STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

March 17, 2010
Chester County Technical College High School
280 Pennock's Bridge Road
West Grove, PA 19390

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Dr. James Barker, Chairman.

Council Members Attending:
Dr. James Barker
Mrs. Karen Farmer White
Dr. Arnold Hillman
Mr. Daniel Fogarty
Mr. Larry Wittig
Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr.
Mr. Gardiner Kreglow

Absent:
Mrs. Connie Davis
Mrs. Mollie Phillips
Mr. Travis Gilbert
Senator Jeffrey Piccola
Rep. James Roebuck, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2010 Council of Basic Education meeting was made by Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr., seconded by Mr. Daniel Fogarty. All were in favor as signified by a unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Dr. Linda Rhen, advisor to Deputy Secretary Diane Castelbuono, reported on her behalf on the third annual evaluation of the Science: It's Elementary program. She noted the gains made in student assessment scores, teacher readiness to teach science, and the increase in instructional time. She then highlighted the main points of the 2009-10 Accountability Block Grant Mid-Year Report and how the funds were distributed. Dr. Rhen noted that the final 2008-09 Dual Enrollment Report showed 403 LEAs participating with 89.5% of the students passing Dual Enrollment courses. She updated the Board on upcoming grants and conferences.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Mrs. Karen Farmer-White reported on the progress of establishing the state and local assessment validation advisory committees.

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Dr. Corrinne Caldwell updated the Board on the efforts of the Health and Wellness Committee. There are three roundtable discussion sessions scheduled for April in the Philadelphia, Lancaster and Clarion regions. At a meeting held in February, which incorporated many stakeholders involved in student health, a draft of physical activity standards was formulated. A discussion involved the problem of vending machines in schools and the type of snacks they provide to students.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Dr. Arnold Hillman commented on President Obama's new rules for ESEA which would include testing in mathematics and reading, but also student achievement growth, attendance, graduation rates, and school climate. Efforts will be made to close achievement gaps in all schools. A general discussion included comments on Value Added/PVASS and its effectiveness.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Barker presented a motion to recommend that the State Board of Education non-renew the authority of the United Private Academic Schools Association of Pennsylvania (UPASA) to act as an approved accrediting association under Section 5 of the Private Academic School Act and that the affected schools are provided ample time to obtain approval. A motion was made to recommend this action to the State Board by Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr., seconded by Dr. Arnold Hillman, with the provision that adequate time be allowed for the schools accredited by UPASA to find other accreditation. All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. by motion of Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr., and seconded by Dr. Arnold Hillman.

Barbara Baker

Barbara Baker, Administrative Assistant