MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

May 8, 2013

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

Attending:

Erin Agnew	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Mollie Phillips
James Barker	Kirk Hallett	Colleen Sheehan
Kevin Bates	Maureen Lally-Green	Edward Sheehan (via phone)
Wendy Beetlestone	Francis Michelini	Lee Williams
Emily Clark	Jonathan Peri	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 13, 2013 meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **Hallett/C. Sheehan** motion.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Deputy Secretary Carolyn Dumaresq presented a summary of the new Educator Effectiveness Classroom Teacher Rating Tool. While development of the rating tool has been a 3-year journey, the General Assembly established a fast track process in the School Code for consideration of the final tool. This process exempts the rating tool from the Regulatory Review Act and review by the Attorney General, but mandates that it undergo review by the Governor's Offices of General Counsel, Budget and Policy. By law, the new rating tool must be published before July 1. However, rating tools used as part of current collective bargaining contracts will remain in place until the end of the contract.

Dr. Dumaresq reminded the Council that it received a presentation on the Department's new School Performance Profiles in March and noted that the Profiles will partly inform the teacher rating tool. She further reviewed the details of the rating tool and sought input from Board members. Dr. Dumaresq also noted that the School Code allows alternative rating models that meet or exceed the standards of Act 82 to be used by local school districts and said the Department will review request for such alternatives. Finally, Dr. Dumaresq said the Department will continue to pilot a new evaluation for educational specialists and principals that is set to come online in 2014.

Colleen Sheehan asked whether the new evaluation takes into account family demographics and the impact of single-parent families. Dr. Dumaresq replied no and noted that the state would not have the data available to know a student's family demographic.

Student member Erin Agnew expressed her thanks to Dr. Dumaresq for bringing the focus back to the classroom climate through the new teacher rating tool.

In other news, Dr. Dumaresq noted that the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education convened an Educational Summit on May 22-24, which included discussion about teacher evaluation, standards aligned systems and more to help foster a seamless relationship between the Commonwealth's K-12 and higher education systems.

Dr. Dumaresq also reported that 15 local education agencies (LEAs) received funding to explore a hybrid learning model of instruction, and that 33 LEAs have expressed interest in exploring this model. She noted there are challenges related to classroom management and said the LEAs are working to address those challenges.

Colleen Sheehan asked what age groups were involved in hybrid learning. Dr. Dumsresq said the earliest was third grade, and noted that parochial and Christian schools also were involved with the effort.

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 1:50 pm by a **Phillips/Lally-Green** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant