

Maryland Youth Advisory Council Meeting Recap – 2/22/2014



Maryland Youth Advisory Council
c/o Governor's Office for Children
301 West Preston St., Suite 1502,
Baltimore, MD 21201

Senator Roger Manno, *Co-Chair*
Delegate John A. Olszewski, Jr., *Co-Chair*
Christina Drushel Williams, *Co-Chair*

Diane D'Costa, *Co-Chair*
Breana Echols, *Vice-Chair*
Likhitha Butchireddygari, *Secretary*

General Meeting February 22, 2014 Baltimore County Essex Library 1110 Eastern Blvd, Essex, MD 21221

In Attendance

Council Members:

Pascal Tessier
Jamilah Silver
Eugenie Hughes
Kate Campbell
Michael Moore
Dhruv Patel
Christy Tse
Delanee-Alexis Coley
Chris Eyo

John Ten Eyck
Medha Reddy
Likhitha Butchireddygari
Raisa Rauf
Karen Ni
Camille Kirsch
Breana Echols
Allie Lowy
Ben Feshbach
Christina Hodges

Co-Chairs:

Diane D'Costa
Christina Drushel Williams

Guests:

Dennis Teegardin
Del. Alonzo Washington
(phone)

Vice-Chair Confirmation

- Kamar Perkins, Vice-Chair of the Council asked to resign due to personal reasons.
- The current bylaws have no guidance on succession following the resignation of a leadership position. After consultation between the Diane and Ms. Christina, it was decided that the Youth Chair would select a Council member to fill the position and the Council would vote to confirm.
- Breana Echols was confirmed as new Vice Chair.

Legislative Updates:

- SB 194 – ACCEBOE SMOB Voting Rights: MYAC submitted written and oral testimony in opposition of restricting the student member of the board's voting rights.
 - The committee had an unfavorable report
- HB 853/ SB 626 – Pay It Forward Study Bill:
 - Denis Teegardin from Delegate Resnik's office attended to answer questions.
 - Purpose: Aimed at public schools and community college to see if the Pay It Forward program is feasible – would last a year.
 - How can we expand access?

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- How can we reach out to high achieving, but low income students?
- What questions need to be asked?
 - Students who move out of state?
 - Students who can pay part of tuition?
 - Conclusions from the Oregon study?
 - How to fund the bill? Marijuana legalization? Raising taxes? Cigarette tax?
- See Pay It Forward Bill Q & A (supplement) for further information.
- Letter of Support? **Yes (16) No (2) Abstain (2)**
- HB 1324 – Maryland Youth Employment Act of 2014:
 - Called Delegate Alonzo Washington.
 - Purpose: Providing jobs for youth, who have suffered doubled unemployment rates.
 - Cause: There are too many people out on the street, who have nothing to do. When asked what would motivate them, they asked for jobs.
 - Cost: \$2 million from budget
 - Questions fielded:
 - Why specifically STEM careers? The STEM industry is very prominent and growing. Since this is only the pilot program, there scope of this initiative will be expanded in later years.
 - What/ Who is the mechanism to coordinate the employers and tax credit process? TBD
 - What happens if the pilot program is successful? Hopefully, \$25 million can be used for training and other resources.
 - Thoughts of members:
 - Doesn't encourage people to better themselves through higher education.
 - This could potentially be a re-engaging opportunity for youth.
 - There is no initiative to reach the troubled youth. How is it advertised?
 - STEM jobs require a certain set of skills.
 - This STEM job could be a stepping stone to something greater.
 - Letter of Support? **Yes (4) No (13) Abstain (2)**
- HB 885 – Income Tax Credit – Student Loan Payments:
 - Purpose: Give students a tax break on their student loans.
 - Continuing conversation about college affordability/ accessibility.
 - Thoughts: makes sense to alleviate huge financial burden.
 - Letter of Support? **Yes (18) No (1) Abstain (0)**
- HB 18 – Institutions of Higher Education – Student Notification:
 - History: Already passed House, now in Senate (Bill 74)
 - Purpose: Requires transparency of university.
 - Letter of Support? **Yes (20)**
- HB 20 – Primary and Secondary Education – Secretary – School Resource Officers:
 - Purpose: For each school in the state to have a student resource officer.
 - Cost: \$100 million a year
 - Concern: Taking conversation away from school climate and emotional environment of teenagers to security officers.

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- Support? **Yes** (2) **No** (16) **Abstain** (2)
- Letter of Opposition? **Yes** (1) **No** (8) **Abstain** (10)
- H.J. Resolution 68 – Supporting the establishment of a Presidential Youth Council:
 - Purpose: To get student representation at the national level.
 - Concerns: Too political (12 Democrats, 12 Republicans)? Only 24 people, when there 50 states. Where are they going to meet when they live all over the country? Only people who have policy experience can apply.
 - Decision: Waiting for a representative to speak with us.

Committee Break Outs

- Legislative Committee:
 - **Decisions:** To compile a survey with questions regarding college/life readiness.
- Public Awareness Committee:
 - **Decisions:** Advertise date forms come out. Make flyers to advertise. Share with schools, libraries, and other community outlets.

Announcements

- MYAC is on the agenda for a number of meetings in March. Ms. Christina will be present but is looking for council members also present. Below are the upcoming dates:
 - **Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 1:00 – 3:00 pm** - Local Management Board Directors Meeting - Baltimore County Public Library- Catonsville Branch, 1100 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228.
 - **Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:00 am** - MHEC Student Advisory Council Meeting - Morgan State University
 - **Sunday, March 9, 2014, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm** - University System of Maryland Student Council - Coppin State University
- Upcoming Bill Hearing Dates:
 - **Tuesday, February 25, 2014 1:00pm**
 - HB 853 (Pay It Forward) – House Appropriations
 - HB 885 (Student Loan Payment) – House Ways and Means
 - **Wednesday, February 26, 1:30pm**
 - SB 632 (Student Loan Payment) – Senate Budget and Tax
 - **Wednesday, March 5, 2014 2:30 pm**
 - SB 626 (Pay It Forward) – Senate Budget and Tax
 - **Friday, March 7, 2014 1:00 pm**
 - HB 1324 (Youth Employment Act) – House Ways and Means
- Leadership opportunity: Maryland Leadership Workshop
 - See attached flyer
 - Scholarships are available
 - Visit website for more information, www.mlw.org

Next Steps

- Work on tasks within individual committees.

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- Look out for times and places for MYAC presentations and bill hearings.

Next Meeting

- March 15, 2014 1:30 – 4:30pm, Loch Raven Branch Library, 1046 Taylor Avenue Towson, Maryland 21286.