

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION**

333 Market Street | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

May 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by James Barker.

**Attending:**

James Barker	Francine McNairy	Ed Sheehan
Wendy Beetlestone	Francis Michelini	Shannon Sullivan
David Collins	Jonathan Peri	Karen Farmer White (via phone)
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Senator Jeffrey Piccola	Lee Williams
Kirk Hallett	Colleen Sheehan	Larry Wittig

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **E. Sheehan/Hallett** motion.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4 COMMITTEE**

Dr. Lee Williams, Committee Co-Chair, provided an update on the Draft Proposed Changes to Chapter 4. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the draft changes to the Council of Basic Education. Synopsis of changes :

**Common Core**

- Revises the definition of Common Core Standards to reference the new Pennsylvania Common Core Standards and to require full implementation of the PA Common Core in English Language Arts and Mathematics by July 1, 2013; also to address the necessary change in alignment to the PSSA exams to match the new Pennsylvania Common Core Standards.

**Assessment Security**

- Removes the right of parents/guardians to review state assessments except when necessary to determine whether the exam conflicts with their religious belief. In asserting a religious objection to the assessment, adds a requirement that the parent/guardian explain the objection in their written request for excusal.

## Strategic Planning

- Removes state-prescribed strategic planning requirements.

## High School Graduation Requirements

1. Removes state-prescribed requirements for completion of a culminating project
2. Requires students to demonstrate proficiency for graduation either on a Keystone Exam, validated local assessment or comparable AP/IB exam based on the following schedule:
  - a) Graduation class of 2016-2017: Algebra I, Biology and Literature (exams would be administered with stakes for student beginning 2012-2013) (all students will be required to take these keystones for AYP purposes)
  - b) Graduating class of 2018-2019: Composition\*  
(exam would be administered with stakes for students beginning 2015-2016)
  - c) Graduating class of 2019-2020: Civics and Government\*  
(exam would be administered with stakes for students beginning 2016-2017)

*\*Requirements related to Composition & Civics and Government Keystones are subject to available state funding to develop the Keystone Exams and related project-based assessments and to validate related local assessments.*

3. Provides for the development of five additional Keystone Exams that would be made available to school districts for voluntary use based upon the following schedule\*:
  - a) Geometry: exam would be available beginning in 2016-2017
  - b) U.S. History: exam would be available beginning 2017-2018
  - c) Algebra II: exam would be available beginning 2018-2019
  - d) Chemistry: exam would be available beginning 2019-2020
  - e) World History: exam would be available beginning 2020-2021

*\*Implementation of the five voluntary Keystone Exams is subject to available state funding to develop the exams. There will be no related project-based assessments or validation of local assessments for these exams.*

4. Changes the use of the Keystones to a stand-alone requirement for graduation in the five exams required for state graduation purposes.
5. Requires a student who did not demonstrate proficiency on a Keystone Exam to participate in a supplementary instruction prior to re-taking the Keystone/module, and requires the student's school to continue providing supplemental instruction either until the student demonstrates proficiency or until the student meets the criteria for participating in a project-based assessment.
6. Requires the Secretary to develop guidelines on accepting other states' assessments for demonstrating proficiency of PA's graduation requirements for out-of-state transfer students.
7. Allows students who do not demonstrate proficiency on a Keystone Exam to enter into a project-based assessment that is aligned to the Eligible Content in the designated Keystone Exam. Except for high school seniors, students must have taken the course related to the Keystone, met the school's attendance requirements, participated in at least

two years of supplementary instruction and made two attempts at demonstrating proficiency on a Keystone Exam before the student may undertake a project-based assessment.

8. In addition to the existing waivers, allows the Secretary to grant an emergency waiver on a case-by-case basis upon written request of a chief school administrator.
9. If a chief school administrator requests waivers for more than 10 percent of a graduating class, a plan of improvement identifying enhancements to the instruction, curriculum or supplemental services aligned to Keystone Exams must be submitted for approval by the Secretary.
10. Requires the Department to annually report the number of emergency waivers issued by LEAs.

### **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Forgoing a formal report, Deputy Secretary Carolyn Dumaresq allowed the Board to discuss the Chapter 4 Proposed Regulations.

Sen. Piccola strongly endorsed the changes to Chapter 4 and thanked the Department and especially Dr. Dumaresq for the responsiveness they gave to his office in working through the compromise of the original proposed changes. It is Sen. Piccola's intention to imbed the schedule of the development of the exams up to the 2020/2021 school year so as not to revisit this subject for another eight years.

Sandra Dungee Glenn thanked Dr. Dumaresq's staff and the Department for responding to the concerns raised by the Board at our March meeting. Ms. Dungee Glenn expressed concern for the strategic plan and the elimination of the requirement for the strategic plan.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Vicki Soleburg expressed concern that students in Pennsylvania are not learning their multiplication tables. Ms. Soleburg explained how she has interacted with students, teachers and employers that do not take multiplication seriously. She mentioned that we should all be using 12x12 times table.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **0510.1 CHAPTER 4 (ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT) PROPOSED REGULATION**

A motion to approve the Academic Standards and Assessment was made by Ed Sheehan and seconded by Colleen Sheehan.

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

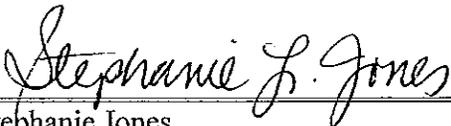
### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a meeting of the Board's Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee immediately following the conclusion of the Council meeting. The Committee will convene in Heritage Room B on the Lobby Level for an update from Deputy Secretary Dumaresq on the Department's work related to teacher effectiveness and associated legislative activity.

As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, Executive Director Karen Molchanow is on maternity leave and will return in twelve weeks. John H. Jewett was named Acting Executive Director in Karen's absence and will hold this role until Karen's return from Family Medical Leave.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.



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Stephanie Jones  
Administrative Assistant