MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

November 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chairman, Larry Wittig.

Attending:

Erin Agnew	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Colleen Sheehan (via phone)
James Agras	Paul Ferrera	Ed Sheehan (via phone)
James Barker (via phone)	Kirk Hallett	Karen Farmer White (via phone)
Kevin Bates	Francis Michelini	Lee Williams
Wendy Beetlestone	Jonathan Peri	Larry Wittig
Emily Clark	Mollie Phillips (via phone)	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 12, 2012 meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **Hallett/E. Sheehan** motion.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Deputy Secretary Carolyn Dumaresq gave a status report on the following subjects:

Educator Effectiveness

Dr. Dumaresq reported that a stakeholder group required by statute has been created to advise the Department through the final phases of developing the state's new educator effectiveness system and that the group convened for the first time in October. Currently, the Department is working with focus groups to develop multiple measures of student achievement that will be incorporated into a new teacher rating form. The focus groups are discussing building-level profiles, one component of the new rating system, and will seek feedback from superintendents on the formula developed to establish such profiles. Dr. Dumaresq reported that a contract to develop measures focused on a second component of the new rating system – individual teacher specific data – has been released, and that the Department is just beginning conversation about a third component– elective measures of student achievement – that may be incorporated into the new evaluation system. The fourth component of the system looking at observation/evidence of professional practice based on the work of Charlotte Danielson already has been piloted, and the Department is working to on crosswalks of alternative observation/evidence models that align with Danielson's work. Dr. Dumaresq said she hopes to

bring the Department's draft regulation on teacher effectiveness for the Board's review in March 2013.

Dr. Dumaresq also noted that, in addition to developing a new rating system for instructional teachers, the Department is developing new rating systems for school principals and education specialists (i.e. guidance counselors, occupational therapists, dental hygienists, school nurses) that will take effect in 2014.

Kirk Hallett commented that it is a shame the state needs to develop an institutionalized system of teacher evaluation rather than allowing teachers to act as peers in providing feedback to colleagues on areas for improvement and counseling out those colleagues who are not a good fit for the teaching profession. Dr. James Barker noted that lead teachers play an important role as mentors within a school building.

Act 48

Dr. Dumaresq shared the Department's *Act 48 Annual Report to the Pennsylvania General Assembly*. The report reflects professional development activity reported to PDE for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 20, 2011, in compliance with the annual reporting requirements of 24 P.S. § 12-1205.2(1). Dr. Dumaresq said the report speaks volumes about the nature of educational professionals, who continue to engage in professional development despite a legislative moratorium on fulfilling such requirements.

Chapter 4

Dr. Dumaresq introduced Rita Perez, newly-appointed Director of the Bureau of Teaching and Learning, and noted that Ms. Perez is leading a workgroup of PDE staff reviewing comments received on the Board's proposed revisions to Chapter 4. The official public comment period on the proposed regulation ended on November 5, 2012.

The Deputy Secretary also reported that the Department's request to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) to freeze the annual measurable objectives for the state's assessment system was denied. She said the USDE has not formally responded to an additional component of the Department's request to replace the 11th grade PSSA with the Keystone Exams in Algebra I, Biology and Literature, however, contact with USDE officials via telephone indicates that this portion of the request will be viewed favorably. Dr. Dumaresq said the Department sent another follow-up letter to the USDE in October asking for feedback on this request.

Wendy Beetlestone asked whether reports that the Department has implemented a new method for determining whether charter schools have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) were correct. Ms. Beetlestone added that reports indicate the method is less stringent than that utilized for other public schools and that this shift was due to a change in the state's Accountability Workbook, which has not yet been approved by the USDE. Ms. Beetlestone also asked whether such changes to the Accountability Workbook required State Board approval and noted that the Board has been involved in reviewing some changes to the Workbook in the past.

Dr. Dumaresq responded that a change was made to the Accountability Workbook to provide charter schools the option to meet AYP based on grade spans. She said the option is not less stringent than that used for other public schools and noted that school districts also have the option to have AYP measured via grade spans. She explained that the Department's rationale for the change was based on some charter schools having multiple campuses or having student enrollments that are as large or larger that some of the Commonwealth's school districts, making it appropriate to provide them the option of demonstrating AYP using the same methods available to school districts. She noted that the Accountability Workbook was submitted to the USDE in July and that a request for feedback on the Workbook was part of the subsequent follow-up requested by the Department again in a letter submitted to the USDE in October. Dr. Dumaresq said she would share copies of the letters and requests made to USDE with the Board and would consult with legal counsel as to whether revisions to the Accountability Workbook require State Board approval.

Act 82

Dr. Dumaresq reminded the Board that Act 82 of 2012 granted authority to the State Board to promulgate regulations that establish multiple measures for evaluating superintendents and noted that this may be an area for future discussion.

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 3:00 pm.

Stephanie L. Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant