

March 7, 2023

Dear Members of the Delmarva Parent Teacher Coalition,

The Maryland State Board of Education was recently made aware of an article posted by the Delmarva Parent Teacher Coalition that addresses, and is critical of, the position of the State Superintendent of Schools on legislation pending before the Maryland General Assembly. The State Board condemns, in no uncertain terms, the depictions and language used in this article to refer to Superintendent Choudhury.

As advocates for Maryland's children, we can have disagreements on critical issues without resorting to personal attacks and the use of tasteless language and imagery. The visual depictions of the State Superintendent in this article are inappropriate and unacceptable, and written references to the Superintendent as conducting "terroristic acts" are despicable. There is no place in our public discourse for this type of behavior.

Further, the propagation of baseless accusations and comparisons to criminal entities that are offered in another article posted by this same coalition belies an ability to conduct any genuine policy disagreements that may be had in a civil and productive manner.

This State Board is always open to listening to members of the educational community, especially our students, parents, and educators. There are a number of avenues that members of the public and the educational community can utilize to voice disagreements or concerns with the State Superintendent or the State Board, whether through public comment at a State Board meeting or through providing testimony on legislation at a bill hearing.

We welcome any feedback that helps inform the work that we do in service of our children. However, the State Board will not tolerate demeaning and inappropriate approaches to any conversation about educational matters.

Sincerely,



Clarence C. Crawford
President, Maryland State Board of Education