MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Honors Suite, 1st Floor
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

November 17, 2010

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education of the State Board of Education was called to order at 10:28 a.m. by Dr. Francis Michelini.

Chairman Torsella opened the meeting by introducing the three new council members: Wendy Beetlestone, Jonathan Peri, and Ivory V. Nelson.

Ms. Baker, Administrative Officer, called the roll: Senator Andrew Dinniman and Dr. Francine McNairy were excused; Mr. James Agras and Representative James Roebuck participated via phone. All other members were present.

Dr. Michelini welcomed the new members of the council, and explained the meeting proceedings, including the binder of information provided to all members and its contents.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the September 15th meeting were approved on a Dungee Glenn/ Williams motion.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Ms. Sandra Edmunds, Deputy Secretary of Postsecondary and Higher Education, was welcomed by Dr. Michelini for her report.

Ms. Edmunds provided an update on efforts to establish a community college in Erie County. The Erie County Council voted to be the local sponsor of the community college in June but reversed that decision on October 8th. On November 10, the school board of the Erie City School District agreed to serve as local sponsor of the college. Ms. Edmunds pledged to keep members informed of this process.

The gaming legislation that provided for funding for a community college in Erie County also provided for Chester County to receive table gaming revenue which, for the first time, would allow the Chester Upland School District to become a sponsoring school district of Delaware County Community College – status that would permit district residents to receive a 50 percent reduction in tuition. The Board of Trustees of Delaware County Community College

and the incumbent local sponsors endorsed Chester Upland's request and Department and Board staff have reviewed the materials and determined that they satisfy the requirements of the statute.

Ms. Edmunds also reported that there has been increasing participation among Pennsylvania's independent colleges and universities in the College Credit transfer System. During November 2010, three independent institutions of higher education – Carlow University, Chatham University and Neumann University – joined the system, bringing the total to 35 participating institutions statewide.

Ms. Edmunds provided an update on the implementation of program revisions as a result of Chapter 49.2. To date, 100% of the expected applications for these new certification programs have been submitted to the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality. The programs that have been approved are operational and the institutions are admitting students to these programs. Students will graduate in the new certificate programs beginning in spring of 2013.

Ms. Edmunds also noted a request from Pittsburgh Public Schools to establish a teacher residency program as a component of its Teacher Academy that will prepare candidates for successful teaching in hard-to-staff positions citywide. In particular, the proposed alternative certification program focuses on the goal of improving the diversity of the PPS teacher workforce.

Representative Clymer asked for clarification from Deputy Secretary Edmunds regarding Chester Uplands petition to the State Board to join Delaware County Community College, specifically the amount of capital buy-in for the district, and to further clarify that the money would be coming from gaming revenue. Confirmation was provided.

At this time, Ms. Dungee Glenn, Chair of the Board's committee on Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness, introduced Dr. Linda Lane, Deputy Superintendent of Pittsburgh Public School and Dr. Jerri Liphart, Chief Academic Officer, along with partners from the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers and The New Teacher Project; together, the panel delivered a presentation on the Pittsburgh Public School's request to develop an alternative certification program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Ann Couples Wiznoski, a trustee of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) Executive Board read a statement on behalf of Mr. John Tarka, PFT President in support of district's request.

Mr. Stinson Stroup, Manager of the Education Services Division at the Pennsylvania State Education Association, also presented a letter of support from Mr. James Testerman, PSEA President, and stressed the organization's support for the initiative. Mr. Stroup noted that proposal could perhaps be strengthened further with involvement from an institution of higher education, and stresses the need for clear and high-quality evaluation standards.

Kim Brandison, a high school science teacher in the Philadelphia School District and a Philadelphia teaching fellow voiced her support for the project. She stressed that but for this model, she would not be a teacher and that this project teaches teachers to be effective in urban districts. She highly supports this program, from a teacher perspective.

ACTION ITEMS

- **1117.1: Application of the Chester Upland School District to be a local sponsor of the Delaware County Community College.**

Prior to action on this item, Deputy Secretary Edmunds introduced Dr. Jerry Parker, President, Delaware County Community College, Mr. Leo Hackett, Solicitor for the Chester Upland School District, Wanda Mann, President, Chester Upland School District Board of School Directors, and Dr. Joyce Wells, Acting Superintendent, Chester Upland School district – all of whom spoke in support of the resolution.

Mr. Torsella conveyed a message from Senator Piccola, who voiced support for the resolution.

Ms. Beetlestone asked several questions to clarify that the district understood its financial obligations, should gaming revenue not meet projections. The district confirmed that it would be able to bridge a shortfall, should gaming revenues fall short.

Representative Clymer voiced his support for a partnership between DCCC and Chester Upland but indicated concern about using gaming funds to help fund this sponsorship.

The resolution passed on a Beetlestone/Dungee Glenn motion. Mr. Clymer voted no.

- **1117.2: Resolution regarding a pilot alternative certification program: The New Teacher Project in partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools.**

A motion to approve the resolution passed unanimously on a Nelson/Dungee Glenn motion.

With no additional comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Achey

Jackie Achey
Executive Secretary to the Deputy Secretary
Postsecondary and Higher Education