MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Community College of Philadelphia - Center for Business & Industry
18th & Callowhill Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19130

January 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 9:46 am by Dr. Francis Michelini.

Attending:

Jim Agras (via phone)	Dan Fogarty	Edward Sheehan
Wendy Beetlestone	Kirk Hallett	Shannon Sullivan
David Collins (via phone)	Francis Michelini	Joseph Torsella
Connie Davis (via phone)	Jonathan Peri	Karen Farmer White
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Mollie Phillips (via phone)	Lee Williams
	Rep. James Roebuck (via phone)	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 18, 2010, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on an **Agras/Beetlestone** motion.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. Sandra Edmunds, Deputy Secretary of Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided an updates on the following:

- Implementation of Chapter 49.2
  - New Teacher Certification and Educational Leadership Programs. 100% of the expected applications received have been submitted with 85% of all Chapter 49 programs and 82% of all Educational Leadership programs already approved. In addition, the Department is in constant contact with the IHEs to offer assistance on these programs and the 48 outstanding Adaptations and Accommodations applications from several IHEs.
  - New Certification Testing – Pearson Evaluation Systems has been awarded the Basic Skills, Pre K-4 and Special Education Pre K-8 and Special Education 7-12 tests. ETS has been awarded the 4-8 certification tests and the Principal and Superintendent tests. Both Pearson and ETS will be working with Content Advisory Committee and Equity Assurance Panels.

- Establishment of a community college in Erie County – Interest in sponsorship was expressed by both Erie City School Board and Corry Area School Board. At their meeting on November 10th, Erie approved a resolution however the decision was

officially reversed in early December. Potential sponsorship is being explored by Corry Area SD. The earliest the board could revisit the issue was at its January 10, 2011 meeting.

State Board member Edward Sheehan asked Ms. Edmunds what was causing hesitation among local sponsors in moving forward with the proposed community college. Ms. Edmunds responded that there was concern over potential costs to local taxpayers if gaming revenue provided to support the college does not cover all associated costs, and that local sponsors were weighing the long-term commitment of sponsoring such an institution.

PRESENTATION

Lori Shorr, Chief Education Officer for Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, appeared before the Board to discuss "Philadelphia's Education Progress and Priorities." During Q&A on Ms. Shorr's presentation, Board member Dan Fogarty commented on the good work Mayor Nutter has achieved in such a short time in office, noted that the graph showing academic progress in the city since 2002 is heartening, and asked Ms. Shorr to reflect on what has accounted for the improvement in such a challenged district. Ms. Shorr responded – "that which is measured gets improved" – and said results from the PSSAs provide important guidance on where the district needs to invest and focus its resources.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Stephanie L. Jones 3-16-11
Adam Schott
Executive Director