MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor Honors Suite
Harrisburg, PA 17126

July 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m. by Dr. Francis Michelini.

Attending:

Erin Agnew	Dan Fogarty	Jon Peri	Larry Wittig
Wendy Beetlestone	Kirk Hallett	Mollie Phillips	
David Collins	Francine McNairy	Ed Sheehan	
Connie Davis	Francis Michelini	Shannon Sullivan	
Paul Ferrera	Ivory Nelson	A. Lee Williams	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 18, 2011 meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Nelson/ Peri** motion.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Chapter 49 Implementation

- Initial approval of new Chapter 49 certificate and educational leadership programs
  - A total of five programs from four institutions of higher education currently have outstanding Chapter 49 and Educational Leadership applications to be processed.
- Full Review Process Development
  - New electronic application tools for Major Review, Initial Review, Educational Leadership Review and the PDE Annual Review are being developed to facilitate the application process.
  - Major Review Electronic Application is nearing completion.
- English as a Second Language Program Specialist Guidelines Released
  - Guidelines provide a clear focus on required competencies and skills that ESL program Specialists must have.
  - Department's goal is to ensure that its programs address the needs and rights of English language learners.

Teacher and Principal Evaluation: 2009-2010 School Year

- Teacher and principal evaluation data has been compiled as part of the requirements of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).
- ARRA requires each state receiving funding to provide assurances of education reform.

- The collection and publication of teacher and principal evaluation data supports efforts in achieving equity in teacher distribution.

The Act 101 Program

- Established by PA Legislature in 1971.
- Has awarded grants to institutions of higher education to provide intensive tutoring, counseling and academic skills.
- Beginning in 2011-2012 PHEAA will be administering this program.

Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education

- The Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education has recently undergone a reorganization.
- The Bureau of Postsecondary Education and the Bureau of Adult Basic and Literacy Education have merged, and are now the Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education, with Michael Westover as the Bureau Director.
- Terry Barnaby will remain Bureau Director for the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality.

Dr. McNairy expressed a concern regarding reduced funding to support Act 101 programs and asked what the vision is for the program now that it will be administered by PHEAA rather than by PDE. Ms. Edmunds responded that PHEAA has consulted with PDE on the shift.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

College Access and Affordability & Vocational-Technical Education

Dan Fogarty, along with Jim Agras, reported on the joint College Access and Affordability and Vocational-Technical Education Committee meeting that was held on July 19. The Committee received an update from Dr. Lee Burket, Director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, who provided an update on cutbacks in federal funding for vocational education and reported that state support for Career and Technical Education was level funded in the 2011-2012 state budget. Dr. Burket also discussed the local impact of budget constraints on CTE. A concern was expressed that some local school districts are not fully aware of their responsibilities under Chapter 4 to make sure all high school students have access to rigorous career and technical education programs. Members of the two Committees remarked that, for many high school students, rigorous study in a technical education program is not just a good alternative, but likely the best pathway for those students to achieve academic and career success. A concern was expressed that too often sponsoring school districts don't share that perspective, and may undervalue this proven pathway for some high school students.

Teacher & School Leader Effectiveness

Karen Molchanow, Acting Executive Director, State Board of Education, provided a report on the July 19 meeting of the Teacher & School leader Effectiveness Committee on behalf of Sandra Dungee Glenn. Ms. Molchanow noted that the Committee received an update on the Department's effort to craft a new teacher and principal evaluation system from Dr. Carolyn Dumaresq, Deputy Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, and that Dr. Dumaresq will present additional information on this topic to the full State Board later in the afternoon.

Ms. Molchanow also reported that the Committee received an update from Terry Barnaby, Director of the Bureau of School Leadership & Teacher Quality, on certification changes that were included in the most recent omnibus school code legislation. These certification changes include the following:

- New path for individuals who hold a graduate degree in business or finance and have 4 years of relevant experience to serve as a superintendent or assistant superintendent.

- New path to earn an Administrative or Vocational Director certification by holding a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, having at least 3 years of relevant professional experience, and completing either a graduate program in education or an approved leadership development program.

- Allows out-of-state candidates to earn a PA teaching certificate if they have at least two years of satisfactory experience and demonstrate content knowledge.

- Creates a new Residency Certificate as an alternative certification pathway that would be open to individuals who hold at least a bachelor's degree to teach in shortage areas; shortage areas would be identified by the Secretary of Education.

Finally, Ms. Molchanow reported that financial circumstances facing the Pittsburgh Public Schools will not allow it to move ahead with implementing the new alternative certification partnership with The New Teacher Project that the State Board authorized last fall. Pittsburgh will refocus the resource dedicated for alternative certification on a professional development academy for experienced teachers. The Committee expressed its regret that the alternative certification program will not move forward.

Sen. Dinniman commented that he was glad the Residency Certificate program has been enacted and that the current focus on reforming teacher evaluation was important work. He also expressed his regrets that Pittsburgh was not able to move ahead with its alternative certification program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Fred Savitz, President of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teachers Educators (PAC-TE) appeared before the Board to address efforts pertaining to assessing the effectiveness of teachers and administrators employed in Pennsylvania's public schools. Dr. Savitz urged the Board to view assessment within the context of eight guiding principles:

1. That assessments be designed to reflect professional expectations for supporting student learning and achievement.

2. That assessment be a collaborative activity that includes input from other teachers, administrators, parents and students.

3. That assessment procedures provide resources for planning and for positive classroom learning environments.

4. That assessments recognize and value the diversity of students and teachers.

5. That assessment procedures demonstrate collaboration with other teachers, administrators, parents, and other education professionals to ensure student success.

6. That assessments are based on valid and reliable sources of data that are used in ethical and responsible ways.

7. That assessment criteria not be limited to student standardized test scores, as these are but one measure of what students have learned.

8. That assessment procedures take into account the continuum of teacher professional development as well as the resources and supports provided for classroom instruction within the school district (i.e., mentoring/induction of beginning teachers, resources, community support).

Dr. Savitz remarked that PAC-TE's core beliefs express a commitment to advancing the highest quality teacher preparation programs aimed at a single goal: the opportunity and right for all learners to achieve. Stemming from this commitment is PAC-TE's conviction that every student, at all levels and in all settings, has the opportunity and right to learn with the most highly qualified and effective teachers possible.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOUNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned.

Karen Molchanow

Karen Molchanow
Acting Executive Director