

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

**John R. Griffin, Chair**  
**Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

**Nancy S. Grasmick, Chair**  
**State Superintendent of Schools,**  
**Maryland State Department of Education**

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January 26, 2009  
Calvary United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall 10:00 – 12:00 a.m.

- I. Welcome
  - Congratulations to MSDE for being rated #1 school system in the country
  
- II. Public Input session
  - Jamie summarized – who provided comments
  - Elena summarized the comments (See Summary of Public Comments documents)
  - Mark Herzog: Some comments were based on a smaller viewpoint and not the complete package. Environmental Literacy workgroup looked at recommendations.
  - Tracey: CPL is doing a slight re-draft of recommendations based on public comments. S & H will be strengthened
  - Jackie: looking at making sure recommendations are institutionalized within MSDE system.
  - Tracy – wants to make sure the strategic plan doesn't get lost
  
- III. Update on NCLI Initiatives – Gary Heath
  - Iowa, Nebraska getting ready to write plans
  - Sarbanes/Reed are reintroducing the NCLI bill
  - Asks states to look at their content standards, and how its being addressed within the VSC and PD Standards.
  - How is EL defined within the state content standards
  - Kevin Maxwell – not necessarily spelled out, but it is in the VSC. Look at re-doing VSC in 2010.
    - EL group is comfortable with how the VSC is currently, and not having to revise it to meet the EL standards.
  - Gary – by using the VSC, you'll make it easier for teachers to implement it if you add more clarity within the VSC.

- Kevin – staff can make the adjustments on an individual basis
- Gary – the NCLI will ask to explicitly see within the VSC where EL standards exist.
- Steve – VSC can be used K-12, AA County is utilizing it and it can be strengthened. How is the curriculum extended to an outdoor experience?
- Becky – EE is embedded within the VSC. Using the environment as an integrated context. Curriculum is in place, according to supervisors. Service learning is a big component that can count. VSC integrates science, social studies, national ocean climate standards.
  - i. Incorporate additional standards as they are to be revised and include an outdoor experience.

#### IV. Workgroup report and update on recommendations

- o Tracey – discussed the draft Bill Of Rights (BOR)
- o Jeff – add a recommendation on communication and use the BOR as part of that recommendation
- o Elena will send to Partnership
- o Jackie – in CA, each right is linked to strategies on how to meet that experience. The BOR and plan go hand-in-hand
- o Recommendations – Sarah Bodor
- o Sarah reviewed the ten recommendations
  - #1 meaningful watershed and outdoor experience
  - #2 High School Grad Requirement
  - #3 Integrate school construction and operation
    - there has been some conversation around making the SYH component stronger
    - Jamie: stimulus package includes Green Schools, focused on energy conservation
    - Tracy – don't want to lose SYH component because there is funding attached.
    - Cathie – need to strengthen PD for non-formal educators.
      - >MAEOE's EE certification program
    - > Ranger Training includes NAI Training
      - Peyton – going beyond curriculum to reach families.
  - #5 Trail System
    - using existing trails
    - John Smith water trail
    - John Griffin: include the connection between developing trails that connect schools to parks. Include Department of Transportation
  - #6 Nature play spaces
    - Heather White – was there any discussion on recess?
    - Dr. Grasmick – there is a task force on obesity and recess
      - we can use those recommendations
- Open Space Planning (See Griffin)
- giving grants to schools to buy some extra land

# 7 CJC

# 8 Underserved Communities

- Used Texas Model

#9 Ranger and Naturalist Staff

- o No Mention of training for teachers
- o Partnering teachers with parks personnel
- o Volunteer Master Naturalists
- o Can 4 & 9 be merged?

#10 CINSTAT

Add:

Communication and Public Outreach

Finance Plan

- ID existing funding sources and potential new resources

VI. Funding and Implementation

- Allen Hance indicated how the Chesapeake Bay Trust could help with funding
- John Griffin
  - get concrete examples of how we are reallocating funds
- Jeff – weave funding strategies into the Recommendations
- Prioritize recommendations
- Gabriel – Outline how we will leverage existing resources

VII. Jackie – Include priorities in the Executive Summary – but need to have sounding board

Dr. Grasmick – highlight recommendations that don't require new money. Recommendation #12 can highlight short-term and long-term challenges. Placing funding needs next to the recommendations might eliminate the concept.

Kevin – Cin N is not in the budget this year. So let's look at re-allocating existing funds as a short-term goal.

Dr. Grasmick – look at how this will be formatted to present something so it won't be DOA.

Please Sign In  
Children In Nature Meeting - Attendance List  
January 26, 2009

Ansu John  
Mark Herzog  
Peyton Taylor  
Heather White  
Bob Dulli  
Sarah Haines  
Sarah Bodor  
Sydney Cousin  
Jeff Horan  
Gary Smith  
Gabriel Alborioz  
Rebecca S. Beecroft  
Patricia R. Delany  
Heather White  
Allen Hance, CBT  
Julie Dieguez ( Rep. Will Baker)  
Jackie Callen  
Rebecca Bell, MSDE  
Nancy Grasmick, MSDE  
Jolen Hi, DNR  
Mark Herzog, HCPS  
Kevin Maxwell, AACPS  
Tracy Boulen, Alice Fergerson Foundation  
Elena Takaki, DNR  
Jamie Baxter, CBF  
Nita Settina, DNR  
Claudia Donegan, DNR  
Cathie Shanks, DNR  
Darlene Pisani, DNR  
Steve Barry, Arlington Echo