MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 1:25 p.m. by Chairman, Larry Wittig.

Attending:

Erin Agnew	Connie Davis (via phone)	Francis Michelini
James Agras (via phone)	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Jonathan Peri
James Barker	Paul Ferrera	Colleen Sheehan (via phone)
Kevin Bates	James Grandon, Jr.	Edward Sheehan (via phone)
Wendy Beetlestone	Kirk Hallett	Karen Farmer White
Emily Clark	Maureen Lally-Green (via phone)	Lee Williams
		Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **C.Sheehan/Hallett** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4

Dr. Lee Williams reported that, earlier that morning, the Committee on Academic Standards/Chapter 4 approved final-form revisions to Chapter 4 and moved to transmit the final-form regulation to the Council of Basic Education for its consideration. Dr. Williams noted that the Committee reviewed almost 150 public comments submitted in response to the proposed regulation adopted by the State Board in May 2012. She reviewed the key changes proposed by the Chapter 4 Committee in response to public comment and said the amendments offered today represent the Board's efforts to bring a balance to all the input received from stakeholders as well as feedback provided by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

James Grandon asked how districts will fund the supplemental services required by the regulation. Chairman Wittig answered said that from his perspective from serving as a local school board member for 18 years, the regulation does not represent an added cost because if a school district is already teaching what should be taught, there would not be a need for additional instruction. He further noted that the school boards need to focus on the important academic aspects of their budgets. Sandra Dungee Glenn responded that she believes the challenges of reaching proficiency aren't in terms of carrying a valid curriculum. Mr. Wittig further noted that the regulation does not represent a specific program to be funded; rather it establishes a policy that appropriately sets the bar high in its academic expectations for the Commonwealth's

students. He added that he does not believe the Commonwealth has an education funding problem, but rather a pension problem that needs to be addressed.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Dr. Dumaresq introduced Dr. Michelle Sellitto and Dr. Bob Shinski for a presentation on the Department's new Pennsylvania School Performance Profiles, which serves several purposes:

- Provide a building level score for teachers, as part of the Educator Effectiveness System
- Provide parents with comparative measures for the school/district of residence
- Inform the public of the academic performance measures of each school
- Offer a resource for LEAs to communicate and compare performance, analyze performance indicators as related to achievement, and encourage best practices
- Employ as an analysis tool to inform goal setting, planning and allocating resources to improve student achievement
- Compare performance to local schools
- Compare performance to schools with similar demographics
- Communicate performance to various constituencies

Dr. Sellitto demonstrated the comprehensive data that will be available through the School Performance Profile by presenting sample profiles for schools across the Commonwealth that agreed to serve as models. She discussed how the weighting assigned to different elements of the profile is used to determine the comprehensive profile score, the research base behind each data element, and the comparison tool that will be available to members of the public.

Dr. Dumaresq then explained how the Pennsylvania School Performance Profiles will inform the building level data component of the Commonwealth's new Educator Effectiveness System. She provided the Board with information about the process used by the Department to develop the new educator rating tool and the timeframe for publishing the regulation to codify the new rating tool and said that she planned to present a draft of the rating tool to the Board in March.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debra Seibert, President of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Association and agriculture teacher from Manheim Central School District, was asked by her fellow agricultural teachers to represent them and comment on what is happening with agriculture education. Most Agriculture programs are in comprehensive high schools throughout Pennsylvania and not Career and Technical Education Centers. Ms. Seibert commented that agriculture educators are very interested in helping students achieve on the Keystone Exams. They focus on three areas: technical education, academic preparation, and college prep and career readiness.

ACTION ITEMS

FINAL-FORM REGULATION: CHAPTER 4 (ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT)

A motion to approve and forward to the State Board the Final-Form Chapter 4, as approved by the Committee on Academic Standards, was made by James Barker and seconded by Karen Farmer White.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm by a **Davis/Hallett** motion.

Stephanie L. Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant