STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Conference Room A, Administration Building
Pittsburgh Public Schools
September 15, 2010

Attending: Dr. Francis Michelini, Mr. James Agras, Ms. Esther Bush, Dr. Corrinne Caldwell, Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn, Dr. Lee Williams, Mr. David Collins, Mr. Joseph Torsella

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education of the State Board of Education was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. Francis Michelini, Chair.

The minutes from the June meeting were accepted on an Agras/Bush motion.

The new junior student representative to the State Board of Education, David Collins of Montgomery County Community College (MCCC), was introduced by Dr. Michelini. Mr. Collins provided the Board with information regarding his background as an officer in the Student Government of MCCC at its West Campus and his work at the college's tutoring center.

Dr. Michelini turned to Ms. Sandra Edmunds, Deputy Secretary of Postsecondary and Higher Education, for her report.

Ms. Edmunds' report reflected on the Master Plan for Higher Education adopted by the State Board five years ago and an update on implementation of some of the recommendations in the Master Plan. Related to the Master Plan's recommendations related to increasing access to higher education, Ms. Edmunds reported that the department is working with several programs and initiatives that provide opportunities for Pennsylvania students to access postsecondary education. These include:

- Act 101 Program
- Community Education Councils
- The 2010 Pennsylvania College Access Challenge Grant
- The Pennsylvania GEAR UP Grant Project
- Dual Enrolment Grant Program

It is anticipated that Erie County Council will be submitting an application to the State Board of Education in October outlining plans to establish a new community college.

Ms. Edmunds reported on the Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS) expansion this year to include the collection of postsecondary data. The Department is about to complete their first full academic year of postsecondary data collection.

Ms. Edmunds also provided updates on the implementation of Chapter 49, the Pennsylvania Inspired Leaders Program (PIL), and the Instructional Coach Endorsement Guidelines and Project-Based Field Experiences.

In discussing Chester Upland's prospective local sponsorship of Delaware County Community College, a question arose concerning the funding. Staff responded that revenue from a local gaming entity will be leveraged, and that the school district has agreed to be guarantor, should those funds fall short of projections.

On the issue of the PIMS system, data collection, a question was raised on the timeframe or usefulness as far as giving reports to the Board. Ms. Edmunds reported that the collection window has just ended for the 30 institutions that have submitted their data and that the team is working now on developing those reports. Reports should be available within the next few months.

With no additional questions regarding Ms. Edmunds' report, Dr. Michelini turned to Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn to introduce a presentation on the new teacher evaluation system being developed in partnership between the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers.

Ms. Glenn noted that Pittsburgh has received recognition by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as one of four sites nationally engaged in developing comprehensive teacher effectiveness plans. District and teacher leaders in Pittsburgh presented an overview of the Research-Based, Inclusive System of Evaluation (RISE) which is focused on establishing a fair, objective and transparent evaluation system that provides meaningful feedback on teachers' professional practice and informs educators' ongoing professional development needs. Board members raised questions about the impact of the initiative on student achievement and whether the evaluation model will be evaluated externally. Districts leaders responded that the school district has a contract with Mathematica Policy Research Inc. to help the district assess its teacher effectiveness plan and that they anticipate increasing teacher effectiveness will have a corresponding positive impact on student achievement, but determining exactly which components of the district's Empowering Effective Teachers Plan have the greatest impact on achievement remains to be determined.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Achey

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