaranteed tax base component to determine and provide additional funding based on local tax effort directed to education. She reviewed the role of local and state funding under the Commission's funding scenarios. State and local funding has been adjusted to provide a 50/50 split for the first \$4,124 per pupil (the current foundation level) and a 45/55 state/local split applied to the balance of funding. Ms. Bjarekull noted that under all proposals the state would pay more than its current 43% share. She indicated that at its next meeting the Commission will continue to review funding scenarios to include in its 2002 legislative proposal.

STATE BUDGET FORECAST

Heard Warren Deschenaux, Director of the General Assembly's Office of Policy Analysis, provide an overview of the State's current and projected fiscal situation. Mr. Deschenaux presented estimated FY 2002 revenues of \$9.909 billion, operating expenses of \$9.935 billion, and a cash balance of \$1.272 billion. He described the "upside", that revenues will exceed estimates for FY 2001, and "downsides", that the slower economy will mean slower revenue growth, no surprise capital gains revenue, and higher retirement contribution costs. He also noted budget deficiencies in FY 2002 arising in health and public safety agencies. He presented a "pro forma" general fund analysis of FY 2002 and 2003, indicating a balance remaining in 2002 of \$627 million and in 2003 of \$1 million. He noted that these fig-

ures do not include the Thornton Commission's recommended increases.

VISIONARY PANEL

Received an update from Dr. Grasmick on the progress of the Visionary Panel for Better Schools, which is charged with generating a set of creative ideas for accelerating MSDE's progress in implementing school reform. Since June, 275 individuals have participated in task groups on accountability, achievement gaps, assessment, teacher quality and other areas. The Board discussed the need to integrate the Panel's recommended reforms and the enhanced funding recommended by the Thornton Commission.

BLOOD LEAD TESTING

Heard a presentation from Ms. Bonnie Birkel, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Director of the Center for Maternal-Child Health, on the proposed blood lead testing regulations being promulgated by DHMH in cooperation with the State Board. The regulations are promulgated under recently passed legislation (HB 1221, 2000) requiring that children residing in at-risk areas provide documentation of testing upon entry to public prekindergarten, kindergarten, or the first grade.

FEDERAL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Received an update from Sharon Nathanson, MSDE federal liaison, on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and proposed federal funding levels for special education. Ms. Nathanson responded to Board questions raised in July about full funding, and bill provisions concerning local fund supplantation and discipline. She described the "supplement not supplant" issue raised in the House version and the Senate's allowance for flexibility.

K-6 PROGRAM STATUS

Heard High School and Post Secondary Initiatives Director James Foran provide an update on the Maryland Partnership for Teaching and Learning, K-16. Mr. Foran focused on significant accomplishments including: the development of Standards for Professional Development Schools; common placement tests for Maryland's community colleges; and the University of Maryland's inclusion of Maryland high school assessment results as an admission criterion.

NEW TEACHER INITIATIVE

Heard Dr. Grasmick describe the recently announced Maryland Initiative for New Teachers. Dr. Grasmick recognized the leadership provided by the 2001 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Linda Storey, in developing this initiative to provide newsletters and other networking and support tools for new teachers.

TEACHER STAFFING REPORT

Received the Maryland Teacher Staffing Report, 2001-2003, from Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Lawrence Leak. The Report analyzes and reports on subject matter areas in which there are critical shortages of certified teachers and the geographic areas in which these shortages occur.

DISABILITIES BYLAWS

Adopted **COMAR 13A.11.01, .02, and .07 (AMEND) – Programs for Adults with Disabilities**, which implements the federal Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The purpose of the regulations is to improve effectiveness of services to disabled persons seeking to achieve or maintain employment by updating and simplifying the financial support system.

Adopted **COMAR 13A.11.06 and .08 (AMEND) – Programs for Adults with Disabilities**, which changes the name of the Maryland Rehabilitation Center to the Workforce and Technology Center.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION BYLAWS

Adopted **COMAR 13A.06.07.01-.17 (REPEAL AND NEW) – Student Transportation**, which republishes all regulations regarding student transportation to reflect major substantive changes, the last of which were made in 1993, and stylistic changes.

STUDENT RECORDS BYLAWS

Adopted **COMAR 13A.08.01.01D General Regulations – Attendance – Daily Attendance Record, and COMAR 13A.08.02.01 (AMEND) Student Records Incorporation by Reference**, which incorporate by reference the revised Maryland Student Records System Manual with revisions regarding student record cards, summary of attendance, September 30 enrollment, discipline information, and records retention.

DEPARTMENTAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2002

Received a briefing from MSDE Governmental Relations Director Renee Spence on proposed legislation MSDE is submitting to the Governor's office as Departmental legislation for the 2002 General Assembly session. Proposed bills would 1) establish the Maryland Principal's Academy and Principal Mentoring program; 2) establish the Maryland Virtual School providing online courses for K-12 students and staff; 3) allow certain disabled students upon becoming 18 years of age to represent himself or herself in special education proceedings; 4) amend special education pre-conference hearing disclosure and timeline requirements; 5) remove the current sunset provision for the Maryland Meals for Achievement in the Classroom breakfast Program; and 6) change the date by which a local

continued on page 6

...State Board

...continued from page 5

board must decide to reappoint the superintendent from March 1 of that school year to September 1 of the school year in which the term ends. The Board and Dr. Grasmick discussed concerns raised regarding the impact of changing the superintendent reappointment date and agreed to discuss the issue with interested parties before pursuing it further.

FY 2003 BUDGET REQUESTS

Received a briefing on MSDE's Fiscal Year 2003 budget estimate and unfunded project requests. MSDE is requesting \$195 million for headquarters, \$3.725 billion for aid to education, \$22 million for funding educational organizations; and \$79.9 million for the subcabinet fund. In addition the Department is seeking unfunded budget items including: adequate funding for public education based on Thornton Commission recommendations; MSDE leadership and oversight initiatives; and \$33 million for 15 separate programs such as schools under local reconstitution, the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program, and the Education Accountability Program. Dr. Grasmick requested that the State Board support a request for the additional state aid recommended by the Thornton Commission but that if the Commission does not recommend a revised funding formula for FY 2003 the Board should, in the alternative, seek an additional \$117.8 million to fund MSDE critical initiatives aligned to Every Child Achieving goals. The Board discussed and approved the FY 2003 budget estimate and unfunded budget request.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Heard public comment from Mr. Robert Hoffman and Mr. Terry Pearle, with Maryland Works, advocating for increased funding for the DORS rehabilitation services program; and from several individuals advocating for and

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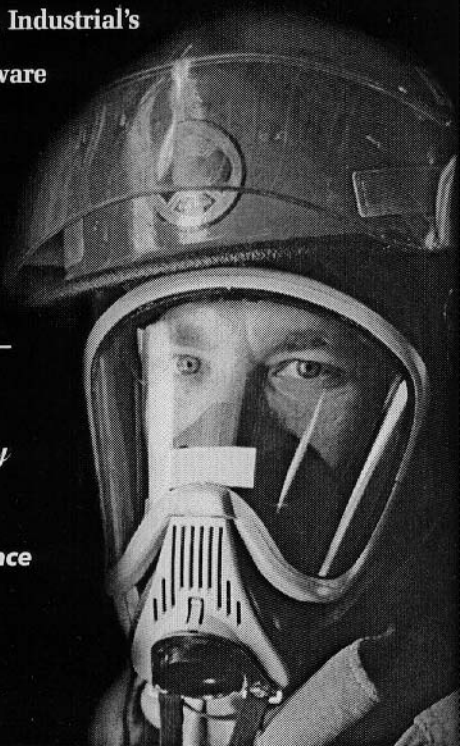
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against the addition of sexual orientation as a recognized category of discrimination in public schools.

BRIEFING DEFERRED

Deferred the briefing on the Prince George's County School Board until the September meeting.

— Courtesy of Maryland Association of Boards of Education

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Your ASBO-MD&DC needs help at all levels. Contact Executive Director John Case, a member of the Board of Directors, a committee chair, or a liaison representative to learn what you can do to enhance yourself and your Association.

...Academy

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Accommodation arrangements are the responsibility of the individual participant. Those desiring to stay at MITAGS must make their reservation by not later than Friday, October 19, 2001.

(Phone 410-859-5700 and indicate you are a participant in the ASBO-MD&DC Academy and the date(s) for which you require accommodations. It is important that you make reservations now for all three sessions or it is likely that space will be committed to other conferences.)

...International

...continued from page 1

on behalf of Baltimore and Maryland.

In addition, four musical groups from Maryland will be entertaining participants during the Annual Meeting. They are the Centennial High School Jazz Band from Howard County, under the direction of Max VenDerBeek; the Chesapeake Senior High Vocal Ensemble from Anne Arundel County, under the direction of Karen Simmons; the Arundel Senior High Jazz Band from Anne Arundel County, under the direction of Phil Butts; and the Blair High School String Quartet from Montgomery County, under the direction of David Levin.

ASBO-MD&DC Spring Conference Seafood Buffet regulars will recognize the name Bobby Nyk. Bobby will be providing the entertainment at ASBO International's® Opening Mixer. Anyone who misses that will be kicking themselves in the morning.

Along with other obvious Maryland and Baltimore connections, ASBO International's® staff promises food that represents our unique part of America and decor that reminds attendees that, indeed, they are in ASBO-MD&DC country.

ASBO Leadership Academy NOMINATION/APPLICATION

NAME: _____ POSITION: _____

SCHOOL SYSTEM: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____ FAX: (_____) _____

E-MAIL: _____

REMINDER: PAYMENT OR COPY OF PAYMENT REQUEST MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM.

Overnight accommodations required? Yes ___ No ___ If Yes: I have made arrangements for accommodations ___

Please return this form not later than Monday, October 15, 2001 to:

Center for Leadership in Education
College of Education
Towson University
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001

Deadline October 15

Academy applications due

Although the first session of the new ASBO-MD&DC Leadership Academy is not until the end of November, those interested in participating need to act quickly, says Dr. Michael Hickey, organizer and leader of the Academy. He reminds all that have not applied that the deadline is October 15, 2001.

The ASBO-MD&DC Leadership Academy is designed to provide an intensive, year-long experience in leadership for a cohort of up to 50 participants. The program is a challenging one steeped in leadership development, team building, and job-embedded learning experiences that are both relevant and strategic in nature.

The Academy will be conducted by the Center for Leadership in Education (CLE), Towson University. Participants will be limited to 50 individuals. Superintendents have been asked to nominate individuals for participation; however individuals may also self-nominate. The deadline for receipt of nominations/applications is October 15, 2001. Nominations/applications must be accompanied by payment or by a copy of the payment request.

DATES:

November 28-29;
January 30-31;
April 3-4;
May 22 (following close of ASBO-MD&DC Spring Conference)

PLACE:

Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS), adjacent to BWI airport—a first class conference and retreat facility

TIME:

8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. first day of two-day sessions;
8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. second day
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. for final session on May 22

COST:

\$500 includes Academy fee, lunch and breaks, materials, web-based support, and continuation activities after completion of the program (alumni network)

The Academy is not a residential

program and participants are free from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. the following day during the two-day sessions. For those requiring accommodations MITAGS offers comfortable rooms, which include a full breakfast and dinner, for a cost of \$114 per night. A number of other hotel options are available in the BWI area, only a few minutes away from the academy facility.

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ASBO-MD&DC

C FALL CONFERENCE

December 14, 2001

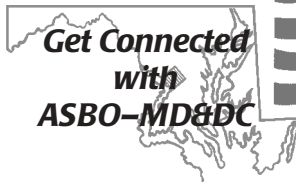
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