COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes
293rd Meeting of the State Board of Education
March 18, 2010

The 293rd meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at the Chester County Technical College High School, 280 Pennock's Bridge Road, West Grove, PA 19390. Notice of the meeting was published in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. Mr. Joseph Torsella, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Attending:	Absent:
Dr. James Barker	Mr. James Agras
Ms. Esther Bush	Rep. Paul Clymer
Dr. Corrinne Caldwell	Ms. Connie Davis
Sen. Andrew Dinniman	Ms. Shannon Farrelly
Mr. Daniel Fogarty	Sheila Dow Ford
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Mr. Travis Gilbert
Dr. Arnold Hillman	Dr. Francine McNairy
Mr. Gardiner Kreglow	Dr. Francis Michelini
Mrs. Mollie Phillips (via telephone)	Sen. Jeffrey Piccola
Mr. Joseph Torsella	Rep. James Roebuck, Jr.
Ms. Karen Farmer White	Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr.
Dr. A. Lee Williams	
Mr. Larry Wittig	
Mr. Andrew Youstic	

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Mr. Torsella thanked the leadership of the Chester County Technical College High School for their hospitality in hosting the Board, and Senator Dinniman for welcoming the Board to Chester County.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Larry Wittig, seconded by Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn, the minutes of the January 28, 2010 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved by unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Gerald Zahorchak updated the Board on the state's presentation of its Phase I Race to the Top application in Washington, D.C. Senator Dinniman noted the connection between federal reform efforts and the looming sunset of Pennsylvania's Empowerment Act (June 30, 2010).

Secretary Zahorchak also discussed the National Center for Education and the Economy's Board Examination Systems program. This initiative would allow students in

participating districts to graduate early based on demonstrations of readiness against international qualifying benchmarks.

The Secretary concluded by thanking the Board for its interest and work on school safety and climate issues.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

A written report was provided to the Board by the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion to non-renew the authority of the United Private Academic Schools Association of Pennsylvania to act as an approved accrediting association under Section 5 of the Private Academic Schools Act, with the provision that affected schools be notified and allowed ample time to obtain the approvals necessary to continue operations, was presented by Dr. James Barker and seconded by Mr. Larry Wittig. All were in favor as indicated by a unanimous voice vote.

A motion to amend the Board's bylaws by changing the titles of student representatives from "student member" and "student member-elect" to "senior student member" and "junior student member," respectively, was presented by Dr. A. Lee Williams and seconded by Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn.

ROLL CALL VOTE

FOR: Barker, Bush, Caldwell, Dinniman, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, Hillman, Phillips, Farmer White, Williams, Wittig, Torsella.
OPPOSED: None The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Dinniman emphasized the need for schools to fulfill the 180 day requirement, and expressed concern about the issuance of waivers for inclement weather. Dr. Zahorchak clarified the use of waivers and the process of deciding if a waiver is granted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. by motion of Dr. Arnold Hillman, seconded by Ms. Esther Bush.

Barbara Baker

Barbara Baker, Administrative Assistant