MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

May 10, 2012

The 308th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, May 10, 2012. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 8:55 a.m. by Larry Wittig, Chairman.

Attending:

Erin Agnew	Maureen Lally-Green	Colleen Sheehan
James Barker	Kirk Hallett	Shannon Sullivan
Wendy Beetlestone	Francine McNairy	Karen Farmer White(via phone)
David Collins	Francis Michelini	A Lee Williams
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Jonathan Peri	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the March 15, 2012 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved unanimously on a **Williams/Dungee Glenn** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE RIEGELSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wendy Beetlestone, Chair, gave an update on the public hearing held in Riegelsville on Tuesday, May 1st. The reason for the hearing was in response to a decree received from Bucks County Court of Common Pleas establishing the Riegelsville Independent School District (ISD) for the purpose of its transfer from Easton Area School District to Palisades School District. The effort to establish the ISD was initiated in March 2007 by a process provided for in state law to which a majority of local residents petitioned the court asking that a territory in which they reside be established as an ISD for the sole purpose of transferring it to an adjacent school district. A majority of taxable inhabitants filed a petition seeking to establish the ISD. The court determined that the petition met all statutory requirements and last year the Secretary of Education approved the transfer from an educational standpoint.

The court decree establishing the Riegelsville ISD constitutes an application to the State Board of Education and the State's Board authority is limited to either approving or disapproving the creation and transfer of the Riegelsville ISD from Easton Area SD to Palisades SD. If the Board approves the application for transfer, Riegelsville ISD will become part of the Palisades SD on July 1, 2013. If the Board disapproves the transfer, Riegelsville would remain within the

Easton Area SD. In either event, Riegelsville ISD dissolves upon the State Board's decision. In order to consider the application in an orderly and deliberative manner, the State Board created the special committee and set a hearing date. The Board received seven letters of protest from residents of Riegelsville requesting a public hearing on the application. The hearing was convened in response to a request from those individuals as an opportunity to be heard. It should be noted there had been no formal petitions to intervene on the application and thus there was not a full evidentiary hearing.

Ms. Beetlestone stated that it was a wonderful experience and mostly every person in the town was at this meeting held in the town hall. The sense of civic pride is admirable. The public comments focused on a number of issues: due process, educational opportunities in either district, length of commute, continuing education opportunities, tax and property value benefits, state test scores, the court decree and community college access. As the meeting concluded, Ms. Beetlestone explained to the residents that the State Board would make a decision and that they would be ready for a recommendation at the next State Board meeting held on July 11th and 12th.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Secretary Tomalis announced the return of Executive Deputy Secretary Amy Morton after her medical leave. Mr. Tomalis provided remarks to the Board on the following items:

2012-2013 Proposed Budget

The Governor and the Legislature is now heavily engaged in the 2012-2013 Budget. The Senate passed a budget out of their chamber which is now under consideration in the House and we're going to go forward in the next few weeks to see what we can do to wrap up the budget by the end of the year. Revenues are a bit better than originally projected, the administration's concern are the requirements of PSERS and other mandated costs that will come before the state in the coming years.

Mandate Waivers

In regard to the waivers being offered by the federal government for the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Law, Pennsylvania applied to the U.S. Department of Education proposing to amend the state's Accountability Workbook; however, the state's request was denied. The U.S. Department of Education suggested that Pennsylvania apply for the waiver program; however Secretary Tomalis announced that the Department is reviewing the requirements of the program and a decision to apply for a waiver is pending. Furthermore, the waiver program is not truly a waiver. The program requires the state to adopt the education policies of the Obama Administration in order to be granted the "waiver." With reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act pending in Washington and the possibility of a new administration taking office next year, Secretary Tomalis is concerned about adopting the policies of the current administration especially if a new law is enacted or a new administration changes course on current policy.

Cyber Charter Schools

There are currently seven applications under consideration with the Charter School Appeals Board. The Cyber Charter applications come to the Department for review. A decision will be made in the next few days on selected applications.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

The Secretary attended a statewide WIB meeting in Pittsburgh in early May and the consensus of the over 200 attendees was the desire to have a greater level of academic rigor of students coming directly out of secondary schools; specifically as it relates to the Keystone Exams in the Language Arts and Math. It was well-embraced that we're both moving to the Common Core and converting into the Common Core and raising our level of expectations but also our expectations that our students have a certain degree of academic rigor when they leave high school. A huge concern is that we make trade schools attractive to students interested in a career in a trade as opposed to a four-year college.

