MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

November 14, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman, Larry Wittig.

Attending:

Carol Aichele
James Barker *(via phone)*
Kevin Bates
Wendy Beetlestone
Emily Clark
Jim Grandon
Kirk Hallett
Maureen Lally-Green *(via phone)*
Jonathan Peri
Colleen Sheehan
Craig Snider
Karen Farmer White *(via phone)*
Lee Williams
Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 11, 2013 meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **Farmer White/Lally-Green** motion.

REPORT OF THE ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Acting Deputy Secretary Rita Perez presented a status report on the following subjects:

The Educational Enrichment Initiative (TEEI)

Ms. Perez reported that the Department continues to work with TEEI to obtain AUN numbers and obtain clearances for their educational centers. The School Services Office is instrumental in working with TEEI in that process.

SAS Institute

The Department is busy planning its annual SAS Institute, which will be held December 8-11. The Institute provides information and training on PDE initiatives to staff from school districts across the Commonwealth.

Academic Standards for Business, Computer and Information Technology

Acting Deputy Secretary Perez introduced Ms. Tamalee Brassington from the Bureau of Career and Technical Education to present the Department's Academic Standards for Business, Computer and Information Technology (BCTI).

Ms. Brassington explained that the Department was tasked with creating the standards by Act 104 of 2010 and discussed the process the Department undertook in drafting the new standards. A team of Pennsylvania teachers representative of elementary, middle, high school and postsecondary education were commissioned to draft the standards. Standards were developed in the areas of Accounting, Career Management, Communications, Computer and Information Technologies, Economics and Finance, Entrepreneurship, Global Business, Management, and Marketing. The team made the decision to incorporate business law and integrate that throughout the nine other areas. The BCIT standards correlate to Chapter 4 regulations that address business and computer topics at all levels pre-K through 12th grade.

Per Section 2606-B of the Public School Code, Ms. Brassington said the Department is requesting the State Board's approval of the BCIT Standards, which will serve as guidance for teachers who provide instruction in these topics and courses.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise Nahoom, Executive Director of The Educational Enrichment Initiative (TEEI), stated that TEEI has submitted its first clearance report required for its provisional accrediting organization approval. Ms. Nahoom asked to be provided with a record that the first clearance report has been approved. Acting Deputy Secretary Perez stated that the Director of the Office of School Services had just recently returned from a leave of absence and is reviewing the report submitted by TEEI.

Wendy Beetlestone interjected that, as a point of order, the public comment portion of the Council's agenda is not a question and answer session and stated this was not the appropriate time to make inquiries of the Department. Chairman Wittig echoed Ms. Beetlestone's comment that this was not a time for dialogue and invited Ms. Nahoom to make a statement for the record.

Ms. Nahoom proceeded to ask if the record reflect that TEEI's first clearance report had been approved, and Chairman Wittig stated that, again, a question was asked. Ms. Nahoom then stated that from her perspective the clearance report had not been approved. Ms. Nahoom stated that that there are two other required reports, one due March by 10, 2014 and the other due by November 10, 2014.

Ms. Nahoom also stated that there are Huntingdon and Sylvan Learning Centers operating in Pennsylvania that are accredited by Middle States. She said the TEEI Board of Directors would like to know whether they have AUN numbers and what is the process for obtaining the AUN number. Additionally, Ms. Nahoom said the TEEI Board would like to go on record that there are hundreds or thousands of tutoring centers in Pennsylvania that are operating with neither a license or accreditation. Ms. Nahoom stated that she is willing to meet with the Ad Hoc Committee on Private School Accreditation in order meet all necessary requirements.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kirk Hallet asked to make a retraction of a statement he made during Council of Higher Education on November 11, 2013. Mr. Hallett said that he wanted to take back his statement that Harrisburg School District was a "bad" district and that the comment was out of context. He clarified that he intended to express that they are a low-performing school district. Mr. Hallett apologized to Harrisburg School District for that comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm by a **Beetlestone/Snider** motion.

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Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant