

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes

296th Meeting of the State Board of Education
September 16, 2010

The 296th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, September 16, 2010 at the Administrative Offices of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, 341 South Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. Mr. Joseph Torsella, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

Attending:

James Agras
James Barker
Esther Bush
Corrinne Caldwell
David Collins
Connie Davis (via
telephone)
Daniel Fogarty
Travis Gilbert
Sandra Dungee Glenn

Francis Micheline
Mollie Phillips (via
telephone)
Shannon Sullivan
Joseph Torsella
Karen Farmer White
A. Lee Williams

Absent:

Rep. Paul Clymer
Sen. Andrew Dinniman
Sheila Dow Ford
Arnold Hillman
Sen. Jeffrey Piccola
Rep. James Roebuck Jr.
Edward Sheehan, Jr.
Larry Wittig
Andrew Youstic

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Mr. Torsella called the meeting to order and thanked Dr. Caldwell, Mr. Wittig, and Ms. Esther Bush for their hard and effective work to establish standards for nutrition and physical exercise in schools. The feedback on the proposed Chapter 12 regulations has been very positive. The physical exercise component is divided into two areas: 30 minutes of exercise for every student, every day and physical education. Due to the comments and concerns of schools, stakeholders and the public regarding the proposed regulations for physical education, Chairman Torsella in communicating the sense of the Board, proposed that the requirements for physical education be removed from the proposed rulemaking and dealt with later in future revisions to Chapter 4. The common sense area of 30 minutes of exercise and nutritional regulations are to continue through the process.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Dr. Corrinne Caldwell, seconded by Ms. Esther Bush, the minutes of the July 1, 2010 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Joe Moran, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, addressed the issue of Common Core from the aspect of Chapter 49.2 (Teacher Certification).

ACTION ITEMS

ACCREDITATION

A motion to approve the renewal of the accreditation status of the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools and the Middle Schools Association was made by Dr. Francis Michelini, seconded by Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn.

VOTE:

Yes (Agras, Barker, Bush, Caldwell, Davis, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, McNairy, Michelini, Phillips, Williams, Torsella – by proxy: Farmer-White, Wittig)

No (None)

REVISED PASA CUT SCORES AND PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

A motion to approve the revised cut scores and performance level descriptors for the Pennsylvania Alternate School Assessment was made by Mr. James Agras, seconded by Ms. Esther Bush.

VOTE:

Yes (Agras, Barker, Bush, Caldwell, Davis, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, McNairy, Michelini, Phillips, Williams, Torsella – by proxy: Farmer-White, Wittig)

No (None)

KEYSTONE EXAM ELIGIBLE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT ANCHORS

A motion to approve the Keystone Exam eligible content and assessment anchors was made by Dr. Corrinne Caldwell, seconded by Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn.

VOTE:

Yes (Agras, Barker, Bush, Caldwell, Davis, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, McNairy, Michelini, Phillips, Williams, Torsella – by proxy: Farmer-White, Wittig)

No (None)

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON LOCAL ASSESSMENT VALIDATION

A motion to approve the Statement of Policy on local assessment validation was made by Mr. Dan Fogarty, seconded by Dr. Michelini.

VOTE:

Yes (Agras, Barker, Bush, Caldwell, Davis, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, McNairy, Michelini, Phillips, Williams, Torsella – by proxy: Farmer-White, Wittig)

No (None)

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2011

Mr. Torsella outlined a change in the structure of the State Board of Education meetings so that the bulk of the meeting will occur on Wednesday, reducing the time involved to just one day instead of 1 ½ days.

A motion to approve the schedule of meetings for 2011 was made by Mr. James Agras, seconded by Dr. Corrinne Caldwell.

VOTE:

Yes (Agras, Barker, Bush, Caldwell, Davis, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, McNairy, Michelini, Phillips, Williams, Torsella – by proxy: Farmer-White, Wittig)

No (None)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Secretary Gluck reported on the positive results of the 2009 PSSA and the Annual Yearly Progress report. Dr. Barker raised the issue of the upcoming increase in the level of scoring required to meet the No Child Left Behind standards. A discussion followed on the availability of resources and the best practices needed to reach the goals of NCLB.

The Secretary updated the Board on the Race To The Top initiative and why he thought Pennsylvania did not become a finalist in the competition. Pennsylvania did receive a grant from the Gates Foundation, as a result of the state's proposal for the competition, which will be used to examine the teacher and principal evaluation systems.

The state budget for 2011 will include a \$250 million dollar increase in the basic education subsidy. Pennsylvania is the only state that did not cut aid to k-12 education.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

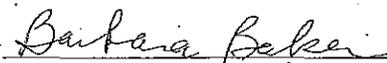
A report on the activities of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission was distributed to the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bush provided a packet that presents information on 10 national organizations funded by the Gates Foundation that advocate for Common Core standards.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



Barbara Baker, Administrative Assistant