

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

July 13, 2016

The 333rd meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Wednesday, July 13, 2016. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

James Agras <i>(via phone)</i>	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Jonathan Peri
Andrew Ahr	James Grandon	Colleen Sheehan <i>(via phone)</i>
Carol Aichele	Kirk Hallett	Lavinia Soliman
Jay Badams	Shirlann Harmon	Karen Farmer White
James Barker <i>(via phone)</i>	Pamela Gunter-Smith	A. Lee Williams
Nicole Carnicella <i>(via phone)</i>	Maureen Lally-Green	Larry Wittig

The minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on a **Grandon/Aichele** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chairman Kirk Hallett reported that the Committee met earlier in the day to consider the application of AdvancED seeking to expand its accrediting authority. In 2014, the Board granted AdvancED the authority to accredit pre-K, kindergarten, elementary and secondary private academic schools. Mr. Hallett said AdvancED submitted a new application requesting to extend its authority to also accredit private tutoring, remedial and educational testing centers.

The Committee received a recommendation from the Department of Education (PDE) to approve the application. Mr. Hallett said PDE found that AdvancED maintained strong accreditation protocols and procedures for reviewing initial applications, granting candidacy status, initial accreditation and renewal of accreditation. Further, PDE found that the organization has adequate policies and procedures for the ongoing monitoring of accreditation status and complaint procedures.

Mr. Hallett said the Committee also reviewed the organization's experience on a national scale. He said AdvancED has experience accrediting tutoring centers, remedial education centers and educational testing centers dating back to 1991; currently works with 32,000 public and private school systems and 147 tutoring, remedial and educational testing centers; and serves as the accreditation body for the U.S. Department of Defense for its international schools.

After reviewing both the application and PDE's recommendation, Mr. Hallett said the Committee acted to approve the application for a period concurrent with the organization's existing accrediting authority that expires on November 13, 2019. He said the recommendation would be presented to the Board for its consideration at the end of the meeting and invited discussion on the application among the Board.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Secretary Rivera was unable to attend the meeting. Deputy Secretary Matthew Stem shared that Mr. Rivera sent his regards and said the Secretary would follow-up regarding any movement or updates on current events.

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Chairman Wittig announced that a representative of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC) was unable to attend the meeting. The PSPC provided a written report that was provided to Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

APPLICATION OF ADVANCED SEEKING TO EXPAND ITS SCOPE OF AUTHORITY AS AN APPROVED ACCREDITOR

A motion to expand the scope of the accrediting authority held by AdvancED to include tutoring centers, remedial centers and educational testing centers for a period ending November 13, 2019 was made by Kirk Hallett and seconded by James Grandon.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by voice vote with no members dissenting. Proxies in the affirmative were recorded for Maureen Lally-Green and Jonathan Peri.

2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

A motion to approve the State Board of Education's meeting schedule for 2017 as January 11-12, March 8-9, May 10-11, July 12-13, September 13-14 and November 8-9 was made by Larry Wittig and seconded by Sandra Dungee Glenn.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by voice vote with no members dissenting. Proxies in the affirmative were recorded for Maureen Lally-Green and Jonathan Peri.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Wittig announced the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to oversee the Board's work related to Act 70 of 2014. As background, Mr. Wittig explained that Act 70 permits school entities to offer instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations and required PDE to develop curriculum guidelines and in-service training programs for such instruction. Act 70 also requires the Board to issue a report on the manner in which instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations is offered by school entities in the Commonwealth. The report is due following the 2016-17 school year, but no later than November 30, 2017. Chairman Wittig said the Ad Hoc Committee will begin work this fall to craft a survey instrument to gather the data points defined in Act 70. The Committee will be comprised of Carol Aichele, Nicole Carnicella, Sandra Dungee Glenn and Craig Snider.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m. on an **Aichele/Badams** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant