MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

January 9, 2014

The 318th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, January 9, 2014. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m. by Larry Wittig, Chairman.

Attending:

Sec. Carol Aichele	Bruce Grover	Justin Reynolds
Kevin Bates *(via phone)*	Kirk Hallett	Colleen Sheehan *(via phone)*
Wendy Beetlestone *(via phone)*	Francis Michelini	Craig Snider *(via phone)*
Emily Clark	Maureen Lally-Green *(via phone)*	Karen Farmer White *(via phone)*
James Grandon	Jonathan Peri *(via phone)*	Lee Williams
	Mollie Phillips *(via phone)*	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 14, 2013 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved unanimously on a **Williams/Michelini** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MANDATORY DATING VIOLENCE EDUCATION

Chairman Larry Wittig provided a report on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Mandatory Dating Violence which met earlier in the day. Mr. Wittig said the Committee approved a study on the benefits and detriments of mandating dating violence education and the report now would be considered by the full Board. The study was undertaken as a result of a legislative assignment made to the Board by Act 104.

In undertaking the study, Mr. Wittig said the Committee reviewed other state policies on dating violence education, offered an opportunity for the public to submit comments, and engaged Dr. Teresa Wojcik, Assistant Professor in the Department of Education and Counseling at Villanova University, to conduct background research to inform its deliberations. On December 12, Mr. Wittig reported that the Committee held a public meeting to review Dr. Wojcik's research and to discuss potential recommendations to include in the report.

Mr. Wittig then summarized the potential benefits and potential detriments of mandating dating violence instruction discussed in the report, along with the Committee's recommendation to maintain current School Code provisions that seat decisions about such instruction with local

school boards. He said the report included two additional recommendations: 1) to ensure guidance counselors are appropriately trained to support students experiencing dating violence and 2) to have PDE strengthen the materials and resources related to dating violence education available on its website.

Upon discussion, Karen Farmer White, member of the Ad Hoc Committee, said she disagreed with the report's recommendation and expressed her thoughts as to why dating violence education should be a mandated component of instruction. Ms. Farmer White said she believes dating violence is a problem of the same magnitude as bullying and has negative impacts on school performance. She felt mandated instruction would provide students with information necessary to empower them and, as such, it would be money well spent.

Maureen Lally-Green responded that the nature of the discussion really focused on interpersonal relationships, not specifically dating violence, and said there are other avenues in schools that already address bullying and interpersonal relationships.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Carolyn Dumaresq, Acting Secretary of Education, provided a status report on the following subjects:

Budget Preparation

Dr. Dumaresq said the Department is focused on preparations for the Governor's next budget proposal. She said the Department has spent significant time on accountability systems and the next phase of its work will focus on targeted supports.

Chapter 4

Dr. Dumaresq reported that, on November 22, 2013, the Independently Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC) approved the Board's final-form revisions to Chapter 4 and the regulation had been transmitted to the Attorney General for review. She also said the Department is working to respond to IRRC's request for additional information on the fiscal impact of the supplemental instruction requirements placed into Chapter 4 in 2010. She noted that the Department does not have data on these costs as they requirements just took effect this year.

School Performance Profile

The School Performance Profile website has been updated to include scores for schools that had their information suppressed in October. In addition, the data used to calculate the profile scores as well as federal accountability reports for public schools, local education agencies and the state are available. The update completed the School Performance Profile for the 2012-13 school year.

Dr. Dumaresq said the profile results indicate that nearly 73 percent of public schools received a score of 70 or higher, indicating that the majority of public schools across the Commonwealth are doing well.

Teacher Evaluation

The Department has been providing guidance to districts as they undertook the first use of the state's new teacher rating tool as part of recent semi-annual evaluations. The Acting Secretary said the Department is working on the next set of regulations establishing a new evaluation system for principals and educational specialists, and she expects that to be presented to the Board in the next two months.

PA Career Coach Website

Dr. Dumaresq said she has been working with the Department of Labor and Industry on a new website (www.pacareercoach.pa.gov) designed to help students identify a good, high-priority career path by providing the most current local data on wages, employment, job postings, and associated education and training.
Board member Craig Snider remarked that he is very interested in learning more about PA Career Coach and would welcome any information that PDE could provide.

Early Learning Grant

Dr. Dumaresq announced that the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) awarded Pennsylvania $51.7 million through the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant program. Major initiatives to be funded by the grant include:

- Establishing 50 local Early Childhood Education Community Innovation Zones to serve the lowest-performing elementary schools in the state. Each zone will complete a comprehensive needs assessment and, with assistance from the state, each area will develop strategies focused on increasing family supports and engagement; developing stronger relationships between early childhood education programs and school districts; and strengthening the network of community organizations that serve families with young children.
- Improving access for children with high needs to high-quality early learning and development programs.
- Increasing access and delivery of high-quality professional development for early learning educators.
- Developing a no-cost universal Kindergarten Entry Inventory for voluntary use by schools to better understand the needs of students entering kindergarten.
- Operating four Governor's Institutes for nearly 3,000 pre-kindergarten to third-grade educators and practitioners to experience and share strategies and best practices.

The Acting Secretary noted that this is the third Race to the Top (RTTT) grant received from USDE since Governor Corbett took office. Since Corbett's tenure, Pennsylvania has received a RTTT grant focused on literacy efforts, a general RTTT grant (supporting educator effectiveness

and new school performance profiles, among other things), and now a RTTT grant focused on early childhood education.

STATE LIBRARY GRANT

The Acting Secretary announced that the State Library has received a grant to study connectivity and improvements to broadband access in the Commonwealth. Another library grant will bring films into libraries to foster cultural conversations among communities.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Carolyn Angelo, Executive Director, highlighted the significant amendments to the Professional Educator Discipline Act that was signed into law on December 18, 2013. The amendments make several substantive changes that will strengthen the educator disciplinary process and enhance the protection of children in schools across the Commonwealth. Ms. Angelo shared the most significant changes that will take effect on February 16, 2014:

- Expand thePSPC's disciplinary jurisdiction to include those educators who hold Private Academic School certification and those educators who work in private entities that have contracted with public schools to provide direct educational services to students;
- Delineate "sexual misconduct" as an independent basis for discipline and define the term broadly to include grooming behaviors;
- Expand mandatory reporting by school administrators to include resignations at the local level that occur after any allegations of misconduct have arisen and all allegations of sexual abuse or exploitation and sexual misconduct;
- Shorten the time period for mandatory reporting to the Department, particularly in cases of sexual misconduct;
- Prohibit school entities from entering into confidentiality or other agreements that would interfere with mandatory reporting;
- Eliminate the one-year limitation period for filing of complaints by interested parties to bring the teaching profession into parity with other licensed professions in the Commonwealth and to provide greater protection for children and another avenue for justice for victims of abuse;
- Impose a self-reporting requirement at the local level on educators who have been indicted or convicted of certain crimes;
- Require an educator to file a mandatory report whenever the educator has knowledge of any action, inaction or conduct that constitutes sexual misconduct or sexual abuse or exploitation, and inform his immediate supervisor of the filing;
- Provide for the imposition of fees and/or fines as a component of a disciplinary sanction.

In response to discussion about the report on mandatory dating violence education, Ms. Angelo said the PSPC would like to be involved if the Department's moves ahead on the Board's recommendation to develop materials on healthy relationships because that topic falls within the interests of the PSPC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jay Hertzog, President of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE) extended an invitation to all Board members to attend the April 1, 2014 PAC-TE Spring Conference in State College, PA, which will feature Dr. Charlotte Danielson.

ACTION ITEM

FINAL REPORT ON THE BENEFITS AND DETRIMENTS OF MANDATING DATING VIOLENCE EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A motion to approve the Final Report on the Benefits and Detriments of Mandating Dating Violence Education in the Public Schools of the Commonwealth was made by Colleen Sheehan and seconded by Francis Michelini. The motion was approved by a voice vote with Ms. Farmer White dissenting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Michelini suggested that at some point the Board consider undertaking an evaluation of the services required to be provided by school guidance counselors. He said discussion at recent Board meetings has insinuated that there are increasing responsibilities and expectations of guidance counselors. Hon. Lally-Green agreed with Dr. Michelini's comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m. on a **Grandon/Hallett** motion.

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Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant