4.4 Architecture

The IEEE 802.15.7 architecture is defined in terms of a number of layers and sublayers in order to simplify the standard. Each layer is responsible for one part of the standard and offers services to the higher layers. The interface between the layers serve to define the logical links that are described in this standard.

A VPAN device comprises of a PHY layer, which contains the light transceiver along with its low-level control mechanism, and a medium access control (MAC) sublayer that provides access to the physical channel for all types of transfers. Figure 3 shows these layers in a graphical representation, which are described in more detail in 4.4.1 and 4.4.2.

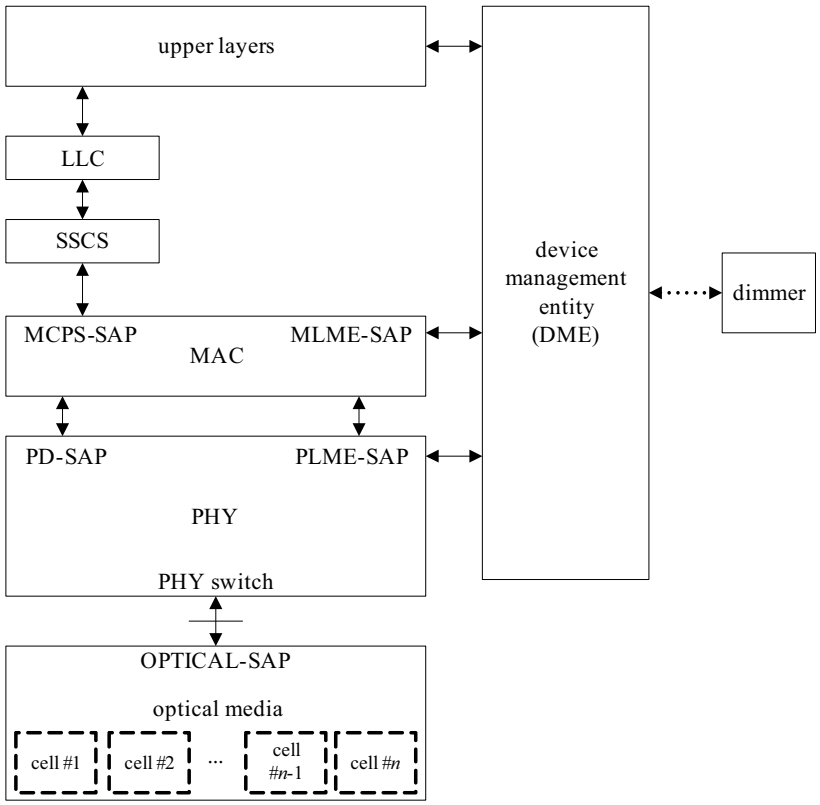

Figure 3—VPAN device architecture

The upper layers, shown in Figure 3, consist of a network layer, which provides network configuration, manipulation, and message routing, and an application layer, which provides the intended function of the device. The definition of these upper layers is outside the scope of this standard. A logical link control (LLC) layer can access the MAC sublayer through the service-specific convergence sublayer (SSCS), defined in Annex B.

A device management entity (DME) is also supported in the architecture. The DME can talk to the PLME and MLME for the purposes of interfacing the MAC and PHY with a dimmer. The DME can access certain dimmer related attributes from the MLME and PLME in order to provide dimming information to the MAC and PHY. The DME can also control the PHY switch using the PLME for selection of the optical sources and photodetectors. The details of the DME are outside the scope of this standard. The PHY switch interfaces to the optical SAP and connects to the optical media, which may consist of a single or multiple optical sources and photodetectors. Multiple optical sources and photodetectors are supported in the