MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by Chairman, Larry Wittig.

Attending:

James Agras *(via phone)*
Carol Aichele
James Barker *(via phone)*
Kevin Bates
Wendy Beetlestone
Emily Clark
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Jim Grandon
Maureen Lally-Green*(via phone)*
Kirk Hallett
Justin Reynolds
Colleen Sheehan
Craig Snider *(via phone)*
Karen Farmer White
A. Lee Williams
Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 13, 2013 meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **Hallet/Aichele** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION

Committee Chair Wendy Beetlestone presented a report on the first meeting of the Committee on Chapter 16 (Gifted Education), which was held earlier in the day. Ms. Beetlestone said the Committee received informational presentations from the Department of Education and the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee. She further noted that Chapter 16 requires that the State Board of Education review the regulations every four years. Ms. Beetlestone said the Department of Education has not come forth with any proposed changes to the regulations. However, the Committee felt the importance of the issue required an opportunity for public input and the Committee decided to conduct stakeholder roundtables throughout the Commonwealth. Plans were made to host the roundtables in Southeastern PA, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh in May. Ms. Beetlestone further noted that, if during the course of these stakeholder meetings it is determined that the State Board should conduct hearings in more rural areas, that will be considered. The Committee will report of its progress at the next Board meeting.

REPORT OF THE ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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

Staffing Changes at PDE

The Director of the Bureau of Special Education, John Tommasini recently retired, and was replaced by Pat Hozella. Prior to this position, Pat was serving at the Acting Bureau Director in the Bureau of Teaching and Learning. Plans are moving ahead to merge the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability into the Bureau of Teaching and Learning, and John Weiss will serve as Acting Bureau Director of the merged offices. Mr. Weiss previously served as Director for the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability. Drew Schuckman has assumed the responsibilities of Acting Assistant Bureau Director and will oversee responsibilities for assessment.

Priority Schools Project

There are currently 13 Academic Recovery Liaisons (ARLs) assigned throughout the Commonwealth to work with designated priority schols. They have been regionalized, and Deputy Secretary Perez offered to provide a detailed breakout of the regions. Mr. Perez provided an overview of the ARLs training, communication tools, and professional development activities, as well as the concentrated assistant being provided in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh through the districts' central offices.

The Educational Enrichment Initiative (TEEI)

Deputy Secretary Perez provided a status report on the provisional approval granted to TEEI in July 2013 to continue to serve as an approved accrediting organization. TEEI was asked to provide a progress report in March 2014 on the five conditions outlined in the provisional approval letter, and TEEI submitted this first progress report to the Department on time. The status report was received by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Ms. Perez said the Division of Planning is currently in the process of analyzing the report and the information provided and will be prepared to provide a detailed report to the Board in May.

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 2:25 p.m. by a **Sheehan/Aichele** motion.

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Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant