MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

January 12, 2011

The 298th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Wednesday, January 12, 2011. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Mr. Joseph Torsella, Chair.

Attending:

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chairperson Torsella welcomed and introduced Dr. Stephen Curtis, President of Community College of Philadelphia and stated that the purpose of this meeting was to plan for future work of the Board amid transitions in Harrisburg. The Chairperson encouraged members' attention to the Board's Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly and thanked the Annual Report Reading Committee for their work on the document. The Annual Report was approved on a **Beetlestone/Peri** motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 18, 2010, meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on a **Michelini/Beetlestone** motion.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Updates from Acting Secretary Amy Morton:

- The New *Education Week* Quality Counts report ranks Pennsylvania ninth in the nation in education progress.
- PDE's work with the Governor-elect's transition team was a very thoughtful, thorough and respectful process.

- PDE is making value-added assessment data publicly available; the Department reached out to superintendents to make them aware of this work, and to provide tools to support community understanding of the data.

- Focus of the Gates Foundation-funded momentum grant on teacher effectiveness systems is to create multi-measure evaluation tools for teachers and principals; model evaluation tool I is now available for school districts participating in the pilot evaluation; the next meeting of the stakeholder committee leading this work will be in June 2011.

- High School Graduation Requirements: Communication efforts related to the Keystone Exams are well underway and new resources are available on SAS website (including comprehensive FAQs, exam design overview, PPT presentation and PDE podcasts); a resource account has been established for submitting questions related to the new graduation requirements; work on the project-based alternative is underway.

- Pennsylvania Common Core Standards: A $527,000 grant is being implemented by Team PA to help field with implementation of English Language Arts at the secondary level through formative assessment.

- PDE now has a full-time webmaster and is moving forward with implementing a Google search function on its website.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Adam Schott noted that Congress has reauthorized the Child Nutrition Act and that federal activity will help guide state-level efforts relative to student nutrition and physical activity.

The Board's November 2010 actions approving the Chester Upland School District's petition to join as a local sponsor of Delaware County Community College and approving a pilot alternative certification program between The New Teacher Project and Pittsburgh Public Schools were published in the January 1, 2011 edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

The Board welcomed Stephanie Jones as the Board's new Administrative Officer. Stephanie joined the Board on January 3, 2011 following Barb Baker's retirement.

Mr. Schott gave an update on the status of the State School Fund: an investment pool closed by the State Treasury resulted in an increase of approximately $60,000 (almost 15% increase). The balance of the fund is $660,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

0112.1: RESOLUTION HONORING THOMAS E. GLUCK, FORMER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Francis Michelini and seconded by Edward Sheehan.

VOTE: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

0112.2: AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE $12,500 IN STATE SCHOOL FUNDS TO SECURE PRIVATE MATCH TO SUPPORT STUDY REQUIRED BY HR 987

A motion to approve the authorization of utilization of $12,500 in State School Funds to secure a private match to support a study of school libraries statewide (as required by H.R. 987 was made by Jonathan Peri and seconded by Sandra Glenn. Approval of this action item is the first step in financing this work; once private funding is secured, Board staff will prepare a motion to formally withdraw funds from the State School Fund.

Jonathan Peri requested that the Board's Budget Committee and partners involved in the study give consideration to possible intersections associated with Senate Resolution 343, which was approved by the Senate last year and directs the Joint State Government Commissions to conduct a review of The Library Code as well as the current administrative and funding structures for Pennsylvania's public libraries. The resolution also calls for the Commission to make recommendations for changes and regarding modernization of The Library Code, and for an organizational and funding structure for the library system. This report was completed at the end of December.

VOTE: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Torsella noted that Board staff will keep everyone informed regarding the transition.

Mr. Torsella thanked Jim Agras for his services on the transition team; CCP for hosting the meeting; and to presenters Lori Shorr and Kate Shaw.

Edward Sheehan announced that he was recently elected Chairman of the PA Chamber of Business and Industry and hoped that his new role would provide additional opportunities for collaboration with the work of the Board.

Next meeting is March 16, 2011 in Harrisburg.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Stephanie L Jones 3/16/11

Adam Schott
Executive Director