



**Maryland Commission  
on LGBTQ Affairs**  
**Youth & Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
August 7, 2023 at 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Zoom

Attendees:

Jabari Lyles, Committee Chair  
Joan Bryan  
Joe Toolan  
Lee Blinder  
Rev. Ali K.C. Bell  
Adrian Hinderlie  
Dr. Amena Johnson  
Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director

Members Absent:

Kurt Doan, Committee Vice Chair

- I. Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, Jabari Lyles at 6:05pm.
- II. Acknowledgement of meeting guidelines.
- III. Approval of minutes from April 25, 2023: Commissioner Bryan motioned to approve minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Toolan. Motion passed with all in favor.
- IV. Old Business:
  - A. Recommendations for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students in Maryland's K-12 Schools. Commissioner Lyles provided an update and reviewed updates from the previous version. Committee members and guests discussed the edits and additional edits. Summary of the discussion:
    1. Goal would be to present the finalized recommendations in partnership with the Governor's Office and MSDE.
    2. Need for MSDE to update their 2016 guidelines ([Providing Safe Spaces for Transgender and Non-Conforming Youth: Guidelines for Gender Identity Non-Discrimination](#))
    3. Include model policy from GLSEN and county level model policies in Maryland.
    4. Recommendations in line with Federal Title IX.
    5. Add an additional recommendation for a paid workgroup to address updates for MSDE guidelines.
    6. Follow-up meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 2023 to

review final edits to recommendations.

V. New Business:

A. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS): Commissioner Blinder provided an overview of the current challenges at MCPS. Summary of discussion:

1. Mis-communication regarding a [nonexistent] opt-out of LGBTQIA+ content has resulted in controversy and a lawsuit against MCPS.
2. Anti-LGBTQIA+ groups are well funded and organized and working in the county to mobilize anti-LGBTQIA+ movements with a goal of the destruction of public education.
3. Lack of understanding from visible white LGBTQIA+ people and allies has also escalated conflict.
4. Public education should affirm everyone. An opt-out of LGBTQIA+ content sends an unfair message that our identities are harmful.
5. The Commission can help with the previously discussed recommendations, elevating the issue on the state level, and advocating for LGBTQIA+-inclusive policies.

B. The Commission can create counter points for mis-information from Anti-LGBTQIA+ groups. Commissioner Bryan made a motion for the Youth & Education Committee to create counterpoint resources and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Toolan. Motion carried with all in favor.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. Commissioner Bryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Toolan. Motion carried with all in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jeremy Browning