

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126**

January 14, 2016

The 330th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, January 14, 2016. 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 Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

James Agras <i>(via phone)</i>	Sandra Dungee Glenn <i>(via phone)</i>	Mollie Phillips <i>(via phone)</i>
Carol Aichele	James Grandon	Rep. James Roebuck <i>(via phone)</i>
Jay Badams	Kirk Hallett	Rep. Stan Saylor
James Barker	Maureen Lally-Green <i>(via phone)</i>	Joshita Varshney
Nicole Carnicella	Teresa Lebo	Karen Farmer White
Sen. Andrew Dinniman	Donald LeCompte	Lee Williams <i>(via phone)</i>
	Jonathan Peri <i>(via phone)</i>	Larry Wittig

The minutes of the November 19, 2016 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on a **Peri/Farmer White** motion.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Executive Deputy Secretary David Volkman provided a report on behalf of Secretary Pedro Rivera. Mr. Volkman made a presentation on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) enacted in December to replace the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). He identified the four key issues addressed in ESSA as accountability, standards and assessment, school intervention and educator evaluation.

Mr. Volkman said the ESSA framework takes effect in 2017-18. He said the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) is accepting public comment on ESSA through January 21, 2016, after which it will develop guidance on the new law. He noted that the plan Pennsylvania must develop and have approved by USDE to comply with ESSA will be in place for four years. Mr. Volkman then reviewed key components of the law as they pertain to the four key issue areas he identified earlier.

Related to accountability, Mr. Volkman said ESSA shifts responsibility for the design and implementation of the state's accountability system to the state level. He said specific goals will be identified by states, but must address proficiency on assessments, English language proficiency, and graduation rates. The state accountability system also must address closing the achievement and graduation gaps for federally-defined student subgroups. Finally, Mr. Volkman said the accountability system must include an additional indicator that addresses a metric beyond standardized tests (i.e. school climate, postsecondary readiness, student engagement,

etc.). He noted that ESSA focuses on post-secondary readiness and that the law does not use the term college and career readiness.

Pertaining to standards and assessment, Mr. Volkman said ESSA requires that assessments be aligned to “challenging” academic standards. He said states must continue to assess students in English Language Arts and mathematics in grades 3-8 and high school and that science must be assessed at least once during grades 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. He noted that the requirements to have at least 95 percent of students participate in state assessments remains. Mr. Volkman said ESSA requires English language learners to be assessed in English language proficiency and allows only one percent of special education students to be given alternate assessments.

Mr. Volkman then reported that the fixed, limited options for aiding low-performing schools under NCLB ended under ESSA. Now, states must define their own accountability systems and intervention is required for the lowest-performing five percent based on state-defined interventions to help low-performing schools.

Mr. Volkman said ESSA removes federal oversight of how educators are evaluated. He said the new federal law provides states with flexibility in designing an evaluation system without the need for a federal waiver and reminded the Board that state-level requirements tying educator evaluation to student performance on standardized assessments still remain in state law under Act 82. Mr. Volkman said the passage of ESSA creates opportunities for discussions with lawmakers and other stakeholders about modifications to Act 82.

In concluding his presentation on ESSA, Mr. Volkman said PDE is reviewing ESSA’s details and determining a timeline to develop the state assessment plan. He said there will be opportunities to work with lawmakers and stakeholders to create a system that best serves Pennsylvania.

In other news, Mr. Volkman shared that Secretary Rivera visited the Pennsylvania Farm Show earlier in the week and presented recognitions to FFA students during a ceremony honoring their achievements.

The Executive Deputy Secretary also reported that USDE released the national graduation rate for 2013-14 which shows that the rate has improved nationally, as well as in Pennsylvania. Mr. Volkman said the national graduation rate stands at 82.3 percent, this highest level since state’s adopted a common metric for calculating rates in 2010. He said Pennsylvania surpassed the nation with a state graduation rate of 85.3 percent. Mr. Volkman’s said Pennsylvania’s graduation rates for students with disabilities, English language learners and economically disadvantaged students also surpassed the national average for those student subgroups, but that Pennsylvania slightly trailed the national average graduation rate for African American and Hispanic students.

