MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Honors Suite, 1st Floor
333 Market Street
Harrisburg

November 18, 2010

The 297th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, November 18, 2010. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m. by Mr. Joseph Torsella, Chair.

Attending:
James Agras (via telephone)
James Barker (via telephone)
Wendy Beetlestone
David Collins
Connie Davis
Daniel Fogarty
Travis Gilbert
Larry Wittig
Kirk Hallett
Francis Michelini
Ivory Nelson
Jonathan Peri
Francine McNairy (via telephone at 9:20 a.m.)
Mollie Phillips
Sen. Jeffrey Piccola
Edward Sheehan, Jr.
Shannon Sullivan
Joseph Torsella
Karen Farmer White
A. Lee Williams
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Andrew Youstic

Absent:
Rep. Paul Clymer
Sen. Andrew Dinniman
Rep. James Roebuck, Jr.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chairperson Torsella requested participation by members in developing the State Board's annual report to the Governor and General Assembly. The Chair also announced the retirement of Ms. Barbara Baker, Administrative Officer, effective December 31, 2010 and provided an update on the Chapter 12 rulemaking: based on suggestions from Sen. Piccola and Sen. Dinniman, the physical activity requirement will be phased in at the secondary level, following completion of a voluntary pilot program. In addition, participation in extracurricular athletic programs will satisfy the rulemaking's physical activity requirements.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the September 16, 2010, meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on a Davis/White motion. (Mr. Jonathan Peri abstained.)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Secretary Gluck reported on the transition to the new administration. A document has been created for Governor Rendell to present to Governor-elect Corbett and a binder of information will be presented to the incoming Secretary of Education and the transition team members.

Secretary Gluck reviewed the accomplishments of the past year and the major programs instituted by the Department with emphasis on the state's new system of graduation requirements. The Secretary acknowledged the challenge of doing more with declining resources and fewer staff.

Secretary Gluck recognized Ms. Carolyn Dumaresq, project manager for the teacher and principal evaluation initiative, provided an update on the effort.

Secretary Gluck concluded with a summary of the School Code omnibus, which was passed in earlier in the week in an override of Governor Rendell's veto.

Senator Piccola urged Secretary Gluck and Ms. Dumaresq expedite work on the teacher and principal evaluation project to inform legislative efforts in 2011. He also noted the importance of clear, understandable language to ensure that project findings are useful for lay audiences.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, Chairperson, provided an update on the work of the Commission. He informed the Board of the four new members appointed to the Commission. An online ethics course is being designed for the Commission and the State System of Higher Education that will contain nine modules dealing with professional conduct issues. Mr. Griffiths noted that amendments are being drafted to streamline and update the Professional Educators Discipline Act.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Eileen Kern, Vice President/President Elect of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association, spoke on behalf of the organization in support of the study on library services required by HR 987.

Dr. Robert Cormany, Executive Director of the PA Association of Pupil Services Administrators, commented on the proposed changes in evaluation of teachers and principals. He noted that the Board also needed to be aware of the education specialists (e.g., school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, and home and school visitors) who do not fit well into the present evaluation system.

ACTION ITEMS

1117.1: APPLICATION OF THE CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE A LOCAL SPONSOR OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A motion to approve the application of the Chester Upland School District to be a local sponsor of the Delaware County Community College was made by Ms. Wendy Beetlestone, seconded by Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn.

VOTE:

Yes: Agras, Barker, Beetlestone, Davis, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, Hallett, McNairy, Michelini, Nelson, Peri, Phillips, Piccola, Sheehan, Farmer White, Williams, Wittig, Torsella

No: None

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 regarding a pilot alternative certification program involving the New Teacher Project and Pittsburgh Public Schools was made by Dr. Francis Michelini, seconded by Ms. Connie Davis.

VOTE:

Yes: Agras, Barker, Beetlestone, Davis, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, Hallett, McNairy, Michelini, Nelson, Peri, Phillips, Piccola, Sheehan, Farmer White, Williams, Wittig, Torsella

No: None

1117.3: POLICY RECOMMENDATION – STATE ASSESSMENT VALIDATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A motion to approve the policy recommendation of the State Assessment Validation Advisory Committee was made by Dr. Ivory Nelson, seconded by Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr.

VOTE:

Yes: Agras, Barker, Beetlestone, Davis, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, Hallett, McNairy, Michelini, Nelson, Peri, Phillips, Piccola, Sheehan, Farmer White, Williams, Wittig, Torsella

No: None

Mr. Dan Fogarty noted that the Board and the Department need to be clear in their materials that this provision will only apply to the classes who will graduate in Phase I of the reform (graduating classes of 2015 and 2016).

RESOLUTIONS

A motion to approve the resolutions honoring the service of Dr. Corrinne Caldwell, Ms. Esther Bush, Ms. Sheila Dow-Ford, Dr. Arnold Hillman, and Ms. Barbara Baker was made by Dr. Francis Michelini, seconded by Ms. Connie Davis. All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Adam Schott /sf

Adam Schott, Executive Director