

Governor Martin O'Malley's
Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature

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- I. Welcome and Introductions (Dr. Grasmick)
- II. National Update
 - a. Gov. O'Malley letter to Sec. Duncan
 - i. 11 states have signed on to the letter (CA is on the edge).
 - ii. Sec. Duncan was supportive of this effort
 - iii. NCLB will move early next year
 - iv. LEAs will be encouraged to apply for innovation funds. RFP will be released in the fall, funds released later in the session.
 - b. NCLI legislative update (Don Baugh)
 - i. Broad NCLI membership
 - ii. States are encouraged to have EL plans in place and integrated into schools systems with a systemic impact on kids.
 - iii. Many states are being led by State Education agencies, others are following a MD model (Partnership), legislative efforts in CO and OR, Dept. of Environment is the lead in some states. Some states focusing on CTE, after school programs, graduation requirements, content standards, professional development, programs for kids to get outside. Also looking to support these efforts with existing funding.
 - iv. Q: Cathie Shanks: are other states looking at the non-formal side?
 - 1. Gary Heath: effort stronger in the west
 - 2. Tom Ross: Park and Rec. Associations are very interested in this effort. Local efforts can dovetail with school efforts.
 - v. Meeting with Sarbanes/Duncan: Sec was supportive of NCLI and recognized the value.
 - vi. Illinois had conference on sustainability – large effort being led especially in Chicago.
 - vii. Reauthorization of ESEA – attention to what is happening in MD. This benefits students but is not restricted to only schools. It must have a whole community component.
 - c. NWF Campaign

- i. NWF is working to include education as part of the climate bill.
- ii. 1% for education for a green economy fund
 - 1. prek-12, career and tech, higher ed, PD, Public ed
 - 2. about \$1 billion
 - 3. House has a bill, but falls short of the 1% goal. Senate will look at climate bill in Sept. Deadline for mark-up Sept. 28th.
- iii. Professional Development has to be done to accomplish this in a high quality way.
- iv. We can support the MDE climate change education efforts as required by the Governor's Climate Change Commission. As per the Commission requirements, climate change-related concepts and indicators are embedded within the State Curriculum as appropriate in Grades 3-12. A unit on Climate Change in Maryland was produced, published and distributed to schools in 2007 and is available on-line. Lesson plans specific to Maryland's situation were developed and posted on the DNR website, focusing on sea level rise, coastal hazards and risk. MSDE produced a toolkit of climate change in-class resources teachers on the MSDE Environmental Education website. MDE needs funding for outreach to the general public to implement a train the trainers model for communities, going door to door to help people power down.

III. Maryland Update

a. MD NCLI Coalition

- i. Diverse demographic part of the MDNCLI coalition
- ii. Willing to encourage the Governor's continued participation
- iii. Willing to host discussions surrounding the graduation requirement
- iv. Much support and excitement and would like to help support this effort
- v. Dr. Grasmick: would like more information on State Stat
 - 1. GDU – format is based on specific action items and goals. Reporting in a manner that is reflective of our progress and accomplishments.
 - 2. MWEE numbers are derived from EE coordinators filling out a form. Student service learning is a reliable number – documented for graduation. That is the number reported. Not counting state-aided institutions, curriculum, field trips, etc.
 - 3. Tom Ross – focus is on numbers and not necessary on changed behaviors.
 - a. Becky Bell: Awareness → Action; repeated exposure can lead to behavior change.
 - b. On-line portfolio for students

4. Don Baugh: How do we take the great ideas in this partnership and give them the support they need? How do we account for these actions to move forward?
 5. Steve Barry: hard to report on those numbers, that is why graduation requirement is easier to track.
 6. Tracy Bowen: need help from MSDE in guidance on the process for meeting curriculum requirements.
 7. Dr. Grasmick: common core standards are grade by grade. Testing every kid every year is a huge undertaking and costly.
 8. Dr. Cousin: Healthy Howard program trying to measure the effectiveness of kids getting outdoors more. i.e. recess before lunch effect on behavior in the classroom and student health. Costly to collect/analyze the data. Recording and collecting the data can be taxing on staff even though the outcome of the data is useful and has a direct impact on the classroom.
 9. Griffin: numbers vs measuring impact
 10. Tom Ross: are there other effective ways of measuring, other than what is required by Bay Stat?
 11. Rebecca Beecroft: might not be able to get good quantitative data, may always be qualitative.
- b. Governor's response to EL Plan
- i. Griffin read a statement from the Governor to the Partnership, thanking them for their work and dedication and endorsing the report and recommendations.
 - ii. Press office is working on a public event for the fall.
- c. EE Coordinator meeting
- i. July 23, 2009 EE Coordinator's Meeting to review plan submitted to Governor. In general, EE coordinators were supportive. Responses ranged from "it's about time" to "we can't do this".
 - ii. Where in the curriculum are the EE concepts already being addressed?
 1. looked at draft EL standards
 2. science and social studies departments did a crosswalk
 - a. other pieces include health and physical education
 - iii. "Course of Study"
 1. sounds similar to the Career Technology Education path
 - iv. Meeting again next month
 - v. Number one concern was that they need staff – serving as many kids as they can right now
 - vi. PD – model programs are posted on the website

- vii. Dr. Cousin: can't look at discreet subject areas. You may meet the requirement but not the goal. If you integrate this effectively, you won't need to measure it. It is an integration of everything the student does.
 - d. Graduation requirement (Dr. Grasmick)
 - i. MSDE cannot make a commitment that this would be a separate course or separate track.
 - ii. Needs to go to Superintendents. New curriculum needs to be vetted nationally. EL standards review is ~\$100,000. Administrators need to approve, teachers need to have a voice. There would need to be a hearing through the state board of education.
 - iii. Supportive of pursuing this idea but not with the requirement of new curriculum or courses.
 - iv. We have the courses. System would have to verify that courses are being taught.
 - v. PreK-12 approach that is integrated into the current curriculum would be ideal.
 - vi. Rebecca Beecroft – integrating it into the curriculum is the most powerful way to ensure that it's being taught.
 - vii. “course of study” – throughout the students' career. Focus on the child and the child's experience. Make it a process.
 - viii. Gary Heath offered NAAEE to review the EL standards.
 - ix. Need to communicate more with Superintendents.
 - x. The group agreed that we need to start this process.
 - xi. Each LEA is implementing STEM, K-12.
- IV. Work Plan (Catherine Shanks)
 - a. Outlines the plan recommendations under the 3 big headings (connecting to communities, etc.)
 - b. Partners to send information to Cathie Shanks to fill in the work plan – within the next two weeks.
 - c. Tracy Bowen – there are some things from the plan that weren't included in the work plan. So, make that clear that there are long-term goals. Need an acknowledgement that this is a short-term work plan and there are other goals as well.
 - d. Griffin: create a long-term work plan as well.
- V. Program Open Space
 - a. Supports CinN by purchasing land.
 - b. Met with counties and local partners and NGOs to find out their needs. Focus on connecting families and reaching out to underserved communities. Converting vacant lots, trails that connect communities to parks, regional ed centers, including natural areas, children gardens.
 - c. Local side POS - Looking for projects that support CinN – pocket parks and trails. Proposals are due Monday.
 - d. Regional nature centers, trails, and natural areas already under way.
 - e. Joint meeting with MML and MACo

VI. Speakers Bureau – next meeting

Next meeting dates:

November 10th – Chesapeake Bay Foundation – 2-4 p.m.

February 18th – Baltimore – 9:30-11:30 a.m.

May 12th – Prince George’s County – 9:30-11:30 a.m.

September 16th – Location TBD – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.