Finally, Mr. Volkman extended congratulations to Rebecca Foxwell, Pennsylvania’s new 2016 Teacher of the Year, and Anthony Angelini, a Conewago Valley School District teacher who recently received a Milken Award.

At the conclusion of Mr. Volkman's remarks, Sen. Andrew Dinniman asked him to address who is responsible for addressing the various components of ESSA and the state's assessment plan. Mr. Volkman said the Department would work with stakeholders. Chairman Wittig asked if Pennsylvania needs to have anything approved by the federal government. Mr. Volkman responded that USDE must approve Pennsylvania's comprehensive plan, but said he did not expect the same level of prior scrutiny. Jonathan Peri asked who would be selected to participate in stakeholder work on ESSA. Mr. Volkman said individual stakeholder groups will be formed to look at each issue area and noted that state legislators would be included in each group. Mr. Peri requested to submit a nomination for an individual to be considered as a stakeholder candidate for this work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION REGARDING PROVISIONAL ADMISSION TIMEFRAME

Karen Farmer White offered a motion to express the sense of the Board of the need for additional discussion regarding proposed revisions to immunization requirements for student attendance. Ms. Farmer White moved that the Board adopt the following statement: Whereas proposed revisions to regulations of the Department of Health related to immunization requirements for student attendance would scale back the current provisional admission period from eight months to five school days, the State Board of Education believes additional thought and consideration should be given to the proposed timeframe for provisional admission as it relates to the implementation by schools and the potential impact on students. The Board encourages that attention be given to these matters as the proposed regulatory amendments are undergoing the regulatory review process. The motion was seconded by James Grandon.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

PROPOSED CHAPTER 11

A motion to approve the proposed amendments to Chapter 11 was made by Nicole Carnicella and seconded by Jay Badams.

Upon discussion on the motion, Sandra Dungee Glenn asked for clarification that the action before the Board would simply initiate regulatory review and was not a final action. Chairman Wittig confirmed that was correct. Ms. Glenn then asked if there were reporting requirements for the new regulations and whether each LEA would be required to report to PDE when students are turned away from school for not fulfilling immunization requirements. Regarding the new immunizations that would be added in seventh and twelfth grades, she asked why it was necessary to receive those at those ages. Beth Olanoff, PDE Policy Director, offered that there would be additional monitoring by school nurses to review student medical plans every 30 days. Sen. Dinniman commented that the number of school nurses has diminished because of financial issues and asked how the monitoring requirements of the proposal would be met in

low-income areas where buildings have no nurses. He then asked whether nurses in charter schools are assigned by school districts or Intermediate Units. Ms. Glenn responded that the charter school she leads must hire its own nurse and that parochial schools receive nurses assigned by school districts. Rep. Stan Saylor said the York and Reading school districts are poorer than Philadelphia and both have school nurses. Rep. Saylor said the issue raised by Sen. Dinniman is a management decision. Ms. Glenn then asked about the timeframe for implementation. Ms. Olanoff responded that the Governor would like to have the regulation in place for the 2016-17 school year.


VOTE: Roll Call vote: 17-**AYE**, 0-**NAY**, 0-Abstentions. (*Agras- AYE, Aichele- AYE, Badams- AYE, Barker- AYE, Carnicella- AYE, Dinniman- AYE, Dungee Glenn- AYE, Grandon- AYE, Hallett- AYE, Lally-Green- AYE, Peri- AYE, Phillips- AYE, Roebuck- AYE (by proxy), Saylor- AYE, Farmer White- AYE, Williams- AYE, Wittig- AYE*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sen. Dinniman shared that he felt there is a disconnect between schools, PDE and the legislature on how teachers are evaluated. Rep. Saylor thanked Board members for their love of education and the hard work that members contribute. Rep. Saylor said that he frequently visits schools and districts in Pennsylvania and believes that those responsible for mismanagement should be held accountable. Jim Grandon stated that there is a shortage of counselors. He suggested that PDE or the Board conduct research to find out more about this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on a **Badams/Saylor** motion.


Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant