MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

May 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Council of Basic Education Chairman, James Barker.

Attending:

Carol Aichele
Jay Badams
James Barker
Kevin Bates
Emily Clark
James Grandon
Kirk Hallett
Maureen Lally-Green *(via phone)*
Jonathan Peri *(via phone)*
Mollie Phillips
Justin Reynolds
Colleen Sheehan *(via phone)*
A. Lee Williams
Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 12, 2014 meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **Aichele/Hallett** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
CHAPTER 16 SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION

Executive Director Karen Molchanow reported on the public roundtable discussion of the Committee on Special and Gifted Education, which was held earlier in the day. Ms. Molchanow said the Committee has undertaken a review of Chapter 16 (Special Education for Gifted Students) due to a provision in the regulation that requires the Board to periodically review its gifted education regulations. She explained that the Committee began an information gathering portion of its deliberations in March, at which time it received information about the status of Gifted Education in the Commonwealth from the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee and the Department of Education. The next step in the Committee's deliberations commenced earlier in the day with the first of three public roundtable discussions on Chapter 16.

Ms. Molchanow explained that the purpose of the roundtables is to provide an opportunity for members of the public to provide their perspectives about the current Chapter 16 regulations. The Committee then will reflect on the remarks shared at the roundtables and determine whether it is necessary to make amendments to the chapter. Ms. Molchanow said the Board currently does not have its own proposal for changes to the Chapter, nor has it received proposed amendments from the Department of Education. She announced that two additional public roundtables are scheduled in Pittsburgh on May 22 and Philadelphia on June 5, and said the Board also will accept written comment on Chapter 16 from individuals who are unable to attend the roundtables.

REPORT OF THE ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Acting Deputy Secretary Rita Perez shared an overview of the work the Department's academic recovery liaisons (ARLs) have been doing with the state's priority schools.

Ms. Perez reminded the Board that this is a planning year for priority schools to develop three-year school improvement plans that will be implemented starting July 1, 2014. She reported that most priority schools met an April 30 deadline to submit their improvement plans, which was an accomplishment given the work required to challenge themselves and their school leadership teams to dig deep into their data and ask hard questions of themselves to develop robust improvement plans. The schools that did not meet the deadline primarily faced an issue with timing of school board meetings to seek local board approval of the plans, which was required prior to submitting a plan to the Department.

Ms. Perez also reported that Dr. Glenn Zehner, the Department's lead Academic Recovery Liaison, has visited every priority school in the Commonwealth. Dr. Zehner's meetings with principals and superintendents left him pleased with the seriousness with which staff are taking the initiatives necessary to approve student achievement, and he also was pleased with the high levels of student engagement he encountered during his classroom visitations. Ms. Perez said priority school leaders reported challenges related to having the time necessary to collaborate and review data, and said the Department will work with its ARLs to help them understand the value of looking at student data on a regular basis and adjusting instruction accordingly.

Ms. Perez reported that there has been a strong collaboration between the ARLs, Intermediate Units and the PaTTAN system to help identify interventions and go into schools and work with them to implement and provide professional development training. She also said the Department conducted a survey to ascertain the professional development needs of the ARLs and school leadership teams and has identified a need for support in aligning curriculum to academic standards. Ms. Perez noted that there are many resources on the Standards Aligned Systems (SAS) portal to help with alignment, and said PDE will be piloting a curriculum auditing tool to allow priority schools to make sure they are aligned with the standards.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

AJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. by a **Hallett/Aichele** motion.

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant