

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

333 Market Street, Honors Suite, Harrisburg, PA
November 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Wittig at 1:05 p.m.

Attending:

James Agras (via phone)	Maureen Lally-Green
Carol Aichele	Jonathan Peri
James Barker	Colleen Sheehan
Nicole Carnicella	Craig Snider
Sandra Dungee-Glenn (via phone)	Joshita Varshney
James Grandon	Karen Farmer White
Kirk Hallett	A. Lee Williams
Shirlann Harmon	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Peri/Carnicella** motion.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Larry Wittig, Chairman of the State Board of Education, opened the meeting of the Committee of the Whole and announced that the Senate confirmed Nathan Barrett, principal for K-12 student affairs in the Old Forge School District, as a new member of the Board. Mr. Wittig said Mr. Barrett will succeed Mollie Phillips on the Council of Basic Education. Mr. Wittig then recognized James Grandon, Chairman of the Council of Higher Education, who called to order the meeting of the Council.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
HIGHER EDUCATION**

Theresa Barnaby, Director of the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality, provided the following report on behalf of Dr. Wil Del Pilar, Deputy Secretary for Postsecondary and Higher Education.

Ms. Barnaby reported that in 2016 there were 400 HiSET test takers and noted that 144 of those test takers passed the new high school equivalency exam. She also reported that, in 2016, 11,619 individuals took the GED and 4,813 passed that exam. A total of 446 individuals received a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma in October 2016. Ms. Barnaby reported

that HiSET now has 30 testing centers with 19 addendum sites, and that 23 counties have at least one community testing site.

Ms. Barnaby also reported that effective October 1, all high school equivalency transcript and diploma services were outsourced to an electronic service called DiplomaSender. Since October, DiplomaSender has processed 634 diplomas and 1,369 GED transcripts using a process that takes only minutes. She noted that the Department's prior manual process took 4-6 weeks to complete.

Ms. Barnaby then provided an update on Veterans Education Certification Preferential Processing, which was codified in Act 143 of 2016 to provide expedited processing and a reduced application fee. To date, 166 applications have been received under the program.

Ms. Barnaby announced that the Principal Early Childhood Project partnership grant competition is coming to a close. She said eight applications were received and are currently being reviewed to determine how many will be funded.

Ms. Barnaby stated that the Department is working to identify teacher shortage areas in order to submit a notice of these shortages to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) by December 1.

Ms. Barnaby announced that USDE released Title II Guidance focused on three areas: expansion of state report cards, new indicators of program quality, and requirements for states to identify programs as low-performing, at-risk, or effective. Ms. Barnaby explained that the state report cards must consider the following criteria: student learning outcomes, employment outcomes, survey outcomes of first-year teachers, and accreditation or state approval.

Ms. Barnaby also announced that Pennsylvania was accepted as a member of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) effective October 27, 2016. She reported that 85 institutions already have expressed interest in applying to participate in SARA.

James Barker noted the significance and economic benefit to Pennsylvania students and to the Commonwealth as a result of Pennsylvania's membership in SARA.

Finally, Ms. Barnaby reported on the status of the "It's On Us PA" Governor's grant program. In 2015-16, \$1 million was set aside in the budget for grants to support postsecondary institutions efforts around campus sexual assaults. Ms. Barnaby said the Department issued an RFP for grants of up to \$30,000 and received 62 applications requesting a total of \$1.4 million in support. Funding decisions on the applications should be completed by the end of November.

ACT 101 PROGRAM UPDATE

Christine Zuzack, Vice President of State Grants and Special Programs for the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), presented an annual update on the status of Act 101 Programs. Ms. Zuzack stated that for the 2015-16 academic year, Act 101 was funded at \$2.246 million to serve 32 active programs. Ms. Zuzack reviewed the academic and economic guidelines for student eligibility for participation and enrollment in an Act 101 program, as well as the requirements for participating institutions.

In 2015-16, Ms. Zuzack said Act 101 programs served 3,613 students (68% from 4-year institutions; 28% from 2-year schools; and 4% from business, trade, or technical schools). She noted that PHEAA continues to look at student assessment under the program and soon will be able to report on graduation rates once PHEAA has administered the program for enough years to collect the necessary data.

Mr. Grandon requested clarification regarding the requirement of SAT scores for student participation in the program. Ms. Zuzack replied that consideration of SAT or ACT scores for enrollment in Act 101 is an institutionally-determined requirement.

PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE ATTAINMENT GOAL

Julie Kane, Higher Education Associate in the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education, offered the following report on behalf of Dr. Wil Del Pilar, Deputy Secretary for Postsecondary and Higher Education.

Ms. Kane stated that Pennsylvania's large footprint of higher education requires a level of coordination to ensure it is producing graduates who not only are productive citizens, but who also will fulfill the workforce needs of the Commonwealth. Ms. Kane reported that Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce estimates that, by 2025, more than 60% of jobs in Pennsylvania will require some form of postsecondary credential, including postsecondary certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees or more advanced credentials. Ms. Kane requested the Board consider setting a statewide attainment goal of 60% to be achieved by 2025.

Ms. Kane said setting a statewide attainment goal would serve to set a direction for postsecondary education in Pennsylvania; guide discussions for the Master Plan for Higher Education; allow Pennsylvania to invest resources based on workforce needs; allow PDE to engage in interventions to reach the goal; and allow the commonwealth to invest resources to meet the goal. Ms. Kane also noted that the Lumina Foundation is encourage states to set attainment goals and said 26 state have established goals. States that have attainment goals also have the opportunity to apply for grant funds to help reach those goals.

Among the current population aged 24-65 in Pennsylvania, 12% hold a certificate or associates degree, 20% hold a bachelor's degree, and 12% hold a masters degree or higher. Ms. Kane noted that Georgetown estimates that the needs of Pennsylvania's workforce in 2025 will require a citizenry where 33% hold a certificate or associates degree, 22% hold a bachelor's degree, and 11% hold a master's degree or higher. Without a statewide strategy to meet those future workforce needs, Ms. Kane said Pennsylvania will experience a gap in the qualified workforce. Ms. Kane also demonstrated a data modeling tool from the National Center for Higher Education Management System (NCHEMS) that showed a positive impact on economic projections from increased degree attainment.

Mr. Grandon asked how needs would be assessed regionally. Ms. Barnaby offered that the goal is separate from the strategy to be developed that will define efforts toward achieving the goal. Jonathan Peri commented that a goal should be set in tandem with a plan for its attainment. Mr. Peri queried Ms. Kane about how resources would be invested to attain the goal.

Dr. Barker spoke in support of increasing opportunities to improve higher education attainment levels and asked if there would be interim goals established as part of the plan to reach the terminal goal for 2025. Mr. Wittig noted that the goal is necessary to apply for grant funds, and said the proposed 60% attainment goal seemed to be developed in a manner similar to prior industry cluster projections made by the state Workforce Investment Board. Ms. Kane spoke to the Department's plan for using potential grant funds as seed money to support the state's attainment strategies.

Dr. Sheehan noted that approximately 800,000 more people would need to earn a degree in order to meet the goal and asked for more detail about how that would be accomplished. Ms. Kane elaborated on a proposed plan to re-engage the 1.2 million adults in Pennsylvania who have some college but no degree as one part of a potential strategy for attaining the goal. Dr. Sheehan asked whether this type of engineering is necessary to help people take steps to improve their futures and how far government should be reaching into people's lives. Nicole Carnicella asked how the Department accounts for individuals that currently hold a degree but are not working in a related field and stated that the focus should be on improving rates of individuals who hold certificates. Mr. Grandon commented that the Department's request to consider an attainment goal is positive and would do a lot of good, but that he wants to ensure adequate follow-through with implementation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Grandon moved that the Council of Higher Education support the adoption of a 60% postsecondary attainment goal by 2025, provided that staff provide to the Council benchmarks over the next nine years as to how it will be attained, that we take a look on a yearly basis as to the success that we are having, and that it help guide the strategic direction of Pennsylvania's Higher Education Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peri and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant