STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

June 30, 2010

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Dr. James Barker, Chair.

Council Members Attending:		Absent:
Dr. James Barker	Ms. Mollie Phillips	Sen. Jeffrey Piccola
Ms. Connie Davis	Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr.	Rep. James Roebuck, Jr.
Mr. Daniel Fogarty	Ms. Karen Farmer White	
Mr. Travis Gilbert	Mr. Larry Wittig	
Dr. Arnold Hillman	Ms. Shannon Sullivan	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2010 Council of Basic Education meeting was made by Mr. Daniel Fogarty and seconded by Dr. Arnold Hillman. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Barker commended Deputy Secretary Diane Castelbuono for her contributions to the Department of Education and the students of Pennsylvania as she prepared to assume a new position with the School District of Philadelphia.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Ms. Castelbuono reviewed development of the performance level descriptors and cut scores for the PSSA-M (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment - Modified). The U.S. Department of Education requested that states develop two additional assessments for students with disabilities – the PASA (Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment) and the PSSA-M. The Council will vote today on approval of the PSSA-M performance levels and cut scores.

Mr. Ray Young, Chief of the Division of Assessment, presented an overview of the achievement levels, both qualitative (performance level descriptors) and quantitative (cut scores associated with each performance level). Dr. Richard Maraschiello of the Secretary's Office supplied the Board with a detailed explanation, through the use of a PowerPoint presentation, of how performance levels and cut scores for mathematics were derived.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Carla Claycomb, Education Services Director for the PA State Education Association (PSEA), outlined PSEA's stance on the Common Core State Standards and, while expressing support, urged careful attention to implementation issues.

Dr. A. Lee Williams read the recommendations of the special panel of higher education faculty who reviewed the Common Core mathematics standards.

Mr. Jim Willshier, PA Chamber of Commerce Special Projects Manager, spoke in support of the Common Core standards.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Mr. Larry Wittig reported that the committee met to hear presentations on the Common Core standards and invite additional public comment. During the course of the spring, three roundtable meetings were held with approximately 100 people attending. The committee unanimously passed a motion to recommend amending Chapter 4 to reflect the addition of Common Core standards.

ACTION ITEMS

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

A motion was made by Ms. Karen Farmer-White to recommend to the State Board of Education adoption of the final-omitted rulemaking amending Chapter 4 to establish the Common Core standards as Pennsylvania's academic standards in English language arts and mathematics, effective July 1, 2013. The motion was seconded by Dr. Arnold Hillman and all members were in favor as indicated by voice vote.

PSSA-M (Mathematics)

A motion was made by Mr. Dan Fogarty to recommend approval by the State Board of Education of the PSSA-M cut scores and performance level descriptors in mathematics, which was seconded by Ms. Mollie Phillips. All were in favor as indicated by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Barker announced that public meetings will be held around the state to receive comments on implementation of the Common Core standards.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. on a Hillman/Phillips motion.

Barbara Baker

Barbara Baker
Administrative Assistant