

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

May 11, 2016

The 332nd meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Wednesday, May 11, 2016. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

James Agras *(via phone)*
Carol Aichele
Jay Badams
Nicole Carnicella
Sandra Dungee Glenn
(via phone)
James Grandon

Kirk Hallett
Pamela Gunter Smith
Maureen Lally-Green
(via phone)
Teresa Lebo
Donald LeCompte
Jonathan Peri
Mollie Phillips *(via phone)*

Colleen Sheehan
Craig Snider *(via phone)*
Lavinia Soliman
Joshita Varshney
Karen Farmer White
(via phone)
A Lee Williams *(via phone)*
Larry Wittig

The minutes of the March 9, 2016 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on a **Badams/Grandon** motion.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Secretary Pedro Rivera said the Department is working to build accountability systems that work on behalf of students by focusing on teaching and learning. He also said that the administration is focused on making sure the governor's investments in education are true investments and not just costs associated with providing education. The Secretary highlighted that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) workgroups are being driven by practitioners.

The Secretary also noted that the Department is receiving stakeholder input on metrics to make the School Performance Profiles more holistic and identified reading level attainment, math level attainment, attendance and access to high-quality programs as criteria suggested to the Department. He said the Department also is receiving stakeholder input on graduation requirements as part of the moratorium on Keystone Exams and said PDE wants to ensure that graduation standards are holistic, multi-measured and provide multiple paths to graduation.

Secretary Rivera reported that the administration continues to have positive conversations on the 2016-17 budget. He reported that that the Governor's two priorities are attaining a balanced budget that is free of gimmicks and education funding. On the education funding side, the Secretary said the focus is not only about providing more funding, but providing funding in an equitable manner to close past gaps.

Mr. Rivera reported that PDE is planning another event for the “It’s On Us” campaign, which focuses on sexual assault on college campuses. He noted the involvement of both Governor Wolf and Vice President Joe Biden in events across the Commonwealth.

Finally, Secretary Rivera thanked outgoing student Board members Donald LeCompte and Teresa Lebo for their service and leadership. He then welcomed new student members Shirlann Harmon and Andrew Ahr.

Upon time for discussion, Chairman Wittig suggested that funds for pensions be pulled out of the general education budget. Mr. Wittig said general education funding is rising rapidly, but pension costs are rising disproportionately and general education figures do not distinguish what dollars actually are going to education. Mr. Wittig said it is unfair from an educational perspective to say we are getting more but doing less when much of the increase is going to pensions. Mr. Wittig suggested that creating a separate line item in the budget for pensions will put the focus where it needs to be. Secretary Rivera said one of the actions the Governor has tried to take in moving the pension system into a restricted account is to see exactly what has been invested into pensions and to ensure that increased education funding benefits teaching and learning in the classroom.

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. In lieu of attending, the PSPC provided a written report that was provided to Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTIONS HONORING DONALD LECOMPTE AND TERESA LEBO

A motion to approve resolutions honoring Donald LeCompte and Teresa Lebo was made by Jay Badams and seconded by Colleen Sheehan.

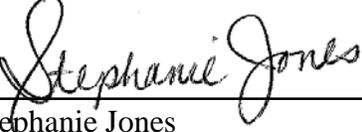
VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Wittig announced that the model Memorandum of Understanding contained in Chapter 10 is due for a required biennial review. He directed staff to work with the School and University Safety Committee to plan for this review to commence in the next few months.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. on a **Grandon/Sheehan** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant