

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

July 13, 2017

The 339th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, July 13, 2017. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

James Agras *(via phone)*
Andrew Ahr *(via phone)*
Carol Aichele
James Barker *(via phone)*
Nathan Barrett
Nicole Carnicella

Caroline DeWitt
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Donald Fey
James Grandon
Pamela Gunter-Smith
Kirk Hallett
Shirlann Harmon

Maureen Lally-Green *(via phone)*
Jonathan Peri
Craig Snider *(via phone)*
Karen Farmer White *(via phone)*
A Lee Williams
Larry Wittig

The minutes of the May 11, 2017, meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on an **Aichele/Dungee Glenn** motion.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Secretary Pedro Rivera shared updates on the following topics:

Budget

Secretary Rivera said the Governor's approved 2017-18 budget included a \$100 million increase for Basic Education following additional increases in Basic Education and Ready to Learn Block Grants over the past two years. Funds will be distributed through the recently-developed Basic Education Funding Formula to allow for equitable distribution to school districts across the Commonwealth.

It's on Us

Secretary Rivera reported that, earlier in the month, he joined over 100 advocates and volunteers at Millersville University to close the first year of the It's on Us Pennsylvania Summit campaign. As part of the effort, Governor Wolf and the General Assembly awarded nearly \$1 million in grants to 36 postsecondary institutions to improve sexual assault prevention, reporting and response systems. Mr. Rivera said that initial reports showed that over 87,000 students were reached through these grants.

House Bill 202

Gov. Tom Wolf signed House Bill 202 (Act 6) into law in June. The bill amends the Public School Code to allow career and technology education (CTE) students to demonstrate proficiency and readiness for high school graduation through an alternative pathway and removes the statutory requirement for the Keystone Exams on that student population. The Secretary said the Department will continue to work with the General Assembly to create a Career Pathway, College Pathway and Proficiency Pathway to graduation.

Community Schools

In June, Gov. Wolf announced an investment in community schools to leverage and connect schools to the array of health-related services available for Philadelphia's children. Mr. Rivera said that this strategic investment of \$1.5 million will improve health, school attendance, and academic achievement for children who attend community schools in the North Philadelphia Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ). Rather than simply expanding the strategies currently in place, the Secretary said the HEZ will try new and innovative community-based approaches to coordinated health care and reward strategies to minimize health disparities, improve health outcomes, and stabilize and reduce care costs.

Chairman Wittig asked if the increase in state funding for early childhood programs included an academic accountability component. Secretary Rivera replied that Suzanne Morris, Deputy Secretary for the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), has been working to update the Keystone Stars program to move from a systems-based focus to a kindergarten-readiness focus. He also said that an alignment to Montessori programs is being discussed as such programs currently do not qualify under the Stars program. Jonathan Peri offered his services in working with Montessori programs.

Sandra Dungee Glenn thanked Beth Olanoff, Special Assistant to the Secretary, for a presentation delivered to the Board's Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee on educator preparation and potential recommendations for inclusion in the state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan. Ms. Dungee Glenn asked if the Department had assigned priority for funding the various initiatives discussed by Ms. Olanoff. Secretary Rivera replied that the number one priority would be a full-year residency program, followed by diversifying the teacher pool. Mr. Rivera said the third funding priority would be 2+2+2 teacher programs.

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Dr. George Drake provided the following report on behalf of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC).

Dr. Drake reported that the PSPC met on July 10, 2017, at which time it considered 37 disciplinary cases, seven of which involved allegations of sexual misconduct.

The PSPC's Standards Committee also met to discuss collaborating with the Department of Education and the educator preparation community on the development of guidelines for

ethics in educator preparation programs in the context of the Model Code of Ethics for Educators.

Mr. Drake said the Commission worked with PLS 3rd Learning to develop an online training that will satisfy, in part, the mandatory training requirements set forth in Act 126. He said the three-hour course entitled “Professional Ethics and the Educator Discipline Act” is available at no cost on the Department’s Standards Aligned Systems (SAS) portal.

Finally, Mr. Drake reported that the Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) has a total of 1,921 open educator discipline cases, 362 of which are designated as high priority because they involve allegations of sexual abuse or physical abuse of children. He said the OCC has received 383 new educator misconduct complaints and 207 mandatory reports thus far for the 2017 calendar year.

DISCUSSION ITEM **MASTER PLAN FOR BASIC EDUCATION**

Chairman Wittig introduced discussion on updating the Master Plan for Basic Education. He said the Board previously reviewed a proposed statement of work to engage the Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU) in providing support to the Board in updating the Master Plan and that, at that time, the Board also discussed other avenues it could pursue to support this effort. Ultimately, Mr. Wittig said members expressed support for working with CAIU.

To move ahead with this effort, Mr. Wittig said the Board must take action to approve the statement of work to enter into a relationship with CAIU and to approve an expenditure from the State School Fund to support this work. Mr. Wittig said all Board members had a copy of the proposed statement of work and project budget available for their review, along with a memo requesting authorization to utilize the State School Fund to support this project. He said he intended to call for approval of those items by the Board later in the meeting, and he invited discussion among members on the documents.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

A motion to approve updated English Language Development Standards, as recommended by the Council of Basic Education, was made by Lee Williams and seconded by Nathan Barrett.

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

PENNSYLVANIA ALTERNATE SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT: PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS AND CUT SCORES

A motion to approve revised Performance Level Descriptors and cut scores for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment was made by Nathan Barrett and seconded by Lee Williams.

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

STATEMENT OF WORK: MASTER PLAN FOR BASIC EDUCATION

A motion to approve the Capital Area Intermediate Unit's Statement of Work and Price Quote for providing support to the Board in updating the Master Plan for Basic Education was made by Kirk Hallett and seconded by James Grandon.

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

STATE SCHOOL FUND AUTHORIZATION: MASTER PLAN FOR BASIC EDUCATION

A motion to utilize up to \$54,000 from the State School Fund to support the work of the Capital Area Intermediate Unit related to its approved Statement of Work for an update to the Master Plan for Basic Education was made by Kirk Hallett and seconded by Lee Williams.

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

2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

A motion to approve the 2018 Meeting Schedule was made by James Grandon and seconded by Jonathan Peri.

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

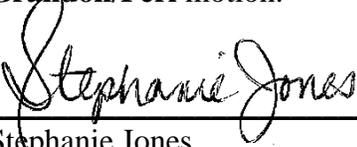
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Wittig provided an update on the Board's request to engage a hearing examiner in the matter of the Washington Township Independent School District. He reported that the Board's request was acted upon in a timely manner, and that Marc Moyer was assigned as the hearing examiner. Mr. Wittig said a pre-hearing conference with all parties was scheduled for August 1 and pre-hearing statements are due to the hearing examiner by July 24. Mr. Wittig said he will keep the Board informed of activity related to the matter as the hearing examiner continues with his work.

Mr. Wittig also announced the assignment of the Special Committee on the Erie Community College Plan. The Special Committee will be comprised of Dr. Lee Williams (Chair), Dr. Nicole Carnicella and Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. on a **Grandon/Peri** motion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant