

November 9, 2017

Maryland State Board of Education
State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon

Dear Honorable Members and Dr. Salmon:

In recent weeks, including last night, there has been nationwide publicity about Baltimore County Public Schools. This publicity includes articles published in multiple legitimate media sources: print, digital newspapers, blogs, and TV, including The New York Times and The Baltimore Sun. There are many major concerns that are raised by these extensive reports.

As members of the Board of Education of Baltimore County; Mr. Roger Hayden, Mrs. Julie Henn, Mrs. Ann Miller and I have asked our Chair of the Board, Mr. Ed Gilliss, for an emergency Administrative meeting to discuss and address these many complicated and system-wide issues. We have requested Administrative because major aspect is personnel related and regards internal Board operations. We are striving for robust response to fulfill our sworn fiduciary duty to provide effective education for all students by making informed decisions around personnel, programs of instruction and expenditures of funds.

Mr. Roger Hayden, Mrs. Julie Henn, Ann Miller and I request the State Board's assistance in these matters.

What is protocol for State Board to supply assistance regarding the following issues?

1. Providing MSDE staff to attend Emergency Administrative Board meetings as advisors - legal, Board operations, ethics, responsibility and authority of our Board in gathering facts and addressing concerns.
2. Providing staff to attend other meetings?
3. Provide advice, evaluation and technical guidance on strength of ethics policies and procedures; and related procurement and Vendor relations and interactions policies and procedures?
4. Provide advice, evaluation and technical guidance of our Board's oversight of superintendent and system adherence to Ethics Policies and procedures?
5. Provide advice, evaluation and technical guidance of proper oversight of Board as to how we confirm or correct info in The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun and other sources, so that we can have Board discussions with the most complete set of facts around the many issues raised by media, as well as stakeholders that provided public comment at our meeting Tuesday evening?
6. Provide advice, evaluation and technical guidance around system procurement process for past and future contracts in best interest of education program for students
7. Provide advice around nationwide negative media attention?

We appreciate any and all assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathleen Causey, 443-506-3584
Mr. Roger Hayden
Mrs. Julie Henn
Mrs. Ann Miller