

Metropolitan Area Foreign Student Advisors
October 14, 2011
Meeting hosted by Baltimore County Public Schools
Minutes submitted by Silvia Hoke

10:00 – 11:00 – Analysis of difficult transcripts

- Lori Miller (Howard Co.) asked for information about Armenia from UK Naric. Silvia will check and bring to next meeting.
- Elizabeth Donaldson (Fairfax) – how to evaluate records from India that just indicated P for a grade. Depends on school district's policy on P/F.
- Diana Rogers Ford (Baltimore City) – Has been getting refugees from Nepal. Some districts do oral declarations for refugees.
- Corenthia Picou – Records from Georgia. Is the system 11 or 12 years? Did student graduate or not?
- Sylvia Gonzalez-Koch – received a report card from Thailand where grades were changed to a rubric.

11:00 – 2:00 – General Meeting

- Welcome to Baltimore County, Introductions
- USCIS presentation by Deneice Kennedy. Power Point shared. Deneice explained that USCIS is the paperwork part of immigration, ICE is the police. The longest waits for visas are for India, China, Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Green cards now expire after 10 years and must be renewed. Members discussed sending a letter again to Baltimore port of entry re: giving immigrants copies of their immunization records.
- Minutes from May meeting were adopted with one change in spelling.
- Iran school system – MCPS not present
- Denmark – (Le Hang, Fairfax) proposed change to school system: 12 years not 13
- Puerto Rico grading scale (Le Hang, Fairfax) – will be added to Charts.
- Colombia (Le Hang) – no decision made. Needs more research. Silvia will check on UK Naric and Patricia Sanguinetti (Prince William) will research.
- Bolivia – add grading scale
- Discussion on publishing Charts. The group discussed the benefits and detriments to publishing the Charts. The difficulty is the type of organization we work under (public school systems mainly). A committee was set up to discuss publication. Silvia will email interested parties to set up the first meeting.
- Grade placement best practices – Amy Harris (Anne Arundel) shared a draft document. It was suggested that we add policies for transfers from US school systems, and be more specific about the laws cited.
- MD In-state tuition bill. A referendum was approved in MD to vote on the issue in January. The bill is presently tabled.
- Social Security #'s – MSDE directive may cause chilling effect on registrations. MAFSA will not write a position paper on it, just be aware of the issue and train properly.

- Scholarships that do not require citizenship – send any additional ones to Lori Miller (lmiller@hcpss.org). We will also add a link to the scholarships on the MAFSA website.
- Question about L1 writing sample (Julia Colon, PGCPS) – Does anyone have a rubric? The following will forward to Julia what they have: Fairfax (Elizabeth Donaldson), Arlington (Sylvia Koch), DC (Marcella Herran)
- Sylvia Koch asked if anyone is interested in interpreter training. If so, please email Candice Lenet

- Next meeting: Friday, February 24th, Frederick County

Agenda items:

Colombia (Prince William)

Iran (Montgomery County)

Charts training (Prince George's County)

Best Practices (Anne Arundel County)

Armenia (Prince George's County for Howard County)

Ghana School system