STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

May 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Mr. Larry Wittig, Acting Chairman.

Council Members Attending:
Dr. James Barker
Mrs. Connie Davis
Mr. Daniel Fogarty
Mr. Travis Gilbert
Dr. Arnold Hillman
Mr. Gardiner Kreglow
Mrs. Mollie Phillips
Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr.
Mr. Joseph Torsella
Mrs. Karen Farmer White
Mr. Larry Wittig

Absent:
Sen. Jeffrey Piccola
Rep. James Roebuck, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2010 Council of Basic Education meeting was made by Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Connie Davis. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Deputy Secretary Diane Castelbuono highlighted several areas of her written report to the State Board. She noted that the PSSA testing window would close by the end of the week and outlined the timelines involved in processing and reporting test results.

ACCREDITATION APPLICATION – TEEI

Dr. Linda Rhen, Senior Policy Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, informed the Council of the existing accreditation authority of The Educational Enrichment Initiative (TEEI), which is seeking to broaden its authority to include preschool, special education and secondary school programs.

A review of the application found that 29 of the 45 required items were either missing or insufficient. This analysis led the Department to recommend to the Board that it disapprove TEEI's application. The Council designated Dr. Arnold Hillman to serve as a special committee to collect any additional information that TEEI may wish to provide in advance of the Board's decision. Board staff will provide a decision memorandum to the Board prior to a final decision on the application.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR FOUNDATION

Dr. James Barker introduced representatives of the Foundation and discussed the importance of the curriculum in helping students develop connections between individual acts of sacrifice and the broader ideals that sustain our country and communities. The foundation presented several examples of the curriculum it has developed and put in place in districts such as Erie. Board members applauded the curriculum, and unanimously approved a motion by

Ms. Mollie Phillips that the foundation's work be incorporated in the state's SAS system and inform the next revision of the state's academic standards in social studies.

RACE TO THE TOP APPLICATION

Mr. Thomas Gluck, Executive Deputy Secretary of Education, updated the Board on the Department's Race to the Top application. In Phase I, Pennsylvania was one of 16 finalists, and ultimately placed 7th out of 41 appicant states. Only two states – Delaware and Tennessee – received funds in Phase I. Mr. Gluck reported on the Department work and planning ahead of the June 1, 2010 deadline for Phase II submissions. Mr. Gluck thanked the Board for their partnership in this initiative, especially related to Common Core.

PSSA – M

Mr. John Weiss, Bureau Director for Assessment and Accountability, presented a brief overview of the modified PSSA, for which the Board will need to approve cut scores. Mr. Weiss noted that Data Recognition Corporation, the Department's contractor, will be on hand to present a technical report at the June 30 - July 1 meeting.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Mr. Larry Wittig reported that the Committee met to discuss the Common Core initiative, including the August 2 target date for adoption. Mr. Wittig reported on the independent study conducted by the University of Pittsburgh to compare Common Core with existing PA standards.

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Dr. Corrinne Caldwell reported on the progress of the Chapter 12 regulations. She noted the significant stakeholder involvement in the development of the proposal, including the three roundtable meetings held to receive comments from the general public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Janice Segal, PA Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield spoke in support of adoption of Chapter 12 regulations.

Dr. Linda Crawshaw, president of the PA Dietetic Association, remarked on the importance of updating the regulations on nutrition.

Ms. Betsy Snyder, school district registered dietitian, noted that she looked forward to implementing a new program under the Chapter 12 regulations.

Ms. Cindy Eckert, Legislative Information Director at the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, reported that PSBA generally supported the new regulations on food and nutrition, but had concerns regarding the required timeframes and school space for physical activity.

Ms. Carol Karl, Assistant Director of Government Relations for the PA State Education Association (PSEA), relayed the message from two school nurses of their gratitude for the Board's work on this issue. PSEA generally supports the intent of the rulemaking, but has concerns about districts finding the time to slot increased physical education into their schedules. Daily physical activity is strongly supported by PSEA.

Ms. Elizabeth Walker, National Association of State Boards of Education, updated the Board on efforts nationally to improve the nutritional habits and physical activity of students.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Dr. Corrinne Caldwell to recommend approval of the proposed Chapter 12 regulations on nutrition and physical education, seconded by Ms. Connie Davis. All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Barker read a resolution honoring Gardiner Kreglow's service on the Council of Basic Education. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Ms. Mollie Phillips and seconded by Dr. Arnold Hillman. All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Barbara Baker

Barbara Baker
Administrative Assistant