

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Senate Bill 350/Chapter 417, Acts of 2018**  
**Morgan State University -- Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 6:00 p.m.**

Morgan State University  
Martin D. Jenkins Hall, Behavioral & Social Sciences Center Building, Room 100  
1600 Havenwood Road, Baltimore, MD 21251

**PRESENT:**

**Task Force Members:** Imam Earl Al-Amin, Ms. A. Adar Ayira, Dr. Noel Braithwaite, Rev. Flo Ledyard, Rev. Kobi Little, Det. Miguel Rodriguez

**Subcommittee Members and Guests:** Dr. Farah Farahati, Dr. Chris Gibbons, Dr. Marisela Gomez, Mr. Dayvon Love, Dr. David Mann, Dr. Mark Martin, Mr. Juan Nunez, Dr. Danya Qato, Mr. Enrique Ribadeneira, Dr. Dennis Scott, Ms. Gillian Silver, Dr. Brian Sims, Dr. Francesca Weeks, Dr. Charlotte Wood

**IUR Staff:** Mr. Glenn Robinson, Dr. Tracy R. Rone, Dr. Raymond Winbush

**ABSENT:** Rabbi Daniel Burg, Dr. Raimee Eck, Dr. John Hudgins, Rev. Florence Ledyard, Dr. Jane Lincove, Ms. Annette March-Grier, Dr. Joanne Martin, Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Delegate Edith Patterson, Dr. Brian Smedley

**1. GREETINGS**

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 p.m. and guests were welcomed.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Rone announced a delay in minutes resulting from a technical glitch in the recording system of the room where the May 8, 2019 meeting was held. Video was recorded, but there was no audio recorded. There were minimal minutes recorded by hand and minutes have to be reconstructed.

**3. PLANNING SESSION**

Rev. Kobi informed everyone that there will not be a regular meeting in July, 2019. However, a planning session will be held to map out the future work to be conducted by the Task Force.

**4. TESTIMONY: DR. WILLIAM BRIT KIRWAN - INEQUITY IN EDUCATION**

Dr. Kirwan presented an overview of the work of the Maryland Commission On Excellence and Innovation in Education (commonly referred to as the Kirwan Commission) and the resulting Blueprint for Maryland's future.

Additional presentation highlights include:

- ◇ MD has reputation for strong schools, but MD students underperform on learning outcomes
- ◇ MD is in middle of NAEP (2015) scores
- ◇ MD education funding is among most regressive in US
- ◇ High performing school systems invest more in schools serving high concentrations of poverty
- ◇ 53% of African American student attend schools in districts at 85% or below Thornton levels (2015)
- ◇ Avg. salaries for teaches are low
- ◇ Significant STEM teacher shortage
- ◇ High teacher turnover -- 47% of teaches in 2<sup>nd</sup> year will not return for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- ◇ Most important point -- fewer than 40% of students graduate each year as “College & Career Ready”
- ◇ Commission compared MD to high performing international and national sites
- ◇ Policy Recommendations
  - Invest in early childhood education
  - Transform teaching & school leadership into high status professions
  - Implement rigorous curricula, benchmarked for international standards to increase college readiness and industry certified credentials
  - Provide more support to schools where need is the greatest -- high concentrations of poverty and struggling learners
- ◇ Provided overview of Commission’s current status & Blueprint for Maryland’s future with additional recommendations on the cost division due by November 2019.
- ◇ Massachusetts as an example.

## 5. SUBCOMMITTEE WORK

Subcommittees met from 6:24 p.m. until 6:44 p.m.

## 6. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Subcommittees reported out. Highlights include:

### Economic Justice

- ◇ Identifying strategies for expanding subcommittee
- ◇ Assessing data needs and sources

### Faith Communities (Rev. Ledyard)

- ◇ How to collect history regarding enslavement and beyond within different faith traditions
- ◇ Analysis of traditions of race and examples—what are examples and deficiencies in MD?
- ◇ Is there a stipend for researchers who are conducting research for the Task Force?

### Public Health (Dr. Brathwaite)

- ◇ *Previously Identified issues:* Racism in Mental Health, Maternal & Infant Health, Food Insecurity; Measurement & Surveillance; Root Causes—Social Determinants of Health, Access to Health Care System

- ◇ *Currently Identified issues:* Systemic inequities related to health; What is the issue? How does racism impact health outcomes? And, how can it be addressed?

Public Safety (Det. Rodriguez)

- ◇ Integrating all minorities including all immigrants on how public safety should look
- ◇ Safety oriented mentorship programs for youth
- ◇ Mandate for all police depts to create or participate in more community oriented activities
- ◇ Inclusion of more minorities and immigrants into public safety/police department--look into best practices, especially California

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Little announced (based upon a motion passed at the March meeting) that the next full body meeting will be Wednesday, August 14, 2019 and reminded everyone that there would not be a regular full meeting in July, 2019.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.