

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

**November 9, 2016**

The 335<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

**Attending:**

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

The minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on an **Aichele/Hallett** motion.

**OPENING REMARKS**

Chairman Wittig requested that, due to scheduling conflicts, the Board receive the report of the Secretary of Education as the first item on its agenda.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION**

Secretary Pedro Rivera shared updates on the following topics:

**Community Schools**

Secretary Rivera shared that he will be facilitating an opportunity among state school chiefs to discuss creating a national dialogue around community schools. Mr. Rivera said Pennsylvania has been taking a leadership role around this issue and recently convened a statewide coalition to discuss the establishment and creation of community schools across the Commonwealth. He provided examples of the work that PDE is doing with the Department of Human Services to bring mental health service provided into schools in York County and to establish Health Enterprise Zones in north Philadelphia.

**School Performance Profile**

Mr. Rivera reported that PDE posted updated 2016 School Performance Profile (SPP) scores for schools affected by a data element that was calculated inaccurately by a vendor of the

Department. The vendor informed the Department of an irregularity caused by Keystone-eligible students who were also IEP students not being included in the aggregate for the calculation of value-added growth scores. Mr. Rivera discussed in detail the Department's response to correcting the issue, which included verifying and correcting the data, conducting in-person meetings with superintendents in multiple locations across the state, and taking steps to ensure accountability for the vendor.

### **Legislative Updates**

Mr. Rivera reported on Act 118, Act 138, Act 143, Act 149 and Act 126 that recently were signed into law by Governor Wolf. The Secretary also reported that House Bill 530, House Bill 2381 and House Bill 1906 did not see action before the end of the legislative session, but noted that the Department would continue to monitor the issues addressed in that legislation.

In response to House Bill 1906, Jonathan Peri requested to meet with the Secretary regarding an idea on how to provide no-cost or low-cost training to school board members.

Following the conclusion of the Secretary's report, Chairman Wittig recessed the meeting of the State Board of Education. The meeting re-convened later in the afternoon at 4:02 p.m.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DATA COLLECTION REDUCTION**

Committee Chair Karen Farmer White reported on activity of the Ad Hoc Committee on Data Collection Reduction. Ms. White reported that, to date, the Committee has convened two meetings with the Advisory Committee appointed by the Board for the purpose of reviewing certain data collected from public school entities. In September, the Advisory Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee met to review data related to human resources and health and, in October, the Committees met to review related to child accounting and special education.

Ms. White noted that discussion among the Advisory Committee thus far has not identified particular pieces of data that should be terminated from collection, but has focused on whether there is duplication in what is collected among different offices. She announced that the Committees will reconvene on November 10 at 10:00 a.m. to review data related to food services, transportation, student assistance programs and alternative education for disruptive youth. Ms. White said she anticipates that a final meeting of the Advisory Committee will take place on December 6 to review data on finance and athletics, and that the Ad Hoc Committee will submit a draft report to the Board in January 2017.

### **REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS** **AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

Shane Crosby, Executive Director of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC), reported that the PSPC will hold its next meeting on November 14 at which time it will consider 24 disciplinary cases and one reinstatement case and consider a resolution to endorse the Model Code of Ethics for Educators that was developed by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification. Mr. Crosby also provided

a snapshot of disciplinary cases pending before the Office of Chief Counsel. He reported that there are 1,769 open educator discipline cases and noted that the Secretary of Education approved an increase in certification fees that will go into a restricted account to support the timely and efficient processing of such cases.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**RESOLUTION HONORING MOLLIE O'CONNELL PHILLIPS**

A motion to approve a resolution honoring the service of departing Board member Mollie O'Connell Phillips was made by James Barker and seconded by Jonathan Peri.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Wittig announced that in October, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved final regulations of the Department of Health that amend immunization requirements for student attendance. The Chairman said he anticipates that the Board soon will consider final amendments to Chapter 11 to ensure alignment of that Chapter with the changes to requirements of the Department of Health.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m. on a **Peri/Aichele** motion.



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Stephanie Jones  
Administrative Assistant