Sandra Dungee Glenn thanked Secretary Tomalis for his comments on the Career and Technical Education training and the school-to-career opportunities, and mentioned that in the Philadelphia SD it is a challenge due to the fact that many times parents and students don't understand the 21st century industry opportunities. The wealth of career tracks are not well-known so the idea of branding the larger community as to what school-to-career looks like in the 21st century is very important.

Kirk Hallett mentioned that he's deeply involved in the drop out culture of grade/high school in the Harrisburg area, which is about 25% of the students. Mr. Hallett feels that kids tend to gravitate toward cyber-schooling as a way to get away from troubles with school; however he doesn't notice that the kids are engaged in the Cyber School. Kirk also vented his frustration that community college financial packages are handed out to students who eventually drop out and use that money for personal reasons.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Executive Director, Carolyn Angelo reported on the following updates for the PSPC:

- At its most recent meeting on May 7th, the Commission considered 32 cases with 22 of them involving Sexual Misconduct. Typically the Commission has had charges 30-50 charges filed and last year they had 99 and already this year there have been 75 filed. The caseload is tripling. There is a trend of increased reporting & increased number of cases filed due to the fact that there is more awareness that Sexual Misconduct in our schools will not be tolerated.

- Board members received the PSPC's 2011 Annual Report as well as the Office of Chief Counsel's 2011 Professional Educator Discipline Report, which is provided to PSPC to talk about trends and how cases move through their system.

- PSPC hopes that its 8-module online ethics course will be available on the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's website for all teacher preparation programs, as well as local school entities, by July. The eight modules include:
  - -the ethical teacher;
  - -private and professional lives;
  - -relationships with students;
  - -the connected teacher;
  - -teaching in a diverse society;
  - -improper or personal gain;
  - -the ethical colleague; and
  - -fostering an ethical climate.

- Senator Smucker is sponsoring PSPC's proposed amendments to the Educator Discipline Act, which represent the culmination of several years of collaborative work with the Commission's stakeholders. Recently, the Senate Education Committee voted unanimously to move the amendments out of committee.

  - The jurisdiction of the PSPC is expanding. Currently we only have jurisdiction of those teachers that hold public school certifications as well as 25% in Charter Schools that have to hold a PA certification if they weren't serving in a Charter School. We are expanding the jurisdiction to all Private Academic School certificate holders as well as independent contractors who contract with a school entity to provide direct educational services.

  - We've expanded mandatory reporting by chief school administrators. We are trying to limit the discretion to have earlier reporting and can evaluate whether it requires state-level discipline.

Maureen Lally-Green asked what kind of control the PSPC has on the teachers that have been disciplined seeking positions in schools that are not currently under the PSPC's jurisdiction. Carolyn Angelo mentioned that there is a cross-over in our public access to the system through the TIMS (Teacher Information Management System) that would indicate that an educator had been disciplined. Anyone checking the system would see this since it's a public record.

Kirk Hallett asked if there was formal training in the school districts for teachers to learn about Sexual Misconduct. Ms. Angelo replied that there is no formal training currently in school districts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bernie Miller, with PSEA discussed the Project-Based Assessment better known as the Keystone Project as it relates to Career and Technical Education. Looking through the Chapter 4 proposed regulations, we didn't see an allowance for the NOCTI exam to be used as an equal option for the Project-Based Assessment. Mr. Miller thinks the State Board should discuss the disconnect between these items.

ACTION ITEMS

0510.1 CHAPTER 4 (ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT) PROPOSED REGULATION

A motion to approve Chapter 4 Academic Standards Proposed Regulation was made by Lee Williams and seconded by Colleen Sheehan.
VOTE: Roll Call vote: 12-**YES**, 0-**NO**, 0-Abstentions. (*Barker, Beetlestone, Dungee Glenn, Lally-Green, Hallett, McNairy, Michelini, Peri, C. Sheehan, Williams, Wittig) (Farmer White by Proxy)*

0510.2 RESOLUTION HONORING SHANNON SULLIVAN

A motion to approve a resolution honoring Shannon Sullivan was made by Francis Michelini and seconded by Sandra Dungee Glenn.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

0510.3 RESOLUTION HONORING DAVID COLLINS

A motion to approve a resolution honoring David Collins was made by Francis Michelini and seconded by Wendy Beetlestone.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

0510.4 RESOLUTION HONORING DR. FRANCINE MCNAIRY

A motion to approve a resolution honoring Dr. Francine McNairy was made by Francis Michelini and A. Lee Williams.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Wittig recognized newly elected Jr. Student member Emily Clark, who will serve on the Board's Council of Basic Education starting in July 2012. Mr. Wittig also gave a special thanks to Dr. Michelini and his efforts in serving as the Board's liaison during the application review, interview and selection process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. on a **Peri/Dungee Glenn** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant