COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes
294th Meeting of the State Board of Education
May 6, 2010

The 294th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. Mr. Joseph Torsella, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Mr. Torsella called the meeting to order and noted that it would be the last in Dr. Gerald Zahorchak's tenure as Secretary of Education.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Connie Davis, seconded by Ms. Esther Bush, the minutes of the March 18, 2010 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved by unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Gerald Zahorchak remarked on the National Center on Education and the Economy's report, *Tough Choices or Tough Times*, which underscores the need for more rigorous high school education if graduates are to succeed in a global knowledge economy. Dr. Zahorchak introduced the Center's President, Mr. Mark Tucker, to outline his organization's initiative focused on Board exam systems. Mr. Tucker gave an overview of NCEE's work and its connection to state-level reform.

COMMON CORE

Mr. Torsella introduced Professor Suzanne Lane from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education. Professor Lane presented preliminary findings of her analysis – informed by the work of panels of PA educators – on the degree of alignment between the March 10 public draft of the Common Core State Standards in English/language arts and math and Pennsylvania's proposed academic standards in those subjects. Ms. Lane has submitted a written report that was shared with the Board on June 12 and education stakeholders on June 18.

CHAPTER 12 (HEALTH AND WELLNESS STANDARDS)

Secretary of Health Everette James noted the Department of Health's strong support for the proposed Chapter 12 (Nutrition and Physical Activity) regulations. Secretary James applauded the comprehensive method of gathering input from all stakeholders; including schools, parents, and the health community. The Secretary noted the significant increase in the cost of treating health problems related to obesity, and highlighted the Department of Health's Active Schools program as a policy response to combat obesity rates. The participant schools assessed students on 5 points of fitness at the beginning of the school year and again at the end of the school year, following implementation of evidence-based physical activity. The Secretary remarked that responsibility for the health of students lies mainly with parents and communities, but that schools can and should help meet this need.

Secretary James introduced three educators from schools participating in the Active Schools initiative.

Ms. Eloise Groegler, Principal of the Shaler Area Middle School in Allegheny County, discussed how the program was integrated in the school day activities. Nutritional changes eliminated unhealthy options while preserving choice. Physical activities included the creation of a yoga club, weight training, fitness walking and participation by the teachers in physical education classes.

Dr. Robert Salladino, Principal of the Owen J. Robert Middle School in Chester County, spoke about the culture of health and wellness in his school and efforts to engage students in physical activity three out of every six days in their cycle. Students take ownership for their health by tracking their exercise routines.

Mr. Steven Girting, Principal of the Intermediate and Middle School in the Riverside Beaver County School District, acknowledged the difficulties of providing adequate physical education with limited staff. Three years ago, 50% of the school's students were considered obese. Through fund raising efforts, the district was able to construct a wellness center next to the gymnasium and expand access to the school gymnasium. Today, 80% of the students are within an acceptable weight range.

Chairman Torsella thanked Secretary James for his leadership on this issue and to the educators for sharing their experiences and successes. Secretary James emphasized his confidence that schools can and will find ways to implement these regulations to benefit all students in Pennsylvania and the Department of Health will do whatever it can to assist the schools in this regard.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, Chair, provided a written report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carol Karl, Assistant Director of Government Relations for the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

Ms. Jennifer Ebersole, Advocacy Director for Pennsylvania at the American Heart Association, spoke in strong support on behalf of her organization.

Mr. Timothy Allwein, Governmental and Member Relations for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, noted his organization's general agreement with the intent of the regulation while remarking on concerns for compatibility with local and federal laws, the time allocations for physical activities, and cost issues for school districts.

Ms. Chris Newburn, Legislative Advocacy Chairperson for the Pennsylvania Parent Teachers Association, noted the PTA's support for the regulation.

Mr. Mitch Akers, Center for Schools and Community, noted the national conversation around health and wellness and the importance of advancing the Chapter 12 regulations.

Ms. Jo An Rechtin, Wellness Coordinator for Owen J. Roberts School District, presented a video that demonstrated the connection between instruction and wellness programs.

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Corrinne Caldwell presented the motion that the State Board of Education approve the proposed form of the Chapter 12 regulation on student nutrition and physical activity. The motion was seconded by Ms. Esther Bush. Mr. Larry Wittig voiced his concern regarding the outcome of the idealized goals of the regulations for physical fitness. Mr. Dan Fogarty remarked on his desire to provide educators with flexibility in this area.

VOTE ON CHAPTER 12 (HEALTH AND WELLNESS)

FOR: *14* (Barker, Bush, Caldwell, Davis, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, McNairy, Michelini, Phillips, Sheehan, Farmer-White, Williams, Wittig, and Torsella)

OPPOSED: *1* (Hillman)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. James Barker read a resolution honoring the service of Mr. Gardiner Kreglow, retiring student member from Liberty High School in Bethlehem, PA. Dr. Francine McNairy reviewed the accomplishments of Ms. Shannon Farrelly, a Millersville University graduate and retiring student member from the postsecondary community.

Mr. Joseph Torsella presented a resolution honoring the service of Secretary Zahorchak

A motion to approve all three resolutions was made by Mr. Joseph Torsella and approved by the Board by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Barbara Baker

Barbara Baker, Administrative Assistant