MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

July 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Council of Basic Education Chairman, James Barker.

Attending:

Carol Aichele	James Grandon	Jonathon Peri
Jay Badams	Kirk Hallett	Justin Reynolds
James Barker	Maureen Lally-Green	Colleen Sheehan *(Via phone)*
Wendy Beetlestone	Teresa Lebo	A. Lee Williams
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Donald LeCompte	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 14, 2014 meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **Hallett/Badams** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION COMMITTEEE (CHAPTER 16)

Wendy Beetlestone, Chair of the Committee on Special and Gifted Education, reminded the Council that the Committee had undertaken a required periodic review of Chapter 16 (Special Education for Gifted Students). The Committee held three roundtables across the state to provide an opportunity for members of the public to provide their perspectives about the current Chapter 16 regulations. Ms. Beetlestone reported that more than 45 people participated in those discussions, including parents of gifted students; teachers; representatives of school districts, Intermediate Units, school directors, private schools and charter school; statewide professional associations and education advocates. Written comments from the public also were received in the State Board office.

Ms. Beetlestone said the Committee met earlier that morning to review the concerns presented during the Committee's public review process. Concerns were heard on a broad range of issues, including the qualifications of professional personnel responsible for gifted instruction; regulatory compliance, enforcement and monitoring; the cost of evaluating potentially gifted students and the evaluation process; and large teaching caseloads.

Ms. Beetlestone reported that, following discussion among Committee members on these issues, the sense of the Committee was that it does not think Chapter 16 should be opened for amendments at this time. The Committee did feel that it gathered a significant amount of

information that could be beneficial to the Department in improving gifted education. Thus, the Committee will work to draft a set of recommendations for the Department in time for review and adoption at the Board's September 2014 meeting.

REPORT OF THE ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Acting Deputy Secretary Rita Perez provided updates on the following topics:

FIRST (Fidelity Implementation Review and Support Tool)

Ms. Perez said the Department is developing a Fidelity Implementation Review and Support Tool (FIRST) to help principals, school leadership teams and teachers diagnose their current teaching and learning practices and conduct an in-depth analysis of whether their curriculum in core subject areas is aligned to current academic standards and eligible content. Teachers will be able to conduct individualized curriculum audits of the work they are doing in individual classrooms. FIRST also will embed resources and materials for each standard and eligible content item and display them on a classroom-level dashboard. Additionally, as teachers are implementing formative assessments they will be able to identify on their dashboard how close students are to mastery of eligible content items.

The Deputy Secretary reported that the Department will pilot FIRST in the following six school districts this summer: York City, Harrisburg, Berlin Brothersvalley, Southern Huntingdon, Meyersdale and Mohawk Area. The tool will be available as a resource within the Department's online Standard Aligned Systems (SAS) portal.

USDE Blog

The United States Department of Education maintains an internet blog called Progress which highlights innovative ideas, promising practices, lessons learned and resources informed by the implementation of K-12 reforms to improve education for all students. Ms. Perez reported that the Progress blog recently included a story on Pennsylvania's implementation of its new educator effectiveness system. Ms. Perez said she would share a link to the story with the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Wittig announced that the work of the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee continues and the Committee will hold its next meeting on July 28, 2014 at 1:00 pm. Public access to the meeting will be available in the State Board office. Mr. Wittig reminded the Board that, by statute, the Committee is required to convene quarterly to discuss ways to improve the affordability of and access to college textbook materials. The Committee also is required to make a report to the General Assembly every three years.

AJOURNMENT

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

